
23 September 2008

Report to
Cabinet

Report of
Director of Community Services

Title
Green Space Strategy

Ward
City-wide

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 Seek endorsement of the 'Coventry Green Space Strategy' following consultation with stakeholders and the public.
- 1.2 Request that Members delegate responsibility to the City Planning Manager and the Head of Parks and Open Spaces to deliver the actions identified within the Strategy.

2 Recommendations

Cabinet are asked to:

- 2.1 Endorse the publication of the Coventry Green Space Strategy 2008 – 18, and note the City Council's responses and amendments to the issues raised during consultation on the draft Green Space Strategy
- 2.2 Approve that the Action Plan be reported, and updated with any significant new information within the operational plans across those Directorates delivering actions
- 2.3 Agree the co-ordination and reporting procedures set out in paragraphs 6.1 and 6.2 of this report.

3 Information/Background

3.1 Background

- 3.1.1 The City Council requires a Green Spaces Strategy in order to maximise the use of public open space, and to meet the requirements and aspirations of our community through a measured, consistent strategic approach. It is based on guidelines outlined in Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG 17) Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation and its companion guide, which require the preparation of local standards of provision for green space based on local assessments of need and recent CABI Space guidance. It will help to inform policies and proposals of the City Council along with city-wide projects including

those for the future growth of the city, and provide clarity for development proposals. It provides a framework for setting the priorities for investment and management action.

- 3.1.2 Green Spaces include all of our parks, recreation grounds, playing fields, children's playgrounds, ornamental gardens, cemeteries, golf courses and woodlands.
- 3.1.3 This Strategy does not cover Green Infrastructure within its scope – this is subject to a separate study.
- 3.1.4 The City Council has a Green Space Strategy adopted in 1994, and this will replace that Strategy. The City Council is also reviewing its planning policies in respect of green space embodied in the Coventry Development Plan 2001 as part of development of a Core Strategy.
- 3.1.5 Through a project group including officers from City Development, City Services, Culture, Leisure and Libraries, Sport England, and Natural England a local assessment was commissioned in 2006, in line with the guidance mentioned above. The consultant Strategic Leisure was appointed through a tender process.
- 3.1.6 The draft Green Space Strategy and Executive Summary were produced in May and have undergone six weeks consultation, with the public and stakeholders. Appendix 1 of the Green Space Strategy gives the full list of consultees. A further short summary document has now also been produced as requested during consultation.
- 3.1.7 In addition to this a number of ward-based maps were produced showing the types of green space in each ward. These were well received during consultation and have been produced for every ward. It is recognised that these will need changes and updating annually as more detailed information is provided by the public and stakeholders in communities. These do not form part of the Strategy but will be available for the public and stakeholders to view both electronically and in hard copy.

3.2 Development of the Green Space Strategy

3.2.1 The Strategy was developed through a number of stages, including:

- A qualitative and quantitative audit of the city's green spaces
- A four month web based survey, advertised in the local paper, hard copy surveys in public buildings advertised through posters, staff questionnaire, and a survey to local clubs and groups formed part of the assessment. Previous consultation has also been reviewed
- Consultation with stakeholders
- A review of existing policies and strategies
- Comparison with other Local Authorities and national standards
- The development of proposed "Local Standards" for green space
- The identification of surpluses and deficiencies in green space
- The development of a draft strategy and action plan
- Consultation on the full Draft Strategy and Executive Summary with standards and action plans
- An additional survey to Sports Clubs to assess latent demand

3.2.2 Early in the process a draft vision for the City's Green Spaces was developed and is included in the Strategy, as follows:

"To provide attractive, high quality accessible green spaces that are well maintained, safe,

clean and are important to local people. This will be achieved through clear, open and robust planning policies that ensure that green space contributes to local character and plays an important role in everyday life of residents whilst supporting the regeneration of the city."

3.3 Local Standards

3.3.1 The assessment of the city's green spaces and data accumulated from consultation and comparisons to other authorities has enabled draft "Local Standards" to be identified and consulted on. The standards relate to quantity, quality and accessibility of green space, and are ward based. It is recognised that in the city it is unlikely that all wards will enjoy the same amount of green space. However, minimum standards are recommended to be consistent and to strive to achieve the vision for the future. These standards are set out at the back of the executive summary and detail the comparison for Coventry at Ward level.

3.3.2 These standards will serve as a basis for benchmarking our existing green spaces and also to assess the need for green space provision in development proposals. They can also be used to help to forecast future provision.

3.3.3 The local standards will be incorporated into the City Council's emerging Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy.

3.3.4 Three neighbourhood action plans have been developed based on the existing Neighbourhood Management Areas in the city, and are within the Executive Summary document. These have been included as part of the consultation on the Draft Strategy and provide a higher level overview of how each three neighbourhood management areas currently compares to the Green Space Standards, identifying where provision is sufficient and where deficiencies exist.

3.3.5 By way of illustration, but by no means exhaustive, the North East and North West areas highlight a need for more provision for parks and open spaces, and provision for children and young people. There is need to work to provide community access to playing pitches in the North East.

3.4 Pre Draft Strategy Consultation

3.4.1 One of the key stages in the strategy development is consultation. The survey received a limited response both electronic and hard copy formats, therefore additional advertising and promotion and wider circulation of surveys was undertaken to strengthen this. This included sending surveys to Friends Groups, Allotment Societies, Football Clubs, Cricket Clubs, Bowls Clubs, Tennis and Athletics Clubs. Evidence collated from young people was also put into the Strategy following the production of the Play Strategy. In addition a wide round of consultation was undertaken at the Draft Strategy stage including letters to the stakeholder group (see appendix 1 of the Strategy), active discussion at 11 ward forums, and further information in hard copy and on the website for six weeks.

3.4.2 Following further advice from Sport England a further survey of sports clubs was carried out in 2008, and this revealed low latent demand for pitches other than cricket and junior/mini football in the City. A sample of 147 clubs was used for this additional survey, with a 47% response. 53% stated that membership would increase, however only 36% stated that if there were more or better quality pitches more teams would be fielded. This may generate a further 15 senior teams, 23 junior teams and three mini football teams in the sports of cricket and rugby. It is possible to accommodate this demand through quality

improvements on existing pitches (it should be noted that a senior Saturday football league ceased last year).

3.4.3 The following key headline findings have been obtained from consultation with the schools in Coventry. (82% of schools within the Coventry city area responded to the questionnaire survey and telephone follow-up):

- The schools that responded have varying levels of community use
- The schools that responded identified that they have varying levels of quality of facilities
- Many of the Schools stated they are undergoing programmes of improvement
- From the responses the schools are well served by facilities
- 25 primary schools have community use
- All Secondary have a level of community use
- 1 of the 3 16+ schools has community use
- The main reasons for non use by the community identified by the schools are – staffing cost, vandalism and fear of over use

3.4.4 From the consultation local people have stated that all types of green space provision are seen as important. None of the different types receiving less than a 60% positive response. Parks and gardens (95%), natural green space (95%), green corridors (93%) and local nature reserves (95%) all rating as highly important with over a 90% response. Green Belt land (84%) and amenity green space (86%) are also highly valued by local people

- Parks and gardens and natural green space rated as the most important type of green space with 95% of respondents rating them as important, the least important type of green space are cemeteries and churchyards with 60% of respondents identifying them as important to them.
- Local people do believe that the level of provision of parks and gardens (52%), natural green space (59%), green corridors (43%), local nature reserves (42%), amenity green space (36%), allotments (39%), cemeteries and churchyards (50%), civic space (34%) and Green Belt land (30%) is about right in their local area. Some spaces provide more than one category of use.
- They do not believe that there is enough provision for children or young people (45%) nor do they believe that there are enough outdoor sports facilities (41%) in their area.
- From the responses re the level of provision of the different types of greenspace the variance between the perception that there is enough provision and the perception that there is not enough provision for Green Belt land was marginal with a 3% difference between the responses
- Most people identified using parks and gardens on a weekly basis (32%), natural green space (39%), green corridors (42%), Local Nature Reserves (61%) and greenbelt land (38%) on an occasional basis.
- 60% of the people who responded to the survey stated that they do not make use of the amenity green space near to where they live, 54% stated they do not use outdoor sport facilities, 77% stated they do not use allotments, 55% do not use cemeteries and 30% do not use civic space facilities provided in their local area.
- The main reasons local people make use of green space across Coventry are:
 - For Fresh Air 63%
 - To Walk 61%

- Peace and Quiet 45%
 - To Take Children Out 41%
 - To Attend Events 32%
 - To Watch Wildlife 25%
- In terms of the green space people visit the most 48% stated they visit natural green space most and 54% identified they travel by car when normally travelling to the site they visit most, they also normally stay on site for between 30 minutes to an hour and it takes 5-10 minute to travel.
 - From a personal safety perspective most people (51%) stated that the factors that would make them feel safer when visiting sites are:
 - Good Lighting 52%
 - The site is in a good state of repair 48%
 - The site has staff on site 39%
 - The site is clean and tidy 39%
 - The less important personal safety factors for local people are: other users (25%) and plenty of on site parking (7.1%)
 - 47% of Local people rated the quality of the site they visit the most as being GOOD
 - The most important improvement people would like to see is more seating and tables (43%), more litter bins (41%), better toilet provision (32%), better maintenance (30%).
 - The main barrier to use for people who identified non use of greenspace in Coventry is vandalism and gangs of young people (16% of respondents), Anti social behaviour and not feeling safe (13% of respondents)
 - Disability, lack of facilities age and too many roads to cross are not seen as key barriers to use by local people.

3.5 Draft Strategy and Standards Consultation

3.5.1 The draft strategy was consulted on between end of May and early July 2008. Those consulted included, Council Members and officers, statutory agencies, environmental and sports organisations, the voluntary sector, residents associations, community groups, interested individuals, and ward forums. Copies were made available on the City Council web site, in Council offices and in libraries. Over 35 responses were received, from a range of organisations, these are detailed with the proposed changes to the strategy in appendix 1 of this report.

3.6 Matters for Consideration

Consultation Results

3.6.1 In general the Strategy has been well received, with most respondents concentrating on the Executive Summary document. The following comments are a sample of those recorded:

- "This is a good read easy to follow." *Earlsdon Ward Forum*
- "Natural England welcomes the recommendation that deficiencies in the provision... are addressed as a priority in the LDF and encourages a positive commitment to this in

Coventry's forthcoming Core Strategy consultation expected later this year." *Natural England*

- "We recognise the hard work involved in developing this and support the effort" *Sport England*

3.6.2 A number of issues from key agencies have been raised, including some key concerns on behalf of Natural England and Sport England. A range of these are reflected as follows:

- Natural England's Accessible Natural Green Space Standards vary to that in the draft Green Space Strategy for Coventry
- Natural England suggest that long term management should be addressed in all long term site management plans
- Wording additions and amendments to a range of the aims and objectives
- Natural England welcomes the recommendation that deficiencies in the provision of the categories identified are addressed as a priority in the Local Development Framework and encourages a positive commitment to this in Coventry's forthcoming Core Strategy expected later this year
- Sport England would like to see the table 28 in the main Strategy document broken down into sub types
- Sport England is keen that table 35 in the main Strategy document has definitions for categories of football inserted
- Sport England would like 2.217 in the main Strategy document to better reflect the need for assessment of latent demand
- Sport England requests that the Council reconsider the standard for distance from playing pitches at 2.245 in the main Strategy document. Also would like to see improved clarity that all private and school pitches are included in the assessment
- Sport England would like to see a stronger indication of those playing pitch sites that require changing provision for the future as a target

A Sample of the Council Response and Amendments

- The standard has been updated to reflect Natural England standards
- Site management plans will reflect this in line with the structure expected by Green Flag quality award
- Wording alterations have been largely accepted
- Table 28 has been broken down into sub groups
- Table 35 has Football Association definitions inserted
- 2.217 has been amended, following an additional survey of sports clubs in consultation with Sport England
- 2.245 has been reconsidered and revised wording agreed with Sport England
- Pitch categories have been specified
- Changing provision is included as target within action plan

3.7 Implementation

3.7.1 The Strategy highlights the need to retain a commitment to Green Spaces in the city's Sustainable Communities Strategy and Council's local indicators if the vision and aspirations of the community are to be realised.

3.7.2 The action recommended includes generic work and more specific work, and is largely dependent on officer time and external funding, from both grant aid and developer contributions, being sought both through the City Council, its partners and community groups and organisations. One of the key areas for improvement is the strengthening of

funding from developer obligations and contributions to ensure adequate management and maintenance, this is to be achieved through a review of section 106 contributions.

3.7.3 Action is varied and summarised within the Executive Summary document.

3.7.4 It is intended that the Strategy be reviewed after five years with an annual report to the Environment Theme Group.

3.7.5 The final Strategy will be available on the City Council's web site, with the Executive Summary containing the action plans. Ward maps will be available both electronically and as hard copy and will be updated annually with changes and information provided by the community (following verification).

4 Proposal and Other Option(s) to be Considered

4.1 The proposal is that the Strategy is adopted for the city.

5 Other specific implications

	Implications (See below)	No Implications
Best Value		
Children and Young People		
Climate Change & Sustainable Development		
Comparable Benchmark Data		
Corporate Parenting		
Coventry Community Plan		
Crime and Disorder		
Equal Opportunities		
Finance		
Health and Safety		
Human Resources		
Human Rights Act		
Impact on Partner Organisations		
Information and Communications Technology		
Legal Implications		
Neighbourhood Management		
Property Implications		
Race Equality Scheme		
Risk Management		
Trade Union Consultation		
Voluntary Sector – The Coventry Compact		

5.1 **Best Value**

Any works will be procured in accordance with City Council procurement regulations to ensure that best value is attained.

5.2 **Children and Young People**

The strategy will be instrumental in applying for further investment in improving facilities for children and young people.

5.3 **Sustainable Development and the Coventry Community Plan**

5.3.1 Green Space is a cross cutting theme in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

5.3.2 There are no Green Space related targets within the Local Area Agreement, however this work supports NI 195 and 196.

5.4 **Equal Opportunities**

The Strategy aims to ensure that all sectors of the community are catered for and promotes inclusion for residents of the city.

5.5 **Finance**

5.5.1 The strategy was commissioned from consultants Strategic Leisure, and costs are met from existing budgets and external funding.

5.5.2 External funding from grant support and developer contributions will be sought for delivery the action plans by the public and voluntary sector organisations.

5.5.3 It should be noted that additional capital development may impact on the costs of maintenance and this should be considered at the application stage for funding.

5.6 **Impact on Partner Organisations**

5.6.1 Many parts of the service are delivered in partnership with other organisations such as Groundwork, Coventry and Warwickshire, Warwickshire Wildlife and community groups, it is essential that communication started with the development of the strategy is maintained through the delivery work.

5.7 **Property Implications**

5.7.1 These are set out in detail in the report. In summary, the Green Space Strategy helps to provide a framework for the future management of the Council's parks and public open spaces, and highlights priorities for the future improvement and development of these assets.

5.8 **Voluntary Sector – the Coventry Compact**

5.8.1 In order for the Strategy to be successful, assistance from the voluntary sector will be required to improve green space across the City.

5.8.2 The success of the Strategy will also require volunteers to deliver some activities.

6 **Monitoring**

6.1 The Strategy action plan will be embedded within operational plans in a number of Directorates, and progress reported through the Corporate framework.

6.2 An annual progress report will be delivered to the Environment Theme Group of the Coventry Partnership.

7 **Timescale and expected outcomes**

- 7.1 Copies of the Green Space Strategy will be printed and available for distribution from September 2008.
- 7.2 An annual progress report will be delivered to the Environment Theme Group of the Coventry Partnership.

	Yes	No
Key Decision		
Scrutiny Consideration (if yes, which Scrutiny meeting and date)		
Council Consideration (if yes, date of Council meeting)		

List of background papers

Proper officer: Lynda Bull, Acting Director of Community Services

Author: Telephone 7683 2380
 Alice Davey, Head of Culture, Leisure and Libraries
 (Any enquiries should be directed to the above)

Other contributors:

- Ces Edwards, Culture, Leisure and Libraries, 7683 2420
- Christine Forde, Finance and Legal, 7683 1587
- Carol Williams, Customer and Workforce Services, 7683 3444
- Neil Chamberlain, Finance and Legal, 7683 3460
- Carl Bainbridge, Corporate Communications, 7683 2466
- Lara Knight, Customer and Workforce Services, 7683 3237
- Richard Brankowski, Customer and Workforce Services, 7683 3077
- Lesley Wroe, City Development, 7683 1240
- Mike Murray, City Development, 7683 1292
- Trevor Errington, City Development, 7683 1230
- Stephen Pickering, City Services, 7683 3964
- Chris Thomas, City Services, 7683 2279

Papers open to Public Inspection

Description of paper

- Draft Green Space Strategy Executive Summary
- Green Space Strategy Main Document and Appendices

Location

- www.coventry.gov.uk/greenspace
- www.coventry.gov.uk/greenspace

Coventry Green Spaces Strategy

Report to Cabinet

Results of Consultation

Summary of Main Issues, Proposes Responses, and Text Changes

To the Executive Summary and Main Reports

Main Issues	Council Response	Proposals for amendment (para nos refer to Executive summary draft Report of June 2008 unless stated)
Section 1: Introduction		
<p>1.1 Alignment with the three existing neighbourhood areas is a positive move.</p> <p>1.2 Consultation to date appears to have focused upon local people and children with no reference to private land owners, including RSLs and Whitefriars Housing Group who manage a significant number of green spaces.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Have requested response from the bodies identified.</p>	
<p>Greater emphasis on partnership required, to be clear that the City Council is unable to deliver an impact without key partners.</p>	<p>Noted</p>	<p>P. 3 Text added "It is recognised that Coventry City Council will work in partnership with a wide variety of organisations secure funding an deliver and manage improvements.</p>
<p>Please produce an shorter executive summary of 2 sides of A4, it is understood that the documents need to be lengthy, however it would be useful to have an "at a glance" document</p>	<p>Noted, 2 A4 side executive summary produced.</p>	
<p>We welcome the opportunity to be involved in the development of the Greenspace Strategy, as we believe that the provision and management of green space in the city are fundamental aspects of our collective work towards a more sustainable city.</p> <p>We were glad to see that consideration of future provision has been made (p1, paragraph 2), as we are now facing some major challenges ahead with the unavoidable impacts of climate change.</p> <p>It is noted that sites were evaluated "against agreed criteria" – it would be useful to have these criteria outlined early in the document.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>The criteria is included in 2.12 of the main strategy, and is not part of the executive summary.</p>	

Main Issues	Council Response	Proposals for amendment (para nos refer to Executive summary draft Report of June 2008 unless stated)
<p>It is noted – and welcomed – that one of the desired outcomes is provision that is "environmentally sustainable". It would be interesting to see how this sentiment was reflected in the agreed criteria.</p> <p>On page 3, the document states that there has been a "comprehensive review of existing strategies, corporate documents and policies that may affect greenspace..." While this is welcomed, there is a feeling that perhaps more attention could have been made to the city's Climate Change Strategy. There also seems to be little reference to the Local Biodiversity Action Plan in the document.</p>	<p>Environmental sustainability is covered in a number of ways including accessibility, composting bins for allotments. Criteria alters for each type of green space.</p> <p>Noted. The Biodiversity Action Plan for the sub region is referenced at 1.195 of the main document. An explicit link to Climate Change Strategy is not in place and is not intended.</p>	
<p>Suggest reworking of bullet point 2 as follows: "To provide high quality accessible greenspace and outdoor recreational facilities that can deliver multiple functions and benefits for the local community, and cater for local need in both urban and rural areas".</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>p.2 bullet 2 to be amended " To provide high quality accessible greenspace and outdoor recreational facilities that can deliver multiple functions and benefits for the local community, and cater for local need in both urban and rural areas".</p>
<p>The Strategy document contains no information about the audit and the sites which were surveyed. We consider that this information should have been published so that consultees would be able to see how current Greenspace provision measures up to the proposed standards for each of the typologies. Notwithstanding that observation, we have established that the land at Shilton Lane was not involved in the survey and therefore, has no role to play within the current portfolio of land to provide</p>	<p>This information is extensive and will be available to the public on request. Ward maps demonstrate the current position and have been welcomed by the public.</p>	

Main Issues	Council Response	Proposals for amendment (para nos refer to Executive summary draft Report of June 2008 unless stated)
<p>Greenspace within the Henley Ward of the North East sector of the City. The strategy sub-divides the City into 3 broad sub-areas. Our client's land at Shilton Lane, as noted above, lies within the North East Area and in Henley Ward. For each of the broad areas, the standards for each of the Greenspace typologies is compared to the current provision. There is also a table setting out Ward Based Provision as assessed against the standards.</p>	Noted	
Section 2: Vision		
<p>2.1 Vision is a very positive statement. 2.2 Concerns expressed regarding the ability to deliver this vision without significant increase in the current budget.</p>	<p>Noted It is acknowledged that the task of officers is to draw in additional investment through development work with community groups, seek external funding, and secure developer contributions.</p>	
<p>It would have been encouraging to see a reference to future generations/the city of the future within this vision statement.</p>	<p>Noted – as a sole comment the vision will not be altered at this time</p>	
<p>Table 1, part 2: - under Cemeteries and Churchyards – after "the deceased" add "The London Road Cemetery because of its high historic and landscape value, also meets the criteria for other types of greenspace, such as an "important heritage landmark", educational and informal recreational functions."</p>	<p>Agreed. However it should be noted that for calculation purposes all spaces are counted under one category of green space only.</p>	<p>Table 1 part 2 after "the deceased..."The London Road Cemetery because of its high historic and landscape value, also meets the criteria for other types of greenspace, such as an "important heritage landmark", educational and informal recreational functions."</p>
Section 3: Methodology		
<p>3.1 More detail has been requested re the choice of the four area parks, to</p>	<p>These four are selected due to their strategic location, and facility mix. With anticipated</p>	

Main Issues	Council Response	Proposals for amendment (para nos refer to Executive summary draft Report of June 2008 unless stated)
understand why other facilities have not been selected.	population growth there will be the opportunity to develop further area parks.	
It was disappointing to see that the "Natural Greenspace" typology included only consideration of woodland at this point. It would have been preferable to change "Woodland" to "Wildlife Sites" here, and to reflect this broader consideration in the supporting text.	This has been altered – see below	
<p>Definition of Greenspace The typology 'Woodland' (rename 'Accessible Natural Greenspace' as on p28) should be expanded to include: nature reserves; designated Local Sites; areas of semi-natural habitat and habitat corridors for species dispersal such as canals and disused railway lines. In the column under 'Primary Purpose and Vision' adjacent to 'Woodland' (renamed Accessible Natural Greenspace) text should read: 'Sites that promote respect and understanding of biodiversity and geodiversity through programmes of interpretation, conservation and management. These sites will also provide for recreation and contribute to the wider Green Infrastructure.'</p>	<p>Agreed point 1 Inclusion to expand scope to include canals and railway lines etc will not be implemented as included in the separate review of Green Infrastructure. Agreed Comment noted wording will remain to support greater understanding of public. Also see comment re. green infrastructure review.</p>	<p>Change side heading p. 7 to "Accessible Natural Greenspace" Change para 4, p.7main text to "accessible natural green space" not Woodland.</p>
Section 4: The Approach		
4.1 The hierarchy in table 1a is not easy to understand and would benefit from additional explanation.	In consultation all consultees understood the hierarchy, so this will remain with the wider explanation in the main document for reference	
Audit and Digital Mapping – in mapping need	As the growth of the City becomes more	

Main Issues	Council Response	Proposals for amendment (para nos refer to Executive summary draft Report of June 2008 unless stated)
<p>to have facility to record/predict future requirements and potential sites that are not in current use, (e.g. housing developments at the planning stage). Also the ability to identify smaller geographical areas within a ward, which have under provision or that have accessibility issues. For example although provision in Longford is scored as high there are issues on the north-west side of Longford where the Longford Road, A444 and canal can act as a barrier, especially for young children. The following example highlights how important it is to predict future requirements and to link in with planning, in particular to housing development. There is a site owned by Midland Heart, a housing and regeneration group, on Lady Lane (situated in the north-west side of Longford). Close by there is also green space adjoining the canal with mature beech trees, which may also be allocated for development by the CCC. These two sites are ideally located to provide a play facility, as there is a canal footbridge and a nursery nearby. Ideally this situation (and others like it) need to be recorded and a mechanism in place to work with developers to enable the vision outlined in the strategy to become a reality.</p>	<p>explicit this level of detailed estimate can be undertaken.</p> <p>The Local Development Framework Core Strategy will require developers to meet the City Council's minimum Green Space Standards, in particular to address shortfalls in provision</p> <p>Any specific site questions may be raised in the normal way with planning officers</p>	
Section 5: Review of Existing Policies and Plans		
<p>5.1 No details provided of the plans, policies and strategies produced by the city and its partners that have an</p>	<p>This is within the section 1.158 of the main document</p>	

Main Issues	Council Response	Proposals for amendment (para nos refer to Executive summary draft Report of June 2008 unless stated)
influence on green space. What currently exists and how can they be accessed.		
It would have been extremely useful at this point to include a comprehensive list of those "plans, policies and strategies produced by the city and its partners that have an influence on greenspace across the city" that were considered and reviewed.	As above	
Section 6: Assessing Needs		
6.1 Alignment with the three existing neighbourhood areas is a positive move.	Noted	
No comment, other than a concern with regard to the limited response from the public.	This recognised, and has been responded to through the use of further consultative tools, including Ward Forums. However there is a need to get closer to communities and stakeholders in the service area.	p.35 Include additional aim "To improve communication particularly with user groups"
Facilities for children - consultations need to include local nurseries, childminders and informal groups such as 'stay and plays'.	Noted. The revised approach to consultation within the Council's Play Strategy supports this.	
Figures for football pitches not accepted. View that pitches that are fully booked should not count as available for community use along with university pitches and school pitches that are used very infrequently by the community.	There are some data errors in the pitch audit, giving slight variations both up and down. However these are not viewed as significant. Where inconsistencies are identified the databases will be updated. However this will not affect the priority for work on pitches which is improvement of quality, changing areas and maintenance. Pitches that are full or infrequently used by the community do count.	Table 28 Main Strategy document "Please note these figures are subject to change, and are a snapshot in time which may contain inaccuracies. These are not viewed as significantly altering the assessment.
Would like to understand where the pitch figures come from	The pitch figures come from the Active Places national website run by Sport England www.activeplaces.com	

Main Issues	Council Response	Proposals for amendment (para nos refer to Executive summary draft Report of June 2008 unless stated)
Would like to understand what the criteria are that are used to assess green space, pitches and sports grounds.	Noted	Criteria for quality assessments are added to the appendices of the main strategy document
There are lots of teams without a pitch to play on on Sundays	Noted. The Council has worked with Sport England to run a further survey prior to taking the strategy forward for approval, with over 130 sports clubs and teams in the city to test latent demand. The Council has immediately contacted the Sunday league secretaries and they have confirmed that no teams have been turned away as a result of lack of pitches for football.	
Container changing rooms should be made available to allow more pitches to be used for football league matches.	This will be considered in view of external funding applications for quality and changing improvements, and budgets available.	
What is community use defined as	Noted	Community Use definition added to main strategy document Table 34 "Community use is defined as being available for hire as a one off or series of bookings by an individual or organization other than the pitch/facility owner or operator, outside school time if on a school site."
Section 7: Management Issues and financial Implications		
<p>7.1 Maintenance standards should be agreed and enforced for all Council owned land.</p> <p>7.2 Existing facilities have suffered as a result of under investment and an erosion of existing revenue budgets.</p> <p>7.3 Financial implications of GSS are unclear, but expected to be significant.</p>	<p>Noted. This work is almost complete and will be publicised in late 2008 or early 2009. the parks service structure within Leisure has been altered over the last 12 – 18 months to achieve this improvement.</p> <p>Noted. Additional revenue budgets are unlikely however officers are striving to work more efficiently.</p> <p>Noted – as above</p>	

Main Issues	Council Response	Proposals for amendment (para nos refer to Executive summary draft Report of June 2008 unless stated)
Support the plans for pitch improvements however ongoing maintenance should also be considered	Noted	
In regard to new developments, long-term maintenance should also be identified at the planning stage and funds allocated within section 106s.	This will be picked up in the action for objective 8 p.40	
Natural England encourages consideration of long-term management options at the earliest stage possible in planning new greenspace. It is important that proper resources provision is made for the long term management and maintenance of existing natural greenspace. Long term management should be addressed in all site management plans.	Comments noted and agreed. Parks management plans are under development.	None
Section 8: Setting Provision Standards		
<p>8.1 The measurement system for quality is unclear. Officers may understand Green Flag standards but the general public will not. Similarly, what constitutes a "good" quality rating in area and neighbourhood parks.</p> <p>8.2 It is unclear if the quality standard includes all assets associated with green space, i.e. footpaths, signage, lighting, seating etc.</p> <p>8.3 Suggest that consideration be given to formal surveillance of children's play areas.</p> <p>8.4 BSEN177 for Impact Absorbing Surfaces will not be applicable to naturalised play.</p> <p>8.5 The draft GSS is devoted to</p>	<p>As above this is as explicit as possible within the main document.</p> <p>Yes it does, as per 2.12 of the main document.</p> <p>Children's play areas are checked regularly, however there is insufficient resource to staff full time</p> <p>Correct – however surfaces will need to be safe for play.</p> <p>Accessibility is assessed within the criteria, and within standards on p. 19</p>	

Main Issues	Council Response	Proposals for amendment (para nos refer to Executive summary draft Report of June 2008 unless stated)
<p>assessment of quantitative standards with no assessment of quality and little re accessibility.</p> <p>8.6 Gap analysis required to identify the full extent of under/over provision in respect of quality standards.</p> <p>8.7 No information provided re proposed quality standards or gap analysis against existing arrangements.</p> <p>8.8 Page 22 under Churchyards and Cemeteries between "not" and "created add "generally". Also at end of para add "One exception is the London Road Cemetery, which was designed as a Victorian Park, as well as a burial ground."</p>	<p>This is on p. 49 – 51 on a ward basis for quantity. Quality work is prioritised in line with the audit findings.</p> <p>The quality standard is as per the main document 2.12, gaps are dealt with through prioritisation against audit findings.</p> <p>Agreed</p>	<p>Page 22 under Churchyards and Cemeteries "not generally created". End of para: "One exception is the London Road Cemetery, which was designed as a Victorian Park, as well as a burial ground."</p>
<p>It would be useful to have reference to monitoring standards for 'health and safety', cleanliness, maintenance of equipment and service levels. How often should sites be checked? How quickly should a reported problem, such as glass in a children's play area, be acted upon?</p>	<p>This is part of the operational work within parks officers workloads – there will be publicity about standards and maintenance regimes later in the year or early in 2009.</p> <p>Most emergencies should be dealt with within 1 working day where possible.</p>	
<p>Natural England welcomes the emphasis on the value of accessible natural greenspace to both people and wildlife. However the recommended minimum standards only partially reflect those of Natural England. Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard states that every home should be within 300 m of an accessible natural green space of at least two hectares (ha) which is equivalent in size to two football pitches (Coventry's Standard</p>	<p>We recognise this point and the standard recommended by Natural England.</p> <p>Coventry does recognise the 20 ha site within 2km of every home and is implementing this.</p>	<p>Under p.19 table first col. para. 2 & 3 the standard of Natural England will be recognised amended to "A natural green space within 300m of every home of at least 2 ha in size" and "one 100ha site within 5 km of every home.</p> <p>Also p. 19 add "at least one 500 ha in size accessible green space within 10 km of every home"</p>

Main Issues	Council Response	Proposals for amendment (para nos refer to Executive summary draft Report of June 2008 unless stated)
<p>in the draft Strategy is 400m).</p> <p>Natural England also states that each home should also have access to: at least one accessible 20 ha site within 2 km (reflected in Coventry's strategy); at least one accessible 100 ha site within 5 km and (Coventry's standard is 100ha within 10km) and at least one accessible 500 ha site within 10 km . Coventry make no reference to Accessible Natural Greenspace Sites of more than 100ha.</p> <p>The rationale for why the standards presented differ from the Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard should be given.</p>		<p>Also for clarity insert on p. 49, 50, 51 "City Minimum Standards based on current provision"</p>
<p>Section 9: General Recommendations</p>		
<p><u>Design</u></p> <p>9.1 Design concepts are commended.</p> <p>9.2 The proposal to develop a steering group is welcomed and fits with Street Services and Public Protection's key objectives.</p> <p>9.3 Suggest that the steering group should include representation from other divisions and directorates e.g. CPM, CLYP, Neighbourhood Management as well as other partners RSLs, particularly Whitefriars Housing Group. Considerations should be given to the relationship with the Coventry Partnership Environmental Theme Group.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>	

Main Issues	Council Response	Proposals for amendment (para nos refer to Executive summary draft Report of June 2008 unless stated)
9.4 Service providers should be included in any review of maintenance standards.	Noted	
9.5 The access standard should also consider access for maintenance functions.	Noted, it does	
9.6 Further explanation re the standards to be used for performance monitoring.	As above	
9.7 Signage programme should make provision for maintenance and replacement due to vandalism.	Noted	
9.8 Designs should be low maintenance formulated to "design out" ASB	Noted	
9.9 Suggest that GSS needs to be integrated into the AIMS process, and the Coventry Partnership.	There is unlikely to be the staff resource to achieve this at present.	
9.10 Design should include measures to protect green space from flytipping and traveller encampments.	Noted	
9.11 Design should include measures to protect buildings and street furniture from graffiti.	Noted	
<u>Parks and Open Spaces</u>		
9.12 Provision deficiencies will also need to be addressed in revenue budgets.	Capital projects can not be implemented without revenue consideration.	
9.13 Concerns that volunteers may be used for maintenance functions. Experience suggests that without adequate planning and supervision, consistent quality standards and project work commitments are difficult to maintain.	Volunteers will only be used as Friends groups or with appropriate support.	
9.14 Greater involvement in Britain in Bloom is welcomed.	Noted They are p.49 – 51	

Main Issues	Council Response	Proposals for amendment (para nos refer to Executive summary draft Report of June 2008 unless stated)
<p>9.15 Standards need to be defined. Further detail required in respect of Gateway sites. What are they? Where are they?</p> <p><u>Woodlands/Natural/Semi-Natural Green Space</u></p> <p>9.17 Provision deficiencies will also need to be addressed in revenue budgets.</p> <p>9.18 Contaminated Land (or more accurately Land Quality) should form a central part of the GSS. The key guiding principles of the GSS include sustainability, land quality, biodiversity and health and wellbeing, which are all key facets of the Contaminated Land Strategy.</p> <p>Work undertaken for the Contaminated Land Strategy has identified 2685 areas of the City which have the potential to be contaminated (based on historic use). It is known that a number of areas of current open space and other City Council owned land have been used for industrial activities in the past and given the City's industrial heritage, there is also the significant possibility that other sites have been used in the past that has not been recorded in the available sources. This has significance not only for present sites, but also for any future developments. The Environmental Protection team are currently working alongside colleagues to undertake soil</p>	<p>As above</p> <p>Noted</p>	

Main Issues	Council Response	Proposals for amendment (para nos refer to Executive summary draft Report of June 2008 unless stated)
<p>quality surveys within one of the City's Nature Reserves and an Allotments, to ensure that human health and the wider environment are not being adversely effected by contaminants remaining from previous uses.</p> <p>The Contaminated Land regime deals with the protection of a number of compartments of our natural and built environment. These include human health, surface and groundwater, protected ecosystems and habitats, property in the form of crops and livestock and protected buildings and monuments. Defra recently published a consultation document dealing with the assessment of ecosystems in relation to soil contamination. This is particularly significant for newly established sites and those which may have developed on brownfield sites, but also to "greenfield" areas that may have been affected by migrating or aeriaily deposited contaminants. Significantly, one of the City Councils SSSIs (Claybrookes Marsh / Binley Railhead Site) is located on a brownfield site.</p> <p><u>Provision for Children and Young People</u></p> <p>9.16 More information required re quality standard. What is a 'good' site.</p> <p>9.17 Revenue implications for naturalised play are as yet unknown. Concerns</p>	<p>See main document 2.12</p> <p>This may be an issue and is recognised in the Play Strategy too.</p>	

Main Issues	Council Response	Proposals for amendment (para nos refer to Executive summary draft Report of June 2008 unless stated)
<p>that naturalised sites in urban areas could increase maintenance requirements.</p> <p><u>Outdoor Sports Facilities</u></p> <p>9.18 Revenue budgets will need to be significantly increased to support improved pitch quality.</p> <p>9.19 More information required re the number and location of bowling greens which are 'below average'.</p> <p>Aspirations should include improvements to bowling greens to 'county standard' where current buildings, structures and management arrangements are already in place.</p>	<p>As previous external funding bids to the Football Foundation for example will be needed to address this.</p> <p>All bowling greens are on ward maps</p> <p>Noted</p>	
<p>We would like to take the opportunity to highlight a number of documents that we consider to be particularly useful under the heading of "General Recommendations".</p> <p>Firstly, guidance by national bodies such as TCPA and CABE is helpful. Although we note that the document refers to CABE, there is some specific guidance that it has published which helps to highlight the links between greenspace and climate change adaptation. A section from the website has been included below to illustrate the links that CABE has identified:</p>	<p>This is responded to although not explicit within the Strategy.</p>	<p>Add to Main Document para 1.5.4 CABE and TCPA Guidance</p> <p><i>"Environmental infrastructure, including parks and green spaces, will play a critical role in adapting our areas to climate change and the mitigation of its effects. In responding to climate change there is an opportunity for green space managers to lever in additional sources of funding by thinking differently about the functions that these areas play and the facilities that they provide.</i></p>

Main Issues	Council Response	Proposals for amendment (para nos refer to Executive summary draft Report of June 2008 unless stated)
<p><i>Environmental infrastructure, including parks and green spaces, will play a critical role in adapting our areas to climate change and the mitigation of its effects. In responding to climate change there is an opportunity for green space managers to lever in additional sources of funding by thinking differently about the functions that these areas play and the facilities that they provide.</i></p> <p><i>As a result of climate change, Britain is going to experience hotter, drier summers and wetter winters. Good quality, well-maintained networks of green spaces play a role in flood management and natural drainage, reduction of pollution, conservation of biodiversity, and can potentially provide land for biomass, food or wind energy production, recycling and composting schemes.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, the cooling effect of green spaces counteracts the ‘urban heat island effect,’ whilst shade from vegetation and trees will provide respite from hotter weather and important green networks in encouraging people to walk or cycle.</i></p> <p>www.cabe.org.uk</p> <p>The TCPA publication "Climate Change Adaptation by Design" also provides some useful guidance.</p> <p><i>"Built environment professionals should aim for integration of water, open space and built</i></p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p><i>As a result of climate change, Britain is going to experience hotter, drier summers and wetter winters. Good quality, well-maintained networks of green spaces play a role in flood management and natural drainage, reduction of pollution, conservation of biodiversity, and can potentially provide land for biomass, food or wind energy production, recycling and composting schemes.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, the cooling effect of green spaces counteracts the ‘urban heat island effect,’ whilst shade from vegetation and trees will provide respite from hotter weather and important green networks in encouraging people to walk or cycle.</i></p> <p>www.cabe.org.uk</p> <p>The TCPA publication "Climate Change Adaptation by Design" also provides some useful guidance.</p> <p><i>"Built environment professionals should aim for integration of water, open space and built form through greenspace and bluespace strategies, developed as part of a masterplan. This should consider a number of climate risk management options (bearing in mind the potential conflicts between options and with GHG mitigation efforts), including high quality greenspace, made up of a linked network of well-irrigated</i></p>

Main Issues	Council Response	Proposals for amendment (para nos refer to Executive summary draft Report of June 2008 unless stated)
<p><i>form through greenspace and bluespace strategies, developed as part of a masterplan. This should consider a number of climate risk management options (bearing in mind the potential conflicts between options and with GHG mitigation efforts), including high quality greenspace, made up of a linked network of well-irrigated open spaces that can be used by a range of people (a 'green grid'), which has additional ecological, recreational and flood storage benefits. Green infrastructure in urban areas includes open spaces, woodlands, street trees, fields, parks, outdoor sports facilities, community gardens, village greens, private gardens, and green or living roofs and walls..." TCPA also mentions the "evaporative cooling effects from a matrix of green corridors, smaller open spaces, street trees, and green or living roofs and walls."</i></p> <p>www.tcpa.org.uk/downloads/20070523_CC A_lowres.pdf</p> <p>On a more local scale, we would like to take the opportunity to raise the profile of the sub-regional Local Biodiversity Action Plan, covering Coventry, Warwickshire and Solihull. More general information can be found at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/biodiversity, but specific habitat and species action plans are</p>	<p>This is referenced in the main document 1.195</p>	<p><i>open spaces that can be used by a range of people (a 'green grid'), which has additional ecological, recreational and flood storage benefits. Green infrastructure in urban areas includes open spaces, woodlands, street trees, fields, parks, outdoor sports facilities, community gardens, village greens, private gardens, and green or living roofs and walls..." TCPA also mentions the "evaporative cooling effects from a matrix of green corridors, smaller open spaces, street trees, and green or living roofs and walls."</i></p> <p>www.tcpa.org.uk/downloads/20070523_CC A_lowres.pdf</p>

Main Issues	Council Response	Proposals for amendment (para nos refer to Executive summary draft Report of June 2008 unless stated)
<p>particularly noteworthy. Clearly, the habitat action plan for Parks and Public Open Space would be a key reference, and supporting information could be forthcoming from plans for hedgerows, lowland neutral grassland, traditional orchards, woodlands, wood pasture, old parkland and veteran trees, allotments, canals, churchyards and cemeteries, disused industrial and railway land, ponds, lakes and reservoirs, reedbeds, rivers and streams, and roadside verges. Relevant species actions plans would be those covering bats, black poplar, farmland birds, great crested newt, otter, song thrush, and water vole. The second bullet point on p25 mentions the desire to benefit wildlife, and to allow movement: this is welcomed, particularly in the context of adaptation to future climate. We would hope that the city's green infrastructure study, currently in preparation, will include robust consideration of climate change.</p> <p>The city's Climate Change Strategy was approved by full Council and the Coventry Partnership in March 2008, and there are many relevant cross-references to be made between this document and the Greenspace Strategy. In this respect, we welcome the bullet point on p25, which refers to sustainable urban drainage systems. We would, however, like to see more explicit evidence of consideration of climate change in the final document, and would be happy to</p>	<p>This will be implemented at the 5 year review stage</p>	

Main Issues	Council Response	Proposals for amendment (para nos refer to Executive summary draft Report of June 2008 unless stated)
offer any guidance that may be needed to support this.		
<p>Well designed greenspace can provide a range of functions, which deliver economic, environmental and social benefits for communities,</p> <p>As a general comment it is unlikely for greenspace to provide all of the features listed in the bullets 1-23. The design brief should consider the key functions performed by existing greenspace and the identified need for provision Where appropriate the design brief should incorporate the existing habitat type and consider its functions and the surrounding habitats. The following rewording of bullet point 12 is given for your consideration:</p> <p>Greenspace design should therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be designed and managed to benefit biodiversity, provide integrated habitat areas and support and allow the movement of wildlife, plants and animals. The site should provide an appropriate range of habitat types. <p>Suggest add to bullet point 14 - see below</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguard the integrity of any existing open space or space of heritage value and where appropriate enhance the setting of listed features and the natural landscape. <p>Woodlands/Natural/Semi-natural</p>	<p>Agreed rewording</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Rewording agreed</p> <p>Noted – alterations as noted</p> <p>Agreed</p>	<p>p. 25 bullet 2 "to benefit biodiversitythe site should provide an appropriate range of habitat types."</p> <p>p. 25 bullet 4 add "and the natural landscape"</p> <p>p. 25 bullet 4 add "and the natural landscape"</p>

Main Issues	Council Response	Proposals for amendment (para nos refer to Executive summary draft Report of June 2008 unless stated)
<p>Greenspace (Page 28) Natural England welcomes the recommendation that deficiencies in the provision of the above categories are addressed as a priority in the Local Development Framework and encourages a positive commitment to this in Coventry's forthcoming Core Strategy consultation expected later this year. The strategy should address the sustainability objectives and Points J and L should include reference to the need to 'enhance' and 'expand' and 'increase the number of nature conservation sites' in addition to 'preserving' their characteristics and 'protecting' all existing nature conservation sites.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Alterations to points J and L</p>	<p>p. 29 point j "programmes to enhance and expand Nature conservation sites" "in addition to preserving and protecting their existing"</p>
<p>On the positive side I found the draft extremely comprehensive and thorough. It is clearly a very rigorous analysis of current green space in the city and will no doubt be a very powerful tool for assessing future needs. For this, it is to be commended. However this is also my concern. It is primarily a methodology to look at existing quantity, quality and accessibility for different types of green space. I don't underestimate the importance of this data. It will prove</p>	<p>Noted</p>	

Main Issues	Council Response	Proposals for amendment (para nos refer to Executive summary draft Report of June 2008 unless stated)
<p>crucial in assessing planning applications and justifying the protection of green space. Similarly it will provide valuable data for the allocation of scarce resources and determining future priorities.</p> <p>Nevertheless, I would argue it is fundamentally a planning tool and not a strategy. Whilst this might be invaluable for officers in providing and protecting green space, it's overall dry tone will not inspire and engage local communities or, perhaps more importantly, our elected representatives and key decision makers. The various formula and the answers they provide will not guarantee resources to see anything actually happen 'on the ground'. Similarly I doubt it will do anything to raise expectations or change current attitudes. It will simply justify and explain need and supply. Furthermore it's a document that is applicable to any city anywhere.</p> <p>To a degree the initial preparation of the city's Sustainable Communities Strategy suffered a similar fate. The vast array of information and evidence pulled together was again invaluable in assessing priorities. However in the process partners asked where 'the Coventry story' was in all this. Whilst I confess to only having read the Executive Summary and Standards, the draft Green Space Strategy could similarly apply to anywhere.</p> <p>Having undergone this rigorous assessment of supply and need of green space, surely we</p>	<p>Noted – the Strategy is not designed as a marketing tool but to drive action. The services are promoted to the public through marketing plans and strategies for leisure and parks.</p> <p>The strategy is very local to Coventry with it's ward assessments and needs analysis and Ward maps to support this.</p> <p>The Strategy is for a 10 year period, and a review at 5 years, 20 years seems too long a</p>	

Main Issues	Council Response	Proposals for amendment (para nos refer to Executive summary draft Report of June 2008 unless stated)
<p>should now be looking at the preparation of a strategy for the next 20 years. A vision for the future that seeks to improve the quality and quantity of green space in a growing and sustainable city – that addresses wider issues such as climate change. What is our strategy for the urban fringe, green wedges, parks, allotments, natural and formal play, school grounds, etc? Most importantly, it should inspire and make a compelling case for investing in a valuable and finite nature resource that is crucial to the quality of life. A document that motivates the converted and challenges the non believers. In summary, a very good planning tool for officers. However it lacks 'soul' and will fail to inspire a wider audience.</p>	<p>period at this stage.</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>This is covered in the separate Green Infrastructure Plan.</p>	
Section 10: Action Plans		
<p><u>Objectives 1&2</u></p> <p>10.1 Aims to include reference to maintenance</p> <p>10.2 Success measures to include user satisfaction.</p> <p><u>Objective 3</u></p> <p>10.3 Key targets to include the development and improvement of playing surfaces.</p> <p><u>Objective 4</u></p> <p>10.4 Success measures to include participation in Britain in Bloom campaign and Britain in Bloom Neighbourhood Awards.</p> <p><u>Objective 5</u></p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>Noted – increased levels of customer satisfaction is measure of success in objective 2</p> <p>Noted – this is included in "improve children's... play and activity areas" in objective 2 also in objective 4</p> <p>Agreed</p>	<p>Include "maintenance" in objective 4 key targets and in objective 2 aims</p> <p>Include in objective 4 " participation in Britain in Bloom campaign and Britain in Bloom Neighbourhood Awards".</p>

Main Issues	Council Response	Proposals for amendment (para nos refer to Executive summary draft Report of June 2008 unless stated)
<p>10.5 Success measures to include increase in the number of community funded initiatives.</p> <p><u>Objective 6</u></p> <p>10.6 Concerns that the quality of plants grown in peat free alternatives will not assist in raising standards, and that increased costs will place a strain on revenue budgets.</p> <p><u>Objective 7</u></p> <p>10.7 Further information required re the City Woodland strategy. Will this replace the existing Tree Strategy?</p> <p><u>Objective 8</u></p> <p>Success measures to emphasise deliverable targets for voluntary sector involvement rather than the development of a work programme.</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>Noted this is to be retained, it will not be possible to achieve fully.</p> <p>No this will be the Tree Strategy currently being developed.</p> <p>The work programme will be required to deliver the target of the number of volunteers engaged, and bids made.</p>	<p>Include in objective 5 "Increase in successful projects run by community groups" and targets "assist community groups in the development of projects"</p>
<p>Where is the protection of grass verges from encroachment by parked motor vehicles covered?</p>	<p>This is covered in the Green Infrastructure plan, This type of green space is not covered by this strategy</p>	
<p>The similarities between Objectives 7 and 9 are noted: it may be more appropriate to put these together, particularly as the first aim of Objective 7 – "The management of trees and woodland and associated non-woodland habitats" – would suggest that all habitats could be covered under this heading. A related recommendation from earlier in the document - p29, recommendation (i), is "Develop the Biodiversity Action Plan for the city". Although it is not entirely clear what this would involve (given that the Local Biodiversity Action Plan preparation was</p>	<p>Noted, however due to the current management structure within the Council one section will be responsible for the development and delivery of the Woodland Strategy and another for any potential development and delivery of a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan – so this will remain separate at present.</p> <p>Comments noted for Aims and Measures of Success, changes incorporated.</p>	

Main Issues	Council Response	Proposals for amendment (para nos refer to Executive summary draft Report of June 2008 unless stated)
completed in 2006), a cross-reference between the Action Plan aims and the recommendations might be useful.		
<p>Natural England suggests merging objective 7 (page 39) and 9 (page 41) into one Objective 7 ie: “ To protect, enhance and increase habitats for the benefit of biodiversity and geodiversity and enjoyment by people”.</p> <p>Aims (Page 39) Suggest: To protect, enhance and manage habitats and features for biodiversity and geodiversity in an appropriate and sustainable manner. Monitor the outcomes for biodiversity and geodiversity . To raise awareness of and facilitate the use and enjoyment of high quality accessible natural greenspace by local people Through training, improve the knowledge base of those responsible for managing natural greenspace To involve local people in the restoration, creation and management of habitats such as woodlands To increase the economic viability of local woodlands through sustainable management ie through wood energy projects To pursue innovative and reliable funding to support upkeep and improvement of greenspace assets</p>	Agreed	<p>p. 39 and 41 Aims "To protect, enhance and manage habitats and features for biodiversity and geodiversity in an appropriate and sustainable manner. Monitor the outcomes for biodiversity and geodiversity . To raise awareness of and facilitate the use and enjoyment of high quality accessible natural greenspace by local people Through training, improve the knowledge base of those responsible for managing natural greenspace To involve local people in the restoration, creation and management of habitats such as woodlands To increase the economic viability of local woodlands through sustainable management ie through wood energy projects To pursue innovative and reliable funding to support upkeep and improvement of greenspace assets"</p> <p>p. 39 and 41 Measures of Success " Increased amount of land positively managed for biodiversity including improved connectivity of sites The number of sites with site specific management plans Increased area designated as Local Nature</p>

Main Issues	Council Response	Proposals for amendment (para nos refer to Executive summary draft Report of June 2008 unless stated)
<p>Measures of Success (Page 39) Suggest: Increased amount of land positively managed for biodiversity including improved connectivity of sites The number of sites with site specific management plans Increased area designated as Local Nature Reserves Increase the number of people visiting the sites Increase the number of schools visiting sites for educational purposes Increase the number of quality interpretation programmes at greenspace sites Increase the number of 'friends of' community groups established Reduction in the number and area of sites affected by vandalism and harmful exotic species</p> <p>Key Targets (Page 39) Suggest: Implementation of the City Woodland Strategy Manage existing habitats to contribute towards the BAP targets in the Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull LBAP ¹ Create greenspace which include habitats contributing towards the BAP targets in the Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull LBAP</p>		<p>Reserves Increase the number of people visiting the sites Increase the number of schools visiting sites for educational purposes Increase the number of quality interpretation programmes at greenspace sites Increase the number of 'friends of' community groups established Reduction in the number and area of sites affected by vandalism and harmful exotic species"</p> <p>Key Targets (Page 39) Suggest: Implementation of the City Woodland Strategy Manage existing habitats to contribute towards the BAP targets in the Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull LBAP ² Create greenspace which include habitats contributing towards the BAP targets in the Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull LBAP Develop and implement management plans for woodlands, Local Nature Reserves and</p>

Main Issues	Council Response	Proposals for amendment (para nos refer to Executive summary draft Report of June 2008 unless stated)
<p>Develop and implement management plans for woodlands, Local Nature Reserves and other accessible natural greenspace through a rolling programme</p> <p>Areas Action Plans (Pages 42, 44 and 46) Suggest: Under the 'Actions' column in all three areas (NE, NW and S) the statement regarding provision for LNRs need rewording for the purposes of clarity. It currently says ' To provide as a minimum, 1ha per 1000 of land designated as LNR'. This is ambiguous. Does it mean 1ha of LNR per 1000 ha of land or, as it should say, 1ha of LNR per 1000 head of population?</p>		<p>other accessible natural greenspace through a rolling programme</p> <p>Areas Action Plans (Pages 42, 44 and 46) Under the 'Actions' column in all three areas (NE, NW and S) "1ha of LNR per 1000 head of population"</p>
<p>Targets Could the targets for development of changing provision for pitches be more specific about which locations will be prioritised?</p>	<p>Yes – though this is dependent on funding. It is suggested that the basis of selection is multi-pitch sites first, or where some funding is in place to support an external funding application.</p>	<p>Target wording p. 35 objective 3 (and corresponding area in main strategy document) altered to "changing rooms initially at Coundon Hall Park, Sowe Valley and Holbrooks Park"</p>
Section 11: Ward Based Provision Assessment Against Standards		
<p>11.1 Area comparisons appear to focus on quantitative standards and largely exclude qualitative measures.</p>	<p>Qualitative audit gives priorities for improvements as funding is sought.</p>	
<p>What interested me was not as much the first 50 pages, but the three page, ward-by-ward statistics at the end of the paper.</p>	<p>Noted</p>	

Main Issues	Council Response	Proposals for amendment (para nos refer to Executive summary draft Report of June 2008 unless stated)
<p>When it came to green space, and allotments, four wards stood out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Radford (23% of recommended green space, 8% of recommended allotment space) - Foleshill (27%, 23%) - Lower Stoke (44.5% for green space, but only 8% for allotments), and, - Woodlands (38.1% and 21%). <p>A few questions:</p> <p>1) What will the actual mechanics be of increasing the hectares for allotments in wards, such as Radford and Lower Stoke with 8% each, be?</p> <p>2) For example, will the council purchase new land and convert it into allotments?</p> <p>3) How quickly do you see this process occurring, i.e. will Radford see a move from 8% of recommended allotment hectares to 18% in 2009 to 28% in 2010 to 38% in 2011, or do you see it as slower than that?</p>	<p>This would be used as development proposals come forwards. It is possible that a community group could identify disused land and work with officers to gain external funding for green space development.</p> <p>Purchases are very unlikely.</p> <p>Over the coming 10 years a start will be made, depending on what development proposals are coming forwards.</p>	
<p>We consider the Ward based assessment to be more relevant than that for the three broad areas of the City, since that level of analysis is more closely related to the accessibility standards as set out on Page 23 of the strategy and which appear to relate to convenient walking distances. It seems a</p>	<p>Noted – this will be subject to opportunities coming forward in the main.</p>	

Main Issues	Council Response	Proposals for amendment (para nos refer to Executive summary draft Report of June 2008 unless stated)
<p>matter of practical common sense that, if there is a shortfall, for example, of outdoor sports provision in Upper Stoke Ward, that every effort should be made to provide, wherever possible, new facilities in that Ward. In so far as Henley Ward is concerned, we note that the current provision for outdoor grass pitches is in excess of the City's minimum standard of 1.02 ha per 1000 population.</p> <p>For the North East part of the City, we note that a slight deficiency in grass playing pitches is recorded when compared to the proposed standard of 1.02ha per 1,000 population. However, the comment in the column that compares the current provision with the proposed standard suggests that a minimum standard of 0.74ha per 1,000 should be the norm for this part of the City. This is confusing and some clarity as to the desired standard for provision is required.</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>p. 43 4th box - Remove error "The standard of 0.74 ha per 1000 population should be the minimum standard for the NE"</p>
Section 12: Next Steps		
<p>No comment, other than to reiterate our offer of help with climate-proofing the final documents.</p>	<p>Noted – officer has been invited to do this.</p>	
Any Other Comments?		
<p>1.1 Green Space Strategies and Green Infrastructure</p> <p>Natural England welcomes emphasis in the Green Space strategy on protecting parks and urban green spaces for their contribution to quality of life, their role in shaping new development, and their contribution towards adapting to climate change.</p>		

Main Issues	Council Response	Proposals for amendment (para nos refer to Executive summary draft Report of June 2008 unless stated)
	<p>Natural England considers that Green Infrastructure (GI) -the network of formal and informal green spaces and related environmental assets- can underpin the sustainability of communities. Green Infrastructure planning has a vital role in protecting, enhancing and extending the network of green spaces at the local level. Green Infrastructure can fulfil many functions, key ones being the provision of opportunities for climate change adaptation for example through the provision of corridors for wildlife movement, cooling of summer temperatures through tree shade and opportunities for recreation and leisure giving benefits for health and well-being. There are major opportunities to provide integrated benefits for the landscape, recreation and biodiversity through maintenance and enhancement of the connectivity and functions in the Green Infrastructure network</p> <p>The Green Space Strategy forms an important component of Green Infrastructure.</p> <p>CCC Response: Noted</p>	
	<p>The comparison between Ward based provision and proposed standards is probably most relevant to the emerging LDR and more detailed policies relating to the provision and maintenance of areas of Greenspace, what will emerge in the plan.</p> <p>CCC Response: Noted</p>	
	<p>The Strategy itself isn't clear it is a draft i.e., nothing on the front cover or on the other pages that I can see.</p> <p>Relatively short consultation period – is it going via the Environment theme group in time etc.</p> <p>CCC Response: The environment Theme Group has been invited to respond. Front cover was adjusted</p>	
	<p>Some thoughts specific to Coombe and Country Parks.</p> <p>Although I recognize that you have stated that Coombe is outside the context of this document. I would have thought, considering the <i>Vision for Greenspace</i>, its role would have had more recognition, particularly the regional impact that the site has, and particularly its role in supporting the regeneration of the City. An Urban Task Force report stated: <i>The quality of parks and green space provides a quick and highly visible indicator of whether an area is an attractive place for people to live and business to locate and relocate.</i> That is exactly what Coombe does for Coventry and the surrounding area, and to a high standard. It is also highlighted within PPG17 that area provision should take a balance approach as "some forms of provision are likely to be found almost exclusively in rural areas – and others almost exclusively in urban ones" so a degree of travel is expected.</p> <p>There is no mention of the Historic Parks and Gardens register, or the importance of heritage greenspace as a separate unique category, obviously Coombe is one of the sites that fits into this category, but other parks that are not managed with heritage in mind currently would, (and should in my opinion) fit into this category.</p> <p>Table 1 Coventry Typology has no mention of Coombe as I assume the Country Park mentioned is one to be developed in the City. If and I hope it isn't the case, this is meant to reflect Coombe then the consultants appear to have missed the point totally. Coombe is and always</p>	

Main Issues	Council Response	Proposals for amendment (para nos refer to Executive summary draft Report of June 2008 unless stated)
<p>has been a regional resource. It would be very short sighted to only recognize it's value for the people of Coventry in the terms used in this table, this was a battle I fought some time ago with officers and politicians and I feel that most now understand the importance of Coombe in a regional context. If this element is aimed at future developments then it doesn't recognize the broader values that Country Parks as a whole play within the parks portfolio, the consultants should be referred to "Towards a Country Parks Renaissance or the Country Parks Network to get a better understanding of the role Country Parks play, particularly as Natural England are actively looking to "Build the Brand and status" (<i>Terry Robinson, Head of Recreation and Access Natural England</i>). of Country Parks as they see them as one of the key tools in delivering their agendas.</p> <p>There doesn't appear to be a great deal of emphasis on the sub region. It seems odd when most people working in the Open spaces industry are looking to think in a regional and sub regional context we should be deciding to do the reverse, this is obviously vital when discussing issues around regeneration, biodiversity, and access to the wider countryside.</p> <p>CCC Response: Noted. Coombe is recognised in the hierarchy of parks. The Historic Parks and Gardens category is not used in this methodology. It is recognised that there is not presently a large sub-regional focus, and this can be developed for the future.</p> <p>Other issues.</p> <p>There is also no mention of transitional sites; there are excellent examples of short-term greenspace management in regeneration/brown field areas.</p> <p>I understand you have had some challenges getting what we need from this document, but as this is a political document for the future, I would not want to see the value of Country Parks and particularly Coombe diminished in any way, currently I feel this is the case.</p> <p>I have concentrated on the bits that I feel are missing or need further work, there is quite obviously some very good aspects to this document.</p> <p>CCC Response: Coombe is embedded within the Parks portfolio in Coventry with a Management Plan that is approved by Cabinet. Transitional sites will be used as possible operationally when developments come forward.</p> <p>Quality Assessment results very long to be part of appendix.</p> <p>CCC Response: Noted. Will be removed and available on request.</p>		
<p>1.86 Main Document Below last point add: "The recently formed Friends of London Road Cemetery also</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>1.86 Main Document Below last point add: "The Friends of Parks Groups and recently formed Friends of</p>

Main Issues	Council Response	Proposals for amendment (para nos refer to Executive summary draft Report of June 2008 unless stated)
concurred with the above points as being key issues of concern."		London Road Cemetery identified the following as key issues"
2.196 Audit Incorrect Corrections to audit data mean figure for outdoor sport should be 409.80 ha (not 541.70 ha), and therefore 1.36 ha per 1,000 population (not 1.8 ha)	Agreed	2.196 figure changes in main document to 409.80 and 1.36 and corresponding area Executive Summary.
Table 28 Main Document Break down into sub types, ATPs, number of junior pitches for each sport, types of bowling greens etc, is there any Gaelic football provision? Table 28 revise to clarify the breakdown of the 409.80 total ha figure above	Agreed Agreed	Table 28 main strategy document has had table 28a added to include breakdown as requested. There were no Gaelic football pitches found in the audit. Table 28 revised to reflect total ha of 409.80. Table 30 therefore also revised and renames "sites classified as Outdoor Sports Provision" corresponding areas changed in Executive Summary
2.201 Main Document Outdoor Sports provision figure should change from 233.60 ha to 331.67 ha and 0.77 ha per 1,000 population should be 1.10 ha per 1,000.	Agreed	2.201 main strategy: Outdoor Sports provision figure change from 233.60 ha to 331.67 ha and 0.77 ha per 1,000 population should be 1.10 ha per 1,000.
Table 34 Main Document Typing error under STP category – should read 6 not 61 for the South area. Total number 141 not 41.	Agreed	Table 31 changed to 6 STP in South Area and Total number of 141
Table 35 Main Document Define mini and junior football Cricket hectares incorrect should read 4.8 ha not 46 giving cricket total 19.2 ha. Junior	Agreed Agreed	Table 35 has definitions from the Football Association inserted below Cricket hectares will read 4.8 ha not 46 giving cricket total 19.2 ha. Junior football total ha

Main Issues	Council Response	Proposals for amendment (para nos refer to Executive summary draft Report of June 2008 unless stated)
football total ha should read 69.4 ha. Rugby total ha should read 41.8 ha. Total pitch ha 308.1.		will read 69.4 ha. Rugby total ha will read 41.8 ha. Total pitch ha 308.1.
Table 38 Main Document Due to audit changes should now read 1.36 ha for Coventry not 1.976	Agreed	Table 38 changed to 1.36 ha for Coventry
2.217 Main Document Not in line with PPG 17 Guidance	Agreed	Wording altered to read "Figures in relation to latent demand have been received through surveys from over 150 (45% response) clubs active in the City, demonstrating limited latent demand for pitches, except junior football and cricket. This has not therefore increased the pitch calculation. With any projected growth in the City this would need to be re-calculated."
2.245 Main Document Standard for access to pitches needs to be reconsidered in light of rural and urban nature of Coventry area	Agreed	2.245 has been altered to read "There is a small area of rural provision compared to urban, with good access developing to the urban fringe, therefore this standard concentrates on urban areas. Standard (Urban)
2.243 Main Document Standard for outdoor sport due to changes in audit should be altered to 1.36 ha per 1,000 population	Agreed	2.246 changed to 1.36 ha per 1,000 with 0.26 ha provided as sports grounds and 1.10 ha as grass pitches.
Playing Pitches Clarify if all public, private and school pitches are within the assessment Consider stranger recommendations around pitches that require changing room provision	All pitches are considered in the strategy in line with guidance	Targets are included for the development of changing facilities in Coundon Park, Sowe Valley and Holbrooks Park in the main and Executive Summary Strategies.

Main Issues	Council Response	Proposals for amendment (para nos refer to Executive summary draft Report of June 2008 unless stated)
as a target for the future		Recommendations in both documents prioritise development of cricket pitches and junior football as result of latent demand survey of sports clubs.
<p>Summary of Ward Forum Feedback</p> <p>Investigate the relationship between green space and life expectancy</p> <p>Provide a map of Hearsall Common showing the ward boundaries.</p> <p>Wording on Ward maps needs to better reflect where areas are in private ownership and not accessible at all to the general public, and where there is a voluntary sector or other sports club and public have some pay and play or booking access.</p> <p>Allesley Park needs better facilities for the 12+ age range.</p> <p>Radford common noted as being well used and enjoyed.</p> <p>Coundon Hall Park would benefit from similar facilities to Radford for the 12 + age range and a circular path.</p> <p>What developments are planned for Bell Green.</p> <p>Make maintenance improvements.</p>	<p>This will be acted upon if/when there is sufficient resource in place.</p> <p>Complete, this has been provided to the consultee</p> <p>Noted the next revision will respond to this.</p> <p>This is picked up in the consultation in July for new provision through capital and playbuilder funding. Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>	

Main Issues	Council Response	Proposals for amendment (para nos refer to Executive summary draft Report of June 2008 unless stated)
<p>Improve provision in parks for 1 – 4 year olds.</p> <p>Give more emphasis to local areas not to the premier City park.</p> <p>When there is no space left in an area it will be difficult to deliver a standard.</p> <p>Council should stop thinking so commercially – quality of life is important.</p> <p>Try to get the private sector to open their facilities for community use.</p> <p>Involve the community more in looking for space and at the planning stage.</p> <p>Emphasise the development of cricket in the City.</p> <p>Community groups would like to develop projects.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Agreed – this will be dependent on a future development or quality improvements can be made.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted – the ward maps being available will help this.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>This is welcomed and more work is being done to support groups to get funding and support for their projects.</p> <p>Noted cricket is within the strategy as needing support.</p> <p>See above</p>	
<p>2.283 Main Document Change to "London Road Cemetery is one of only two English Heritage Listed Parks and Gardens in Coventry. It is part of a Conservation Area and contains Listed Structures and Buildings. AS such, it is recognized as being of national, as well as local importance."</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>Page 117 Main document 2.283 change to " London Road Cemetery is one of only two English Heritage Listed Parks and Gardens in Coventry. It is part of a Conservation Area and contains Listed Structures and Buildings. AS such, it is recognized as being of national, as well as local importance."</p>

Main Issues	Council Response	Proposals for amendment (para nos refer to Executive summary draft Report of June 2008 unless stated)
<p>2.290 Main Document Add at end "The older part of London Road Cemetery is very high quality in terms of its historic and landscape value, but current resources are inadequate to maintain it appropriately. Its deteriorating condition is a cause for concern."</p>	<p>Partially agreed – as the lowest quality rating for this category of green space is "good", the wording needs to reflect current standards.</p>	<p>Page 119 2.290 Add bullet "The older part of the London Road Cemetery is important in terms of its historic and landscape value, however to achieve a higher quality assessment on these criteria a higher level of investment would be required."</p>