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## CHAPTER ONE - INTRODUCTION

Over one third of the area of the London Borough of Richmond is open space. Some of these areas are world renowned, for example Richmond Park National Nature Reserve, Kew Gardens and the historic landscapes along the River Thames. Apart from these famous areas, an extensive network of smaller open spaces and green routes add to the special landscape heritage of the Borough. The open spaces contribute significantly to the quality of life enjoyed by people who live or work here as well as the large numbers of people who visit the Borough. This Draft Open Spaces Strategy was developed by the Council in consultation with key stakeholders including representatives of the major open space providers. This Strategy sets out a joint vision for preserving, managing and enhancing open spaces for local people and visitors alike.

### **1.1 What is an open space strategy?**

Planning Policy Guidance note 17 (Planning for Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation (2002)) advises that an open space strategy should set local standards based on assessments of need and audits of existing facilities. It is the basis for redressing quantitative and qualitative deficiencies through the planning process and should recommend standards for inclusion in development plans.

### **1.2 Definition of open space:**

PPG17 specifies that open space should be taken to mean:

‘all open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can also act as a visual amenity.’

Open space plays a vital role in meeting people’s recreational needs in both formal and informal roles from organised sports to walking, bird watching and picnics. Access to open space and thus recreational activities is integral to sustaining a decent quality of life.

Open space is increasingly fulfilling a diverse range of functions which include conservation and biodiversity through the protection of natural features and the promotion and development of natural habitats; movement corridors for pedestrians, cyclists and wildlife; urban design through the improved aesthetic value of the urban environment; positively impacting upon people’s health and the promotion of local, national and even international tourism.

### **1.3 Purpose of the Strategy**

The purpose of this Strategy is to set out a philosophy and framework for the provision and care of open land within the Borough. We aim to provide sufficient high quality, accessible open space and associated facilities for the pleasure and enjoyment of the Borough's residents and visitors, for a variety of purposes over the changing seasons, taking into account the resources which are available to provide and maintain these open spaces. The primary goals are:

- To identify the existing amount, type and spread of the Borough's open space;
- To understand of the needs of communities and stakeholders with regard to open space;
- To produce principles and guidance for the future use of open space;
- To recommend priorities for action to redress deficiencies, maintain standards and meet needs and demands.

### **1.4 Background**

Richmond upon Thames' Unitary Development Plan (First Review 1999) recognises the importance of open space in the Borough, creating a varied and distinct landscape prominently defined by Richmond Hill and the River Thames valley in addition to Kew Gardens, two Royal Parks and many smaller open spaces and water courses. The importance of open space as an urban structure, providing relief from the built environment, is acknowledged, as is the importance of providing for formal and informal recreation. These collectively contribute to quality of life in the Borough.

Over a third of the Borough comprises public open space. But while the Borough is well served by large (regional and metropolitan) open spaces, distribution is not even, with a few areas having limited access to district and local parks.

The role of ecology and open space's ability to provide a range of habitats is recognised, leading the Borough to protect areas of nature conservation value and to manage and enhance wildlife habitats.

The strategy seeks to promote open space as a network of recreational, ecological and landscape assets which both serve the people of the Borough and help enhance and preserve the Borough's physical entity.

A strategic approach to open space planning will ensure that the Council's and other key stakeholders' initiatives are better integrated in relation to open space requirements and investments are targeted according to need.

The Open Space Strategy has been developed in partnership with the Borough's Greenspace Stakeholders Forum – an informal grouping of local land managers and parks and open spaces stakeholders. The membership of this Forum includes: the Royal

Parks Agency, the Crown Estates' representatives, English Heritage, the National Trust and Hounslow CIP as well as local representatives of key user groups.

The Audit Commission inspected Richmond Council's Parks and Open Spaces service following the Parks and Open Spaces Best Value Review in September 2001. The inspectors' report supported the Council's commitment and approach to developing a comprehensive parks and open spaces strategy while confirming that the Borough has a realistic approach to resource management.

### **1.5 Methodology (how the strategy was formulated)**

The strategy was formulated based on three primary strands:

- The existing national, regional and local policy guidance including draft, un-adopted, information on the formulation of Open Space Strategies obtained from the GLA.
- An audit of the quantity, hierarchy, function, quality and UDP designations of the open spaces to establish accurate information with regard to existing conditions and provision.
- An assessment of socio-demographic data about the residents within the Borough, and London as a whole, combined with an assessment of needs and preferences of the community and associated stakeholders.

Through the collation of the information obtained from the three areas above, strategies were formulated which seek to redress deficits and meet needs.

### **1.6 Structure of the Strategy document**

*Chapter 2* presents the planning policy framework context within which the open space strategy is set.

*Chapter 3* summarises the findings from the qualitative, quantitative and functional audits of the Borough's open spaces. The audits provide information on the existing amount, type, quality and function of each of the open spaces from regional parks to allotments and civic spaces. The results of the Audit are mapped in the A3 Appendix "Area Analysis Maps". In addition data on the UDP designations is held on the Council's Geographic Information System (GIS).

*Chapter 4* examines the needs and preferences of a range of stakeholders relating to open space with a consideration of the demographic composition of the Borough and in recognition of the evolving trends and expectations affecting open space.

*Chapter 5* contains an appraisal of the main issues – open space access and the resources available to provide and maintain them. It also considers alternative funding opportunities including the creation of a Parks and Open Spaces Endowment Fund.

*Chapter 6* contains the strategies, which have been derived from a consideration of the audit implications; an assessment of needs and demands with regard to the financial constraints of the Borough. Key issues have been identified and approaches to address them proposed. The Strategies are Borough wide. An area analysis (separate A4 document and accompanying maps) shows how the strategies will be applied locally.

## CHAPTER TWO: POLICY FRAMEWORK

### 2.1 Introduction

The Open Space Strategy takes account of National and Regional Planning Policy Guidance, the Greater London Authority's Spatial Development Strategy 2002 (The London Plan) Richmond upon Thames' Unitary Development Plan and recent advisory and informative publications. The implications of these documents on this strategy are summarised below:

### 2.2 National and Regional Policy

#### *PPG17 (Planning for Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation 2002)*

This advises authorities to:

- Adopt a strategic approach and plan positively for the provision and enhancement of well-designed recreational and sporting facilities and open spaces
- Provide the strongest protection for open space that is, or that has the potential to be, of value to the community
- Resist development pressures which could diminish recreational provision
- Ensure that sport and recreation facilities are easily accessible by a choice of modes of transport, and where appropriate, are centrally located
- Provide good quality open space and built recreational facilities as an integral part of new communities in order to make them attractive places to live.

#### *PPG Note 9 (Nature Conservation)*

This reaffirms the Government's commitment to the conservation of the natural environment. It emphasises the need not only to protect sites both designated and undesignated but also to manage wisely and create new habitats. It advises the integration of measures to protect and promote nature across all aspects of the authority work.

#### *Strategic Planning Guidance for London Planning Authorities (Regional Planning Guidance RPG3 1996)*

Regional Guidance advises on the protection of green belt, metropolitan open green chains and walking routes. It requires Boroughs to:

- identify open spaces as part of UDP reviews,
- identify areas of deficiency and develop proposals to reduce deficiencies,
- maintain and enhance the quality of parks and open spaces.

The London Plan provides a robust framework for the protection and promotion of open space. It promotes the use of standards for open space provision (based on the London Planning Advisory Committee table, used in the UDP) and requires Boroughs to target areas of deficiency through the creation and/or enhancement of open space as a means of redressing deficiencies. The Plan sets out an initial open space hierarchy, classifying open spaces by size, and sets standards against which accessibility to such spaces should be assessed. It suggests that every Londoner should have a Local Park or Open Space within 400 metres of their home and a District Park within 1.2 kilometres. The Plan further requires the identification and protection of wildlife sites with policies formulated that help protect important species while promoting public access to nature. Authorities are also encouraged to make provision for cemetery space.

### **2.3 Local Policy**

#### *Community Plan*

This is the Borough's corporate plan which sets out how the Borough will respond to a new power for local authorities to promote the economic, social and environmental well being of their community. The Community Plan has been developed with a wide range of partners and is updated annually. The vision is based on a Borough where people:

- take pride in the borough
- feel safe
- live in a clean and pleasant environment
- enjoy good quality, well-managed services that provide value for money.

The aims of the Community Plan to help achieve this vision are:

- investing in education, culture and leisure
- investing in the environment and encouraging civic pride
- improving social care, housing and the health of the most vulnerable
- combating crime
- managing our resources within our budgets to provide good quality services.

#### *London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Unitary Development Plan (UDP) First Review (deposit draft 1999)*

The Unitary Development Plan (UDP) is the Borough's land use plan based on a 10 to 15 year projection, containing policies for the provision and protection of open land. The Open Space Strategy will be Supplementary Planning Guidance to the UDP, containing a more detailed range of policies for the provision, protection, management and promotion of open space.

The UDP contains a Schedule of Publicly Accessible Open Space (Regional Parks, Metropolitan Parks, District Parks, Local Parks, Small Local Parks and Open Spaces, Linear Open Spaces). This functional framework is included in the Spatial Development Strategy.

The UDP contains policies which resist the loss of public open space, public and private sports facilities and statutory allotments. It defines those areas deficient in public open

space, i.e. more than 400m from an open space, or separated from one by a busy road, and states the intention to remedy deficiency areas by a variety of means including measures such as securing appropriate developer contributions and improving the connections to and between open spaces.

Most parks and open spaces are subject to restrictive policies in relation to built development. All are protected in the UDP as green belt, metropolitan open land (open land serving a strategic function), or other open land of townscape importance. Some are also sites of nature conservation importance, and/ or parts of green chains.

Other relevant UDP policies protect and enhance green chains, views and vistas, historic parks, gardens, and landscapes and protect and promote greater use of the river and riverside. Borough owned designated historic parks and gardens, which benefit from such policies, are York House Gardens, Terrace Gardens and Buccleugh Gardens, Orleans House Gardens and Radnor Gardens. Listed landscapes include Old Deer Park, and Ham Avenues. Other relevant UDP policies make provision for the safeguarding of existing cemeteries and land reserved for future burial as well as statutory allotments.

## **2.4 Other Local Strategies**

Other relevant local strategy documents which have helped shape this strategy include:

- Borough Economic Development
- Tourism
- Rights of Way
- Tree Strategy
- Strategy for Sport
- Walking Strategy
- Thames Landscape Strategy and the linked Arcadia in the City Project proposals
- Health and Social Care Improvement Plan
- Local Agenda 21
- Community Safety

### **3.1 Introduction**

The audit provides the baseline information on which the open spaces have been assessed. It considers the amount, size (hierarchy), function and quality and relevant UDP designations of existing open space according to specific standards. This information is then assessed against the recognised needs and demands of the community and other stakeholders, ultimately providing the necessary details upon which strategies, policies and guidance can be formulated.

This chapter therefore comprises information with regard to:

- Quantity: the amount of open space in the Borough;
- The hierarchy of open space in accordance with the established structure provided by PPG17, LPAC and the Borough's UDP;
- The function of open space expressed in terms of predominant use;
- The quality of open space.
- The mapping of relevant UDP designations ( taking account of the current UDP review)

A generalised position is given according to a Borough wide analysis followed by local area information following analysis of the 9 UDP based local areas.

### **3.2 Quantitative Analysis of Open Space**

Overall the Borough is well provided with open space. It contains 2162.95 hectares of public open space, of which approximately 25% is managed directly by the Council.

**Table 1: Council owned and managed open spaces**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Number of sites</b>	<b>Total Area</b>
<i>Parks and open spaces</i>	146	517 ha
<i>Cemeteries (open)</i>	6	36 ha
<i>Allotments</i>	24	27 ha
<i>Highways land</i>	Various	53 ha
<i>General purposes land</i>	Various	23 ha

The other major landowners of open land available to the public include the Royal Parks Agency; the Crown Estates; Historic Royal Palaces; English Heritage and the National Trust.

**Table 2: Open land not owned by the Council**

Land Owner	Number of sites	Names	Total Area (ha)
Royal Parks	2	Bushy Park Richmond Park	417.22 (ha) 973.56 (ha)
Historic Royal Palaces	2	Hampton Court Home Park	Insert area
English Heritage	1	Marble Hill	26.6 (ha)
Richmond Housing Partnership	Various		48 ha
National Trust	1	East Sheen Common	20.1 (ha) Council managed
Church Commissioners	1	Barnes Common	30 hectares (check) Council managed
Crown Estates	5	Old Deer Park, Kew Green, Richmond Green, riverside at Hampton, Westerly Ware	120.4 (ha) check/revise Council managed

With a resident population of 172,335 (2001 Census) this provides around 13 ha per 1,000 population, comparing extremely favourably to the traditional 2.43 hectares per 1,000 population (NPFA '6 acre standard'). The Borough's residential stock is predominantly comprised of houses with rear gardens as opposed to more densely urbanised flatted developments, and its residents are on average amongst the most affluent in Britain. Access to private open space and recreational opportunities at home, nationally and abroad is therefore greater than many other residents. This shows that Richmond upon Thames Borough is not deficient in open space on a Borough-wide basis. The open space is, however, not evenly distributed and this is considered below.

A broad based assessment of quantitative deficiency assessed against nationally recognised criteria serves as one of a number of measures against which deficiency can be identified but a further analysis based on the hierarchy of open spaces described below gives a more detailed picture of provision.

### **3.3 The Hierarchy of Open Spaces**

Determining a size-based hierarchy of open space is a way of categorising open space according to the scale and level of use. There have been many debates about how parks and open spaces are categorised. This Strategy uses the simple LPAC categories set out in table 1 for the purposes of considering open space within a hierarchal context. Radial catchment areas, measured from entrances, enable the Council to assess areas of deficiency, in terms of distance, in line with the LPAC guidance. These have recently been reused, without change, in the Draft London Plan.

Access to open space has been considered with regard to two criteria. First an assessment of distance to open space according to the established hierarchy. Second whether each of the areas has the appropriate provision, i.e. a range of hierarchical types. Each of the Borough's open spaces, which fall within this hierarchical classification, has been categorised according to type, with the accompanying 'definitions' and characteristics. The full list is set out in Appendix Two.

**Table 3: TYPES OF PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE OPEN SPACE  
(From Unitary Development Plan)**

Hierarchical Type	Size and Distance from home	Characteristics
Regional parks and opens spaces (Linked metropolitan open land and green corridors) Weekend and Occasional visits by car or public transport.	400 hectares 3.2-8km	Large areas and corridors of natural heathland, downland, commons, woodlands and parkland also including areas not publicly accessible but which contribute to the overall environmental amenity
Metropolitan parks Weekend and occasional visits by car or public transport.	60 hectares 3.2km or more where the park is appreciably larger	Either (i) natural heathland, downland, commons, woodlands etc. or (ii) formal parks provision for both active and passive recreation.
District parks Weekend and Occasional visits on Foot, cycle, car and Short bus trips.	20 hectares 1.2km	Landscape setting with a variety of natural features providing for a wide range of activities, including outdoor sports facilities and playing fields, children's play for different age groups and informal recreation pursuits. Should provide some car parking.
Local parks For pedestrian visitors	Over 2 hectares 0.4km	Providing for court games, children's play, sitting-out areas, nature conservation, landscaped environment; and playing fields if the parks are large enough.
Small local parks and opens spaces. Pedestrian visits, especially by old people and children particularly valuable in high density areas.	Under 2 hectares 0.4km	Gardens, sitting out areas, children's playgrounds, or other areas of a specialist nature, including nature conservation areas.
Linear open spaces Pedestrian visits	Variable Wherever feasible	For informal recreation

SOURCE: LPAC: Strategic Planning Advice for London (1988), Table 8.3

The audit process also analysed the range and distribution of the hierarchical types by area. The results are shown on the accompanying area maps (Hierarchy)

## **Conclusion – Quantity and Hierarchy – Borough wide**

### Methodology

Quantitative Deficiency according to type has therefore been measured by assessing those areas which fall outside of the recommended distances to small and local, district, metropolitan and regional parks. For each of the 9 UDP areas, the distance radii have been mapped and presented graphically. This demonstrates those areas lying in excess of 400 m walking distance to a small or local park, 1.2km from a district park, 3.2km to a metropolitan park and 8km from a regional park, the so-called indicative catchments.

### Findings

Total hectareage of whole area = 5826.7

Total population = 172750

% area within 8km of regional open space = 100%

% area within 3.2Km metropolitan open space = 97%

% area within 1.2 km of district open space = 91%

% area within 400 m of local open space = 93%

% area within 400 m of equipped playground = 77%

% of area within 500 m of a nature conservation interest within 500m = 80%

**In summary, the Borough is generally extremely well provided with open space.**

### Hierarchy

While the Borough is very well endowed with open space relative to its population size, it does have pockets of deficiency against certain LPAC standards. Lack of available sites combined with high land prices and limited financial resources available to the Council realistically limits the creation of new parks greater than 2 hectares – (local, district and metropolitan parks) requiring a more innovative way of rectifying deficiency. Better use and of and access to existing parks is therefore required including the consideration of including additional facilities and promoting more diverse and even change of functions within existing open spaces.

In terms of regional parks, 100% of the Borough is within 8km of Richmond Park.

In terms of metropolitan parks 90% of the Borough is within 3.2km of a regional park (Bushy Park, Ham Lands and Home Park)

In terms of District Parks 91 % is within 1.2 km (walking distance of a District Park (Ham Common, Old Deer Park, Ham Common etc.) However according to the recent GLA Draft Best Practice Guide to the Preparing Open Space Strategies (June 2003) people within a 15 minute bus ride or a 10 minute train ride can also be deemed to be within the catchment. This will be taken into account as part of a finer analysis of local areas. Indications are that this will improve the coverage considerably.

In terms of local parks, 93 % are within the 400 metre catchment area.

In terms of playgrounds 77% are within 400 metres.

In terms of access to nature, 80% are within 500 metres.

In general terms it is considered that the hierarchy of open space is not spread evenly across the Borough.

Analysis of the spread of the different types of open space reveals a more limited supply of District parks but a high number of metropolitan and regional parks. This of course is the type of space for which Richmond is renowned.

The coverage of open spaces across the Borough is summarised on the Borough wide Open Spaces Map.

The detailed supply of open spaces according to hierarchical type and their catchment areas are shown on the Area Maps.

### **UDP Designations**

The UDP Review has included consideration of all UDP designations including: Public Open Space; Metropolitan Land, Other Land of Townscape Importance etc. Some proposed changes are currently being examined in a formal UDP Inquiry which started in summer 2003.

The information from the audit, carried out as part of the UDP process, also fed into the preparation of the Open Spaces Strategy. It should be noted that land use designations can only be changed through the UDP process. Any further proposed changes which may be suggested during further detailed work for the Open Space Strategy would need to be progressed in a future review of the UDP (to be replaced by Local Development Scheme LDS)

### **Mapping**

Layers which are not yet shown include accessibility to playgrounds (at 400 metres radius) and sites of nature conservation importance (at 500 metres radius). Sites of nature conservation importance are already mapped on the Council's GIS as are all other relevant UDP designations. These have not therefore been duplicated but will form part of the base data for the Open Spaces Strategy implementation when the Open Spaces Strategy is captured on GIS since presentation of all available data in hard copy would be very complex.

<b>Key Issue – Areas with limited access to open space</b>
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Although there is very good overall coverage of open space across the Borough access to some types of open space is limited for some residents.

### **3.4 The Function of Open Space**

Green space must continue to meet the recreational and cultural needs and changing aspirations of residents. These are no longer the same needs as there were a century and more ago when much of the Borough’s open space was laid out, but are continuously evolving. Additionally, the demographic composition of the Borough is fluid with a higher than average proportion of elderly residents. Yet a combination of excellent local schooling, family scale housing and good access to open space means that it remains a highly popular area for families with children. Tourism is important to the local and national economy and is particularly important in this Borough. The open spaces are increasingly being required to fulfil a multiplicity of functions to satisfy a wide range of needs and demands and increasingly diverse ‘client’ base. Yet many open spaces continue to provide a predominant function while enabling a range of ancillary functions to co-exist.

The Council has considered the strategies for accommodating a range of functions on open space with particular regard to the two primary factors: quality and quantity.

Following the assessment of available open spaces according to a size-based hierarchy above, the audit next considered the primary function/type of the open spaces. The Council seeks to provide a range and balance of different types of open space. The function, or primary use, of each area of open space has been mapped. This provides an understanding of the role that different open spaces play within the Borough and helps with the open space planning process. An appreciation of the physical spread and range of functions is also an important component in assessing whether the open spaces meet the needs of the local community.

This information is graphically presented through the series of Function Maps with open space illustrated according to function in each of the 9 UDP areas.

The primary functions of each site have been classified according to the following categories.

**Table 4: Open space functions/types, characteristics**

<b>Function</b>	<b>Specific characteristics</b>
Parks & Gardens	Regional & metropolitan Parks Urban Parks Formal Gardens Neighbourhood parks
Playspaces in parks/open spaces	Playgrounds – equipped Playgrounds – unequipped
Amenity green space	Greens Housing greens

	Roadside sites Institutional open space
Natural and semi natural urban green spaces	Managed Unmanaged
Linear route	Predominantly green
Allotments, community gardens & city farms	Used allotments Disused allotments City farms
Cemeteries & churchyards	Open for burial Closed for burial
Civic Spaces	
Outdoor sports grounds	
Brownfield	Operational/vacant land

The analysis reveals that the spread of functions across the Borough is largely historic. The wider areas of open space with significant semi-natural function and value for nature conservation tend to be concentrated in and around the historic royal parks and on the Surrey (east) side of the River Thames, where there is generally more open space provision in terms of total area. The Middlesex side of the Borough is generally more densely populated and there is less informal open space provision overall, separated into smaller sites. The River Thames forms a useful linear open space linking smaller areas, to which the majority of Borough residents have access within walking distance or a single bus ride.

The result of this analysis is taken into account in the Area Analysis.

### Key Parks

The Strategy addresses lack of access to District Parks by the creation of Key Parks, which although slightly smaller than the 20 hectares usually required to be a District Park, are to be invested in so that they provide a higher standard than the average local park and can sustain relatively heavier use. They are staffed, multi-use sites with a playground of a reasonable standard, a variety of activities and toilets and preferably café facilities. This is believed to be a reasonable provision in a relatively built up area. These key parks can therefore considered to be destinations from up to 1.2 km.

### Play Provision

This table, from the 2001 'Best Value Review' indicates data for comparison on play provision.

**Table 5: Play Provision**

	No of play areas per 1,000 (under 12)	% Conforming to National Standards/Local Unequipped	% Conforming to National Standards/Local Equipped	% Conforming to National Standards/Larger Neighbourhood
<b>Average (Mean)</b>	3.3	14.07	49.6	20.34

<b>Richmond</b>	1.3	N/A	28.0	N/A
<b>Quartile Position</b>	Lower	Bottom	Lower	Bottom

At the time of comparison (1999), Richmond performed poorly in relation to the standard and number of play areas for children. Since this comparison was made the number has remained unaltered, however the performance has improved to 55.6% of playgrounds meeting Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP) standards – see glossary for definition. With 39 playgrounds (36 equipped), this equates to 1.3 playgrounds per 1000 population compared to the outer London average of 3.3. This demonstrates the Borough is deficient in playground provision. In addition the distribution is uneven with 23% of the Borough being beyond the desired 400m radius.

### **Sports**

The Borough has a Strategy for Sport (1997) which sets out the main policies towards provision of a range of sports for the Borough. The Open Spaces Strategy should be read in conjunction with the Strategy for Sport. The Strategy for Sport will be updated as appropriate to include the development of a Playing Pitch Strategy following the recently issued Sport England guidance. Consideration will include ways of intensifying the use of existing playing fields including the use of all weather pitches, better ancillary facilities and the use of floodlighting, where appropriate, to extend play into evening hours.

The needs of local sports users were surveyed as part of the Borough's preparation for the 2001 Best Value Review. The results are summarised in the Needs: Community Perspective Section below

### **Allotments**

In terms of open space provision, while not freely accessible to the general public, allotments provide many local residents with access to healthy food, exercise, the pleasure of gardening and a social outlet.. They also form an important open visual aspect and add significantly to the biodiversity of an area. They are therefore considered as part of the open space strategy. Allotment sites are quite evenly spread throughout the Borough but there is no provision in Whitton and only small sites in certain areas in Kew and Richmond where demand is very high. All sites are full with waiting lists apart from the Hampton area where there are vacancies on one large site. Richmond is the top performer in London in relation to allotment occupancy (99% in 2003) and the allotment service is considered in greater detail in the Allotment Best Value Review Document.

<b>Key Issue – Provision of allotment capacity to meet local needs</b>
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### **Events**

Richmond does not have a dedicated Events Team and therefore does not directly organise a large number of events and activities in its parks. However, the Borough does

act as enabler for local events and there is in place an Events Management Strategy for letting open spaces.

## **Key Issue – Event Management**

### **Cemeteries**

The Cemeteries provision in the Borough provides open space, in practice, although it is not officially designated as public open space. Open cemeteries which are actively used for burial are:

Managed by the London Borough of Richmond:

- East Sheen Cemetery, Sheen Road, Richmond (opened 1903 – 5.8 ha)
- Hampton Cemetery, Hollybush Lane, Hampton (opened 1879 – 1.1ha)
- Old Mortlake Burial Ground, Avenue Gardens East Sheen (opened 1853 – 1.1 ha)
- Richmond Cemetery, Grove Road, Richmond (opened 1839 – 1.5ha)
- Teddington Cemetery, Shacklegate Lane, Teddington (opened 1879 – 5.5 ha)
- Twickenham Cemetery, Hospital Bridge Road, Whitton (opened 1868 – 6.8 ha)

In addition the following open cemeteries and crematoria are within or near to the Borough which are not managed by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames:

- Mortlake and North Sheen Cemeteries (Managed by Hammersmith and Fulham)
- Mortlake Crematorium (joint board)
- South West Middlesex Crematorium (joint board)
- Borough Cemetery (Powdermill Lane – Hounslow)

There are further areas of open land which are closed burial grounds. Some of these are within the curtilage of churches (such as St Andrew's Ham) and other sites are separate such as Vineyard Passage Old Burial Ground. Most of these sites receive low level maintenance and are open to the public, some on a restricted access basis.

In some cases these sites may be the only local piece of open space and some have now developed a function as a local park, for example Holly Road Garden of Rest, which now has a small equipped playground. For other sites which are not regularly physically accessible, their open nature is appreciated by passers by, e.g. Oak Lane Twickenham. It should be noted that the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order (1977) prevents the encouragement of play in cemeteries which remain open for burials.

The open and closed cemeteries have significant value in terms of biodiversity and this is actively encouraged through their management, e.g. with the addition of bird and bat boxes at Richmond and East Sheen Cemeteries.

It is estimated that there is sufficient burial space to meet current demand for 50 years (if Twickenham Cemetery is successfully expanded). However the remaining capacity is unevenly distributed and while there is significant capacity on the Middlesex side of the Borough it is limited to only 7 to 8 years in Richmond and East Sheen. This is a significant issue since these cemeteries have the greatest local demand.

## **Key Issue – Long term provision of burial capacity**

### **3.5 The Qualitative assessment of Open Space**

Generally the higher the quality of the open space and its accompanying facilities the more able it is to meet need and demand. This impacts heavily on standards of management and maintenance as well as design integrity.

Following assessment of the quantity, type and function of the open spaces, an audit assessing the quality of public open spaces has been undertaken. Each site was assessed by a team including: Parks Manager, Operations Manager and Parks Officer and reviewed by a qualified landscape architect. The scoring is clearly subjective, but is based on the team's combined 70 years experience of the open spaces in question.

The detailed methodology and results of the Quality Audit are set out in the appendices. The qualitative audit was based on the following factors:

- Quality Assessment - Sites were scored on the following: landscape quality, whether the site is fit for its purpose, range of facilities, condition, accessibility, safety; boundaries and entrances. This gave a total Quality score.
- Other Factors Assessment Sites were then scored on the following: social deprivation; distance to nearest comparable alternative; condition; rate of use and special designations to give a total other Factors Score.

The Total Quality Score and Total Other Factors Score were combined to produce a Priority List for Investment. : **Conclusions and Key Issues**

Following assessment of each open space in terms of quality, the assessment is shown on the Quality Assessment Map. This has been taken into account in the Area Analysis.

Chapter 5 sets out the limited current resources available for the provision of the service. Maintaining a high quality environment is dependent on past and future resources. One of the key issues affecting perceived quality is the maintenance of infrastructure.

**Key Issue - Ensuring that the special character and biodiversity value of the Borough's open spaces is maintained and enhanced.**

**Key Issue - Resources are heavily constrained for repair and maintenance of infrastructure.**

#### **Table 6: Priority Sites for Investment**

In view of the limited resources, the Strategy identifies the top priority sites for investment.

<b>Area</b>	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Typology Category</b>
Hampton/ Hampton Hill	Hatherop Park	Recreation Ground
Barnes	Castelnau Recreation Ground	Park
Barnes	Barn Elms	Sports Ground
Whitton/ Heathfield	Murray Park	Sports Ground
Twickenham	York House	Park
Ham & Petersham	Beaufort Court Play Area	Open Space
Barnes	Vine Road Recreation Ground	Recreation Ground
Richmond	Terrace Gardens	Park
Whitton/ Heathfield	Heathfield Recreation Ground	Recreation Ground
Hampton/ Hampton Hill	Buckingham Park	Park

### **3.6 Non-public open space**

There is a significant amount of private open land in the Borough. This includes open space in a range of different ownerships to which the public has no or restricted access. This land makes an important contribution to the Borough. These additional spaces may provide an additional facility for Borough residents. The value of these spaces include the provision of:

- 'borrowed' views into additional green areas e.g Lensbury Club in Teddington;
- open space providing visual relief to the urban environment particularly as settings for attractive buildings e.g. Kneller Hall, Whitton;
- play facilities such as school playgrounds in state and private schools
- private sports facilities e.g. brewery sports ground in Mortlake
- areas of importance for environmental & ecological benefits associated with the natural features and trees and plants of the space e.g. Kew Gardens.
- Views and vistas e.g Hampton Court

### **3.7 Summary Conclusions of Audit**

#### Quantity

The quantity of open space is well above the national recommended provision of 2.48 hectares of open space per 1000 with 13 hectares per 1000 population.

#### Hierarchy

The Borough is particularly well endowed with metropolitan and regional open spaces. There are some areas, which are less well provided for in terms of smaller accessible open spaces (District and Local). See Area Hierarchy Maps

#### Function

Provision of the different functions is patchy and largely historic. See Area Functions Maps.

#### Quality

The qualitative assessment classifies the Borough's open space as generally being of high quality. The analysis also allows the Borough to take account of condition, use and social context and has developed into a tool to allow resource allocation to be directed to areas of greatest need. In order to maintain and develop this, the data should be captured electronically and linked to the Borough's Geographical Information System and other electronic records systems.

<b>Key Issue – The need to improve the accessibility of open spaces</b>
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## **CHAPTER FOUR: NEEDS AND DEMANDS – The Community Perspective**

### **4.1 Introduction:**

Analysis of open space needs has been made following assessment of socio-demographic and general recreation trends, together with consideration of known community demands on open space.

The aim of this chapter is to assess the need for different recreation and leisure opportunities. The two main analytical tools used to assist this process are a socio-demographic profile and a general appreciation of the changing nature of recreational needs.

Information has been collected from the Council's Best Value Review during which considerable amounts of public consultation was undertaken.

### **4.2 Implications of the Socio-Demographic Profile**

The socio-demographic characteristics impact upon the required distribution and the type of provision of open space.

#### **London**

The six forces driving socio-demographic change in London are stated in the London Development Plan as being:

- Population
- Economic
- Environmental
- Lifestyle
- Technological
- Social justice

London's population was 6.7 million in 1991 and has grown to 7.2 million in 2001. The population of the capital is anticipated to rise further to 7.9 million by 2016 (GLA 2002 round projection- central projection).

#### **London Borough of Richmond upon Thames**

The 2001 Census data reveals that 33% of the Borough's households have children and the Borough has the 9<sup>th</sup> highest proportion in Greater London of children under 5 years old. 14% of the population are over 65 and the Borough has the 4<sup>th</sup> highest proportion of over 85s in Greater London. 23% of households

have one or more persons with a limiting, long-term illness. The Borough clearly needs to consider the accessibility issues presented by high numbers of carers of small children and high numbers of older people. Further analysis of socio-economic data from the census for the nine areas defined in the UDP will be considered at a local level as part of the implementation of the Strategy.

The Borough has the 3<sup>d</sup> lowest crime rate in London, but fear of crime remains a significant concern.

The Borough has a resident population of 172,335. The GLA's 2002 projections indicate that there will be an increase in the population of the borough to 184,400 by 2016, although such long-range forecasts should be treated with caution.

Of the existing stock, the Borough has an above average supply of detached, semi-detached and terraced homes with rear gardens; 61.4% against the London average of 51%. Correspondingly, it has a below average percentage of those living in flatted or maisonette accommodation with 38% against the London average of 49%. This is an additional consideration to be borne in mind against other open space deficit indicators.

The Borough is less ethnically diverse than most London Boroughs. Black and minority ethnic groups make up 9% of the Borough's population, within which there is a considerable range of different backgrounds.

Education in the area is of a very high quality (both state and private) which is likely to promote the Borough as a family orientated area in terms of inward migration/population change.

The resident population is more economically active than average with 73% active against the London average of 68%.

### **4.3 Implications of General Recreational Trends**

Parks and open spaces are required to fulfil some fundamental, 'universal' needs. These include:

- The promotion of health and well being;
- The provision of an attractive and sustainable environment;
- supporting the local economy including tourism;
- creating learning and educational opportunities;
- encouraging community cohesion through sports/events/meeting places.

More specifically, they are increasingly expected to perform a multiplicity of functions. These include:

- defining and separating London's communities;
- providing for sport and recreational needs over a wide area;

- forming an integral component of urban quality by helping to achieve urban renaissance and improving the quality of life for residents by providing visually attractive open spaces;
- as havens and habitats for flora and wildlife: many form parts of corridors and contribute to targets in Local Biodiversity Action Plans;
- as a community resource – for congregating, community events, fetes, travelling fairs;
- providing opportunities for people of all ages for formal and informal activities (e.g. sport, walking, cycling).

Planning for the future of the Borough's open spaces must recognise these requirements and set them at the core of all future strategies and interventions.

#### **4.4 A changing society:**

- There is a rise in the number of smaller, 1 and 2 person households. Nearly one third of Londoners is now living alone.
- We also have a greater proportion of elderly people compared to children than ever before as life expectancy continues to rise and the birth rate slowly declines.
- One in three marriages end in divorce and the number of sole parent households caring for their children continues to grow.
- The role of women in society is changing with women now enjoying the greatest amount of independence in history.
- London's population is highly transient with the average length of time spent at one address being 3 years.
- The city's ethnic mix is increasingly diverse with nearly 30% of the capital's population originating from countries other than Britain. (LDP 2002)
- Technological innovations continue apace resulting in rapid and increasingly readily available forms of communications from the mobile phone to the internet, e-mailing, e-working and e-education, to more accessible, time-saving household appliances.
- The workplace is correspondingly fluid with a rise in home working, flexi-time, part time and contract working.
- Urban developments are being required to adhere to principles of sustainability. One key issue is to make the best use of urban land and development at relatively high densities.

A corresponding rise in the intensity of use on existing open spaces should follow. One of the likely results is that more rather than fewer people will become increasingly dependent on public open space to meet these 'outdoor' needs.

Combined, this rapidly evolving change in lifestyles, shifting demographics, shrinking household composition, ethnic diversification and technological advances require an open space strategy that is as much about flexibility of function as it is about provision and maintenance. More leisure time, higher aspirations, greater choice in leisure activities leading to 'competing' demands and the need for places which foster social interactions require a creative response to open space planning and

provision by those responsible for the Borough's open spaces to ensure that such changes are acknowledged, responded to and celebrated.

#### **4.5 Community Needs and Preferences**

A recent survey undertaken in July 2001 to inform the development of the Borough's Cultural Strategy showed that 93% of respondents use parks and open spaces. Parks and open spaces are therefore one of the most widely used of all the Council's services.

A postal survey in 1999 identified the most popular parks and also which parks people used most frequently. Richmond and Bushy Park were most popular and are clearly used as local, district parks by people in the Borough as well as by visitors in their regional context.

Parks's staff undertook face to face interviews of 316 parks visitors in July 2001 and carried out a further questionnaire-based survey. This survey took place in Council managed parks and therefore excluded the Royal Parks.

The conclusions are summarised as follows:

- Users of the Council owned parks tend to be the regular local users who go primarily to let children play or walk the dog (top 2 responses accounting for 75%). Consequently the play facilities, access and general atmosphere came out as highly important aspects of the service.
- The top three aspects of the service rated most highly were staff helpfulness, grass maintenance and nature conservation areas.
- One in five users have some concerns over safety, though only 2% have a great deal of concern. Of this 20%, concerns about 'groups of youths hanging around' was stated by most people, with lack of staff being available for help, either Parks Patrol or Police, being the second 'fear inducing' factor.
- 62% of people interviewed in unstaffed sites would like to see a 'new' style park keeper, with a multiple role including dealing with antisocial behaviour being more popular than the rather old fashioned enforcing role

Sports and Recreation sports clubs were consulted on their use of the Borough's sports facilities in April 2000 by postal questionnaire. The clubs were asked to identify how satisfied they were with the facilities they currently use, on the basis of:

**Table 7: Sports Club Satisfaction Survey**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>% satisfaction</b>
Availability	92.5%
Helpfulness of site staff	61%
Helpfulness of letting staff	97%

Ease of booking	97%
Price	69%
Quality of playing pitch/court	42%
Quality of other facilities (changing, toilets, social facilities etc)	-12%

**Needs:** The basis of this plan is developed from feedback from consultation. Local people visit parks and open spaces for a variety of reasons, depending on their life stage, their location and their preferred activities. However, in spite of the different reasons for visiting, they share a common set of basic requirements for their parks and open spaces. These requirements include parks and open spaces that are:

- Clean – without litter, dog mess or graffiti
- Safe – preferably with a visible staff presence
- Green – restful, rich in wildlife
- Varied – with activities and events and a variety of local choices
- Welcoming - well maintained, with good signage and infrastructure

**Preferences:** As part of the same consultation process, people were asked what improvements were needed. Those most frequently cited were:

- Infrastructure repair – including paths, toilets and pavilions
- Control of dogs and freedom from dog fouling
- Improved, updated play facilities
- More emphasis on safety – staffing, improved visibility across sites etc

Although not a clear outcome from the survey, access for all is a key issue and provision for access for disabled people is required by the Disability Discrimination Act. Of those who did not visit parks, illness or disability was a contributing factor.

**Key Issue - Providing safe welcoming open spaces and designing out crime and fear of crime.**

**Key Issue - The need to provide adequate sports facilities**

**Key Issue - Concern about dog behaviour and dog fouling**

#### **4.6 Key Stakeholder Needs and Preferences**

##### 4.6.1 London Mayor –The London Plan:

The London Plan will establish the planning framework for London for the next 15 – 20 years, replacing Regional Planning Guidance. Upon its adoption, UDP policies will be

required to be in general conformity. The draft London Plan contains specific objectives with regard to the provision and protection of open space including:

- the development of the network of open space through the recognition and protection of the existing network, and the creation of new open spaces to forge linkages and promote movement through the network;
- creation of new spaces in areas of deficiency plus improvement to existing areas in three locations;
- improving equality of access to open space and related facilities.

#### **4.6.2 Council:**

The Council's expressed need is to ensure that:

- all Council services relating to open space are provided to an appropriate standard, provide value for money and meet the needs of the community, both now and in the future;
- provision is made for long term maintenance including investment in infrastructure repair and replacement;
- investment is made in key areas which are of particular importance both locally and in a national context;
- support is given to existing innovative partnership opportunities with the community and other open space managers and to developing and supporting new partnerships;
- it makes the most of external funding opportunities;
- there is adequate provision for young people including children;
- the value of the area for biodiversity is recognised and enhanced
- the negative effects of dogs are mitigated;
- there are effective community safety measures in place both in terms of customer perception and as a response to Section 17 of the Crime and Prevention Act
- it is able to creatively develop those few remaining open space areas, which are 'redundant' in terms of recreational value and detrimental to the urban structure.

#### **Preferences:**

The Borough has a relatively large amount of open space per capita compared to the national average. Consequently maintenance of these spaces requires substantial capital and revenue funding just to maintain them at their current standard let alone implement significant improvements and adaptations. Improved revenue and capital support from the Government would be desirable to help enable improved maintenance and open space enhancements to be implemented.

Key service improvements being considered by the Council are:

Resource management:

- Review current allocation of assets with a view to setting up a fund to 'endow the service' for the future;

- Make the best use of available external grant schemes;
- Pursue innovative partnerships with the community to deliver the service;
- Pursue a 'Best Value' approach to procurement of services;
- Increasing use of an integrated package of computerised asset management systems linked to contract management and customer service packages.

Strategic planning and policy development which focus on:

- Addressing resource problems, particularly associated with infrastructure reinvestment;
- Ensuring that current resources are properly focused on areas of identified need;
- Ensuring that key areas for improvement are addressed, such as: provision for youth, improvements to community safety and access by disabled people;
- Ensuring that the service, as provided in partnership by the Council, other service providers and the community, is able to respond to changing needs as they develop.

Performance Management and Customer Focus:

- Complete installation of computerised contract and customer management systems to facilitate accurate, timely responses to queries from customers and to improve management information;
- Streamline reporting lines to create a logical open spaces team, able to respond effectively to the changing needs of customers in the future.

Environmental Management:

- Improving management of e.g. green waste;
- Developing habitats in association with local community initiatives.

#### 4.6.3 Other Open Space Providers - Green Space Stakeholders Forum

The views of land managers and key local community groups have helped to shape this Strategy through the Greenspace Stakeholders Forum. The aim of the Forum was to develop a working approach to the management of all open spaces in the Borough. Issues discussed included: contract management; playground maintenance; greenwaste disposal; community safety and joint policing initiatives and review of public perception following the 1998 Parks and Open Spaces Survey. The members of the Greenspaces Stakeholders Forum have expressed their support for the development of the Open Spaces Strategy and for working together to provide high quality open spaces for borough residents and visitors. They recognise the value of working together and harnessing the energies of the local community to improve local areas.

**Key Issue – The need to support and develop community interest and involvement in open spaces**

#### 4.7 *Schools and colleges*

There is considerable scope for the joint use of school facilities with the wider community and for schools to enjoy wider use of public and private facilities. School playgrounds could be considered for a range of weekend or evening use from skateboard parks to model car racing tracks. This may require the use of legal agreements.

## CHAPTER FIVE: OPTIONS - RESOURCES AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The two important issues for the effective provision and management of open spaces in the Borough for the future are the need to ensure people have adequate access to open space facilities to meet their needs, from all areas of the borough. Secondly the need to ensure that there are sufficient resources available to achieve this.

### **5.1 Access to open space**

While the Borough is very well endowed with open space relative to its population, land, particularly freely accessible open land, is not evenly distributed throughout the Borough. There are some areas, which have ample access to open space and others where it is more limited. Lack of available sites combined with high land prices and limited financial resources available to the Council realistically limits the creation of new parks greater than 2 hectares – local, district and metropolitan parks. This therefore requires a more innovative way of rectifying any identified gaps. Better use and of and access to existing parks is therefore required including the consideration of including additional facilities and promoting more diverse/changed functions within existing open spaces. This Strategy takes a realistic approach to this issue. Whilst it is possible that small areas of open land may become newly available in the future, through local negotiation or Section 106 agreements, the amount of open space is unlikely to increase significantly without significant capital investment, coupled with demolition of built areas. Instead, the Council aims to:

- continue to protect and improve its existing open spaces for which the Borough is renowned while only considering the release of open space in exceptional circumstances
- improve the quality of the open space which is available
- provide additional facilities and promote a more diverse range of functions in those open spaces, which are located within areas with limited access to some types of open space. The attached map shows a series of local parks, which are to be designated as Key Parks. They will be staffed and maintained to a high standard to 'compensate' for lack of access to a District Park.
- improve local and visitor knowledge of the availability of that open space through signage and other marketing
- take opportunities to negotiate access improvements to open spaces which are currently restricted

- improve the 'feeling of openness' by negotiating visual access to open land and by making paths, cycle routes etc. open and well signed between areas of accessible open land.

## **5.2 Resources**

The Borough has a relatively large amount of open space per capita compared to the national average. This requires substantial capital and revenue funding purely to maintain them at their current standard let alone implement significant improvements and adaptations. Improved revenue and capital support from the Government, and creative financing methods including partnering are required to help enable improved maintenance and open space enhancements to be implemented.

### **Revenue Funding**

The Council has a relatively low spending level per hectare of open space when compared to other outer London Boroughs. The Parks and Open Spaces Service has, in common with similar services around the country, been subject to historic reductions in budget allocation although there has been a recent budget increase to allow increased standards of maintenance and additional restoration of park keepers to two Key Parks.

### **Capital funding**

Reduction in revenue funding has been coupled with sustained lack of capital investment which is starting to show in the condition of the parks and open spaces and, in particular, in the infrastructure including: buildings, paths, walls, fences, historic features and playground equipment.

Recent estimates have been provided to calculate the current shortfall between the resources allocated to the service and the resources which would be required to maintain the Council's parks, open spaces, cemeteries and allotments at a reasonable standard. The historic backlog of repairs and maintenance was reported to Council on 18 June 2002 as approximately £4 million.

This situation is unlikely to alter in the current financial climate and current resources have therefore been reviewed and opportunities for external funding opportunities explored.

## **5.3 Funding Options**

Funding approaches and options considered are explained in detail below and include:

- Planning expenditure to maximise benefit through partnership
- Partnership working to secure benefits often available through community groups

- Local business sponsorship
- Ensuring match funding and 'pump priming' funding is available
- Giving priority to projects where external funding is available
- Maximising the use of volunteers
- Transport for London (TfL) funding for maintenance and off road routes between open spaces
- Section 106 agreements secured for local improvements as part of planning processed
- Increasing income through increased fees and charges
- Private Finance Initiative – securing benefits in e.g. sports facility improvements
- Setting up a Parks Endowment Fund to receive monies from any of the above, including possible disposal of open land of less value to 'endow' the remaining parks and open spaces.

#### ***5.4 Funding Options Explained***

##### ***Planning expenditure to maximise benefit through partnership***

One of the key methods is to plan expenditure carefully and ensure that expenditure follows careful assessment of need and priority and maximises the opportunity to create additional benefit. For example £1000 could be spent on repairing some historic infrastructure directly in year 1, or alternatively it could be used as match funding for a bid to be made for external funding, which may enable expenditure of £4000 in year 2 or 3 when the external funding is available. An example of this approach is match funding of maintenance of infrastructure and memorials at the disused burial ground at Vineyard in Richmond where the Environment Trust for Richmond upon Thames supplied match funding of 80% by applying to grant aiding bodies.

##### ***Partnership working***

Partnership working is a way of ensuring that external funding becomes available to the Council and its partners. Commercial sponsorship is difficult to secure when requested directly by the Council. However, by working in partnership with third parties, local and international companies may find commercial sponsorship of partnership projects much more attractive. This approach is being developed through

the Arcadia in the City Project. This project aims to enhance the landscape along the River Thames between Teddington and Richmond Locks. A formal partnering arrangement has been developed between the Council, English Heritage, the National Trust and the Thames Landscape Strategy to make a joint bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund's Area Partnership Scheme. A £3.3 million package of projects will be funded over a 4 year period. The fundraising arm of the project will be managed in partnership with the Father Thames Trust charity to seek major commercial sponsorship. Some of the sponsorship will also be 'in kind' from volunteers giving up their time to get involved in local projects.

### ***Local Business Sponsorship***

Local businesses benefit significantly from the quality of the local environment, but, to date, this benefit has resulted in only minimal direct local sponsorship. It is unlikely that businesses will find direct requests for donations to the Council appealing and will instead concentrate their Corporate Social Responsibility programmes on established charities and local independent organisations. The service can, however, benefit from this by proactively organising partners in the community who have charitable status as the fund raising arm for a project which will benefit the community and bring funds into the service, as set out above under partnership and Arcadia in the City.

### ***Match funding and 'pump priming' funding***

Almost all external grant aid opportunities, including those mentioned above, require an element of match funding. The percentage required varies, but is rarely less than 25% and more often 40-50%. Local fund raising is always a possibility, but even the success of fund raising often relies on having a small 'start up fund' or pump priming fund to demonstrate that the Council has made a real commitment to the project.

'Pump priming' or initial set up funding is also a frequent requirement. Setting up meetings, providing leaflets, carrying out an initial feasibility study all attract costs, which should be budgeted for.

### ***Giving priority to projects where external funding is available***

External funding often follows central government priorities and the themes vary accordingly. Tailoring projects to match the requirements of current funding priorities may mean that funding can be found for a wide variety of projects.

#### **Options for funding externally include:**

- Lottery funding including
  - Heritage Lottery Funding – several programmes

- New Opportunities Funding
- Football Foundation Funding
- Landfill Tax
- Major charities – Hampton Fuel Allotments, Marathon Trust etc
- London funding e.g. Transport for London
- Direct national government funding
- EC grants for major initiatives e.g LIFE funding

### ***Volunteers***

Employing volunteers on Council or partnership projects has several advantages:

- It allows local people's ideas to be part of the project development from the very early stages
- It encourages a sense of community involvement and ownership which, if missing, can often lead to the long term abandonment of an initially successful project
- It is an effective way of stretching meagre resources
- It is a way of providing commitment and matching external funding without necessarily committing large sums of cash (e.g. the Arcadia in the City Project is allowed an allocation of £150/day for a skilled volunteer towards the partnership's match funding target).

### ***Transport for London (TfL)***

One of the key relevant objectives of the Mayor of London's strategy for London is to enhance routes and facilities for walking and cycling. This may provide an opportunity for the Parks and Open Spaces Service to apply for grant aid for links between parks, including cycling and walking routes; upgrading entrances and exits to parks, including signage; security improvements; local environmental improvements such as tree planting. There is a limited TfL funding allocation for strategic walking routes i.e. in this Borough the Thames Path, the Capital Ring and the London Loop, for financial year 2003/4 £20,000 has been allocated for Thames Path improvements.

### ***Section 106***

To date there has been limited success in raising funds for open spaces through Section 106 agreements with most funding being directed instead towards social housing or other corporate priorities. This is a missed opportunity and suggestions will be made, in future, at an earlier stage for projects which can bring community benefit and be treated as part of a Section 106 agreement. The Council is to employ a dedicated Section 106 officer this year, to better raise and direct such funding.

### ***Income Generation: Fees and Charges***

The Service brings in a relatively substantial amount of income from fees and charges ranging from the hire of a football pitch to the provision of a burial. The levels of the fees and charges have recently been reviewed for all of these areas and compared with other London Boroughs and private clubs, in the case of sports pitch fees and with both privately run and Council cemetery services.

The principles surrounding future reviews of fees are summarised from the Audit Commission's publication "The Price is right". They are proposed as follows:

- Maximise income for the service by charging the market rate taking into account the quality of service provided
- Identify target markets and identify the likely effects on key groups/individuals
- Provide low cost options for those with low disposable incomes
- Actively encourage target groups, by promotions and pricing strategies if required e.g. youth sports clubs, specific provision for disabled people
- Actively invest in areas which could improve income earning potential (such as by upgrading existing sports pavilions)
- Maximise income from appropriate events

### ***Parks Endowment Fund***

The principle of the Parks Endowment Fund was agreed following recognition of the scale of the gap between the resources currently available to the services and the required level of investment to address the backlog of repairs and to sustain a reasonable service level for the future. The principle is to create a fund which can be used in a planned way to secure investment into the service, either by using money from the fund directly, or by using it as match funding to secure greater levels of external investment into the service. One of the valuable assets available to the service is land, some of which is not used to its maximum capacity. The Council is naturally reluctant to dispose of land, however the benefits of reinvesting a substantial part of the proceeds from any sale are considerable and there are limited alternatives to close the current substantial funding gap. Therefore a review has been carried out of the current service land holding with a view to identifying areas which add little value as part of the parks and open spaces landholding. A small number of sites have been identified which may be suitable for redevelopment, probably for housing. In each case a carefully designed development brief will bring benefits to the parks and open spaces service in two ways:

- 1 By bringing in much needed capital for direct investment or for use as match funding and
- 2 By allowing the adjacent park or open space to be better overlooked in order to discourage anti social or criminal behaviour and to have some significant local impact on the design of the open space. Opportunities to provide briefs which improve accessibility, views and vistas, and which complement the local landscape will be

explored, particularly in areas which already have an adopted landscape or management strategy.

The creation of the Parks Endowment Fund and a target of £200K per year has been set in the Community Plan.

### ***Private Finance Initiative***

The Council and in particular the Education Arts and Leisure Department is eligible to apply for a Private Finance Initiative. There have been successful applications of this type for primary schools. There is an opportunity for the parks and open spaces to benefit from this. The PFI works by the Council working with a partner organisation who provides the finance for and supplies, build and provided facilities, including long term management usually over a 30 year period for example including a school, plus associated playground, sports facilities etc. There is an opportunity for this sort of approach at other sites, where not only would the capital costs of improvements be added to the PFI bid, but the long term management of the site would also be outsourced with the management of the school facilities. There are naturally issues to resolve, such as ensuring that public access is not unreasonably compromised, but the idea has potential.

## **CHAPTER SIX: STRATEGY**

### **6.1 Introduction**

Analysis of the existing supply and quality of open space against the projected need for open space establishes a number of Key Issues. These Key Issues are the focus of this strategy.

In addition, this section of the open space strategy establishes the important vision and supporting principles for the development and management of open spaces in the Borough.

Approaches are proposed firstly on a Borough wide basis and secondly on an area by area basis in accordance with the 9 UDP plan areas.

## **6.2 Vision and Principles**

A vision for the Borough's open spaces is fundamental to the open space strategy and at the heart of all future interventions. The vision establishes the 'end-game' against which strategies and actions can be continually measured, ensuring the Council remains focused.

**The Council's vision for Richmond upon Thames open spaces is:**

**"to provide access to an exciting range of open space experiences for all".**

## **6.3 10 Key Principles**

It is underpinned by 10 Key Principles to which the Council is committed:

### **Stewardship**

1. Protect visual and physical access to open land
2. Protect, enhance and promote the characteristic features of the Borough particularly the riverside, historic landscapes and features.
3. Improve and maintain infrastructure

### **Management and Use**

4. Plan to provide for the needs of the community and visitors
5. Make the best use of public and private resources and maximise external funding
6. Work in partnership with the community and other local landscape agencies
7. Promote the use of open land for all
8. Reduce the fear of crime by providing healthy, safe environments and promoting activity

### **Environmental Protection**

9. Maintain and enhance the Borough's biodiversity
10. Providing high quality, sustainably-managed open spaces

## **6.4 Strategic Objectives**

These in turn are united by the Council's 4 Core Strategic Objectives which are:

- Partnership towards civic pride
- Quality of design and management
- Safety and security
- Variety and enjoyment

To order to achieve this vision, along with the above principles and strategic objections, the Council will also encourage all those with the responsibility for managing open space in the Borough to:

- respond to the future needs of a changed society ( in terms of function)
- improve the qualitative standard of a diverse range of open spaces (design, facilities provided, maintenance)
- improve and enhance biodiversity
- provide quality linkages and enhance accessibility

### **6.5 What Should Be Provided and Where? – Development of Local Standards**

Following analysis, the Strategy proposes the following standards of provision. These standards have been used in the auditing process to identify areas of deficiency/priorities for action.

<b>Type of Park/Open Space Experience/Site</b>	<b>Target Distance/Proposed Open Space Policy (origin of standard in brackets)</b>
District Park/Key park with staffing	1.2Km (adopted UDP)
Public open space	400m (adopted UDP)
Equipped playground	400 m (adopted UDP)
Wildlife site	500m (adopted UDP)
Multiple sports pitch locations/events sites	Two sites (Group suggestion: Barn Elms and Old Deer Park)
Horticultural Site	One either side of Thames (Group suggestion to take account of charges at Kew Gardens)
Cemetery	Safeguard existing cemeteries and crematoria and land reserved for future burials (adopted UDP)
Allotment	Retain statutory and resist loss of non statutory where there is a demand (adopted UDP)
Schools (including private)	Encourage and promote dual use of open land facilities (adopted UDP)
Linking sites/routes	Promote use of safe, accessible routes to and between open spaces (adopted UDP/Walking Strategy)

\*Unitary Development Plan (UDP). Other suggestions were made by the Best Value Review Team or the Greenspace Stakeholders Group.

## **6.6 Key Issues and Proposed Approach**

These key issues have been identified during the development of the Open Space Strategy. Each is addressed overleaf, together with a proposed approach.

- 1. Areas with limited access to open space**
- 2. Resources are heavily constrained for repair and maintenance of infrastructure (e.g paths, pavilions, sports pitches and historic features)**
- 3. Ensuring that the special character and biodiversity value of the Borough's open spaces is maintained and enhanced**
- 4. Providing safe welcoming open spaces and designing out crime and fear of crime.**
- 5. The need to improve the accessibility of open spaces**
- 6. The need to provide safe children's playgrounds.**
- 7. The need to provide adequate sports facilities**
- 8. The need to support and develop community interest and involvement in open spaces**
- 9. Event management**
- 10. Concern about dog behaviour and dog fouling**
- 11. Long term provision of burial capacity**
- 12. Provision of allotment capacity to meet local needs**

### **Issue One – Areas with limited access to open space**

- In order to address deficiency in District Park provision, adopt smaller multi-use local parks as Key Parks with staff and additional play equipment and other facilities.
- In terms of analysis treat the larger Royal Parks, Bushy and Richmond as Key Parks.
- Improve linking routes and signage to and from open spaces and e.g. town centres or railway stations

- Work in partnership with other open space providers including private owners and schools to provide an adequate Borough wide coverage
- Negotiate access to additional areas.
- Work towards increasing views into open areas to which physical access is limited.
- Negotiate provision of open space as part of redevelopment schemes and seek to provide amenity, informal open areas if the opportunity arises.

**Issue Two - Ensuring that the special character and biodiversity value of the Borough's open spaces is maintained and enhanced.**

- Celebrate and increase awareness of the natural, historic and landscape heritage of the Borough.
- Support the community to develop positive local partnerships to draw on additional resources to enhance their own areas.
- Value the economic benefits of these special areas to attract businesses and tourists to the Borough.
- Invest in areas in order to maintain their unique character.
- Maintain sites to protect, manage and enhance their biodiversity and develop Local Biodiversity Action Plans in consultation with the community.
- Maintain the potential of these areas as an invaluable local educational resource.

**Issue Three – Resources are heavily constrained for repair and maintenance of infrastructure (e.g paths, pavilions, sports pitches and historic features)**

- Maximise effective use of resources by planned rather than reactive approach
- Explore flexible alternatives for developing additional resource streams including working in partnership with the community to seek external funding using the Council's assets.
- Identify match funding allocation to enable external grant aid to be sought
- Develop a Parks Endowment Fund as a way of funding these initiatives.

**Issue Four – Providing safe welcoming open spaces and designing out crime and fear of crime.**

- Maximise the number of sites with a visible staff presence – called Key sites – shown with a 'Person' symbol on the Borough plan.
- Improve the first impression of sites by improving entrances, signage, graffiti etc.
- Develop a positive approach to provision and management of activities for young people by promoting greater appropriate use of open spaces through events and activities throughout the opening hours.

- Developing sporting opportunities
- 'Design out' the potential for crime, to reduce fear of crime.

#### **Issue Five – the need to improve the accessibility of open spaces**

- Consider accessibility in its widest sense – for disabled visitors, the elderly, carers with children, people without cars, people with low disposable income etc.
- Develop a fully costed action plan from the completed accessibility audits
- Implement the improvement programme using recent £100K allocation
- Take advantage of partnerships with clubs and societies to ensure that all alterations to sites or building include accessibility improvements to BS 8300 and add e.g. baby changing facilities.
- Ensure new designs/improvements are assessed to ensure that specifications are appropriate by a trained/expert advisor
- Ensure that off and on site information includes advice about levels of accessibility, toilets, nearest public transport connections etc.
- Review the provision of signage and information to ensure that it is at a suitable height, designed to be easily legible etc according to advice from the Sign Design Guide - a guide to inclusive signing published by RNIB.

#### **Issue Six – The need to provide safe children's playgrounds.**

- Work with other open space managers to provide playgrounds which meet local needs and address gaps identified by the audit, particularly by negotiation and S.106 agreements.
- Improve access to existing play facilities including 'safer routes'
- Inspect and maintain playgrounds regularly to ensure that they meet current safety standards.
- Develop a prioritised rolling programme of reinvestment into playgrounds.
- Work with community groups to seek external funding for additional play equipment.

#### **Issue Seven – The need to provide adequate sports facilities**

- Develop the objectives of the Strategy for Sport at all levels of sports participation.
- Work in partnership with the community to enhance sporting opportunities through external funding applications
- Support local clubs and sports organisations to develop youth provision and access for all sectors of the community.

**Issue Eight - The need to support and develop community interest and involvement in open spaces**

- Provide a formal network to develop, support and sustain 'Friends' Groups, volunteer groups and other networks to encourage practical interest in open spaces, cemeteries and allotments
- Provide Council officers with expertise in organisational development of community organisations, who can support, train, motivate and develop local people to get involved.
- Work with community groups and organisation to make the best use of external grant and other resources for the good of their local open spaces.

**Issue Nine – Event Management**

- Work with other open space providers to agree a Borough wide Events Liaison Group and adopt a Borough Events Code.
- Work together with other providers to promote events and activities.
- Ensure that events are appropriate and minimise disruption to local residents.
- Reinvest income from events into the service.

**Issue Ten – Concern about dog behaviour and dog fouling**

- Work with other open space providers to reinforce a standard open space policy on dog management
- Promote responsible dog ownership through literature, positive events to reinforce responsible behaviour backed up by enforcement for persistent offenders.
- Provide dog free and/or dog exercise areas in suitable open spaces.

**Issue Eleven – Long term provision of burial capacity**

- Short term – reclaim allotment land at Twickenham Cemetery and reclaim unused burial capacity
- Medium term - explore long term initiatives to provide extra burial space and consider any legislative change and develop a burial strategy.

- Long term – Implement burial strategy.

**Issue Twelve – provision of allotment capacity to meet local needs**

- Promote full occupancy on all sites.
- Work in partnership with each allotment holder through encouraging Site Associations and providing support for the User Group Committee.
- Encourage environmentally friendly methods of cultivation.

## Appendix One – Definitions

### **Parks and Gardens**

#### ***Regional Parks***

An extensive public area, used for a wide range of formal and informal recreational pursuits, both active and passive, usually located at the edge of an urban landscape. The predominant landscape consists of paved paths and trails, some open lawns, trees, and open shelters, all naturalistically disposed, and requiring limited maintenance. Most popularly used for weekend and occasional visits by car or public transport.

#### ***Urban Parks***

A large public area, available for formal and informal recreation, both active and passive, usually located at a neighbourhood edge, partially fronted by buildings, its landscape consisting of paved paths and trails, some open lawns, trees, and open shelters, all naturalistically disposed, and requiring limited maintenance. (Ref: NU E2)

A large public open garden in a town used for recreation (Dict.)

#### ***Formal Gardens***

Ornamental grounds laid out for public enjoyment (DICT) and containing flowering plants, shrubs and trees with or without ancillary facilities and requiring high levels of year round maintenance.

#### ***Neighbourhood Parks***

A public space of limited extent available for unstructured recreation, circumscribed by buildings frontages, its landscape consisting of grassy areas and trees, naturalistically disposed, and requiring limited maintenance. (Ref: NU, E2)

#### ***Urban Squares***

Forming an integral part of a formal architectural composition, urban square provide aesthetic and recreational relief within the built environment.

#### ***Playspace***

*Playground*

*Adventure Playground*

#### ***Amenity green space***

*Greens*

*Housing Green space*

*Roadside sites*

*Institutional Open Space*

### ***Natural and semi natural urban green spaces***

Water, Woods, Copse and other relatively natural areas with limited or no ancillary facilities and containing 'natural' pathways. Requiring minimal maintenance, these are places of solace and reflection, educational opportunities and wildlife havens.

### ***Green corridors***

These encompass trails for bicycles and pedestrians contained within a 'green' lined route. The trajectory of a green corridor should lead through rural as well as urban areas, connecting the countryside to urban parks. The landscaping should be appropriate to the location, naturalistic within the countryside, and more formal within the urban landscape. Green corridors, like all circulation systems, must lead to meaningful destinations or risk remaining underused. Corridors should have some supervision from fronting buildings; excessive or unrelieved green buffering may create the opportunity for crime. (Ref: NU, E2).

The 2002 Draft London Plan places great importance on the promotion and development of green corridors stating:

"New physical and functional linkages within and between the open and built environment may promote the distribution of animals and plants, provide a conduit for walking and cycling routes, and generally promote access to the natural environment".

### ***Allotments used (and disused), community gardens, city farms***

An allotment is a plot of land rented by an individual from a local authority for growing vegetables or flowers. (Oxford dictionary) A 'private' open space, usually located on left over pieces of land (adjacent to railway lines etc.), used for growing vegetables and/or flowers for the 'owner' while providing a visual green for the public. An allotment site is usually fenced, with use of fences rather than walls, and includes open shelters. The Borough has both used and disused allotments.

Community gardens can be both 'private' to a particular residents group or 'open' to the public. Generally managed by local people, these tend to have occurred opportunistically as opposed to 'planned' on 'left over' or formerly underused land.

City farms are open to the public on a time controlled manner for a small entrance fee or contribution and contain a collection of farmyard animals and birds for the enjoyment and education of city children.

### ***Cemeteries and church yards – 'closed' and 'open' for burial***

Burial grounds are usually located at a neighbourhood edge, within a naturalistic landscape consisting of trees, paved paths, some open lawns and sometimes an open shelter, and requiring limited maintenance.

Churchyards are located within the curtilage of a church and are generally smaller and more structured than cemeteries with greater use by the wider public for walking and quiet amenity uses.

### **Civic Spaces**

A public space at the intersection of important streets, set aside for civic purposes and circumscribed by building frontages, its landscape consisting of a combination of all or some of the following: paved walks, lawns, trees and civic buildings, public art, all formally disposed, and requiring substantial maintenance. (Ref: NU page E2)

Plaza: a public square or similar open space in a built-up area (DICT)

Civic: related to a city or a town (DICT)

### **Outdoor sports grounds**

An open area specifically designed and equipped for structured recreation and/or the play of children. Playgrounds should be interspersed within residential areas at short walking distance. (NU E2)

An outdoor area provided for children to play on (DICT)

Where these areas are physically accessible they can also form part of a connecting network which allows safe movement away from roads while providing relief from the bustle of the urban areas. Even if not physically accessible all areas of open space may have a value as land over which there is an open aspect or view providing 'borrowed' landscape as well as a value in biodiversity terms. Throughout this Strategy, the value of physical and visual access is recognised as is the value of linking sites in terms of their biodiversity value.

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## Appendix Two - Hierarchy of publicly accessible open space

- **Regional parks and open spaces**

(Linked metropolitan open land and green corridors) Weekend and Occasional visits by car or public transport.

**Total No:** 1

**Size:** greater than 400 hectares

**Recommended proximity:** 3.2 - 8km

**Characteristics:** Large areas and corridors of natural heathland, downland, commons, woodlands and parkland also including areas not publicly accessible but which contribute to the overall environmental amenity. Primarily providing for informal recreation with some non-intensive active recreation uses. Car parking at key locations.

**Name:**

Richmond Park
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- **Metropolitan parks**

Weekend and occasional visits by car or public transport.

**Total No:** 3

**Total ha:** 60 – 400 hectares

**Recommended proximity:** 3.2km or more where park is appreciably larger

**Characteristics:** Either (i) natural heathland, downland, commons, woodlands etc. or (ii) formal parks provision for both active and passive recreation. May contain playing fields, but at least 40 hectares for other pursuits. Adequate car parking.

**Name:**

Bushy Park	Ham Lands	Home Park
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- **District parks**

Weekend and occasional visits on foot, cycle, car and short bus trips

**Total No:** 5

**Size:** 20 – 60 hectares

**Recommended proximity:** 1.2km

**Characteristics:** Landscape setting with a variety of natural features providing for a wide range of activities, including outdoor sports facilities and playing fields, children's play for different age groups, and informal recreation pursuits. Should provide some car parking.

**Name :**

Barnes Common	Ham Common	Sheen Common
Marble Hill Park	Old Deer Park	Hounslow Heath (on boundary)

- **Local parks**

For pedestrian visitors

**Total No:** 35

**Size:** 2 - 20 hectares

**Recommended proximity:** 0.4km

**Characteristics:** Providing for court games, children's play, sitting-out areas, nature conservation, landscaped environment; and playing fields if the parks are large enough.

**Name:**

Barn Elms	Barnes Green	Beveree Wildlife Site
Broom Road Rec	Broom Road Rec. Ground	Buckingham Park
Carlisle Park	Copse conservation area	Crane Park (Meadway to Hospital bridge)
Ham Common Pond	Ham riverside pitches	Ham riverside playing field
Hatherop Park	Heathfield Rec	
Kew Green	King George's Field	Kings Field
Kneller Gardens	Leg O'Mutton Reservoir	Moremead and Bandy Rec
Mortlake Green	Murray Park	North Sheen Park
North Sheen Rec	Oak Avenue	Orleans House
Palewell Common	Pesthouse Common	Petersham Common
Petersham Meadows	Richmond Green	Richmond Riverside
	Sheen Common conservation area	Terrace Gardens
Twickenham Green	York House	Petersham Lodge Woods

- **Small local parks and open spaces including playgrounds.**

Pedestrian visits, especially by old people and children. Particularly valuable in high density areas.

**Total No:** 106

**Size:** Under 2 hectares

**Recommended proximity:** 0.4km

**Characteristics:** Gardens, sitting out areas, children's playgrounds, or other areas of a specialist nature, including nature conservation areas.

**Name:**

Alpha Road	Arundel Close wildlife	Barnes Common o/s
Bell Hill	Ben Alley	Beveree Wildlife site
Buccleugh Gardens	Bucklands	Cambridge Gardens
Castelnau Library	Castelnau Rec	Cholmondeley Walk
Church Road	Court Close	Crane Park (Hsptl boundary to Chertsey Rd)
Craneford Way	Fortescue Play Area	Garfield Close
Garrick Lawn	Grimwood Road	Grove Gardens Park
Grove Road Gardens	Ham Avenue	Ham Library
Ham Village Green	Hampton Court Green	Hampton Village Green
Hampton Wick Library	Hampton Wick Memorial	Harrods open space
Heathfield Library	Holly Road Garden of rest	Holly Road Rec
Jubilee Close open space	Kenton Boat Yard	Kilmorey Mausoleum
Lonsdale Road plantation	Manor Gardens	Manor Road Rec
Maple Close	Marlow Crescent	Mears Walk
	Midhurst Site	Mill Road
Mortlake Green	Mullins Path	Nursery Green
Orleans Gardens	Pantile Bridge	Partridge Green
	Pensford Field	Petersham Road
Petersham Lodge	Radnor Gardens	Raleigh Road Rec
Richmond Islands	Richmond Library	Richmond Parish Church
Richmond Riverside	Riverdale Gardens	Riverside Drive play area
Riverside Ham Street	Rocks Lane Rec	Rorary Gardens
Sheen Cemetery Drive	St Albans Hampton riverside	St Lukes
Suffolk Road rec	Tangier Green	Tapestry Court
Teddington Library		Thames Bank/Chiswick Bridge
The Embankment	Townmead	Twickenham Baths embankment
Udney Hall Gardens	Uxbridge Road	Vineyard Passage
Wades Lane Rec	Warren Gardens	Water Lane
Wellesley Road	Westerley Ware Rec	Whitton Library
Worple Way rec		

<b>Playgrounds</b>		
Broom Road	Beaufort Court	Buckingham
Castelnau	Carlisle Park x 2	Craneford Way
Church Road	Fortescue Field	Garfield Road
Hounslow Heath	Hampton Shopping	Heathfield Rec

	Centre	
Hatherop	Holly Road	Holly Road Gdn of Rest
Moormead	Kneller Gardens	Kingsfield
Mortlake Green	Mullins Path	North Sheen Rec
Murray Park	Palewell Park	Raleigh Road
Nursery Green	Old Deer Park x2	Riverside Drive
Rocks Lane	Sandy Lane	Tangier Green
St Lukes	Vine Road	Wades Lane
Worple Way	Westerley Ware	

- **Linear open spaces**

Located wherever possible. Suitable for regular pedestrian visits.

**Total No:** 13

**Size:** Variable

**Recommended proximity:** Variable

**Characteristics:** River Thames throughout the Borough, canal towpaths, paths, disused railways and other routes which provide opportunities for informal recreation, including nature conservation. Often characterised by features or attractive areas, which are not fully accessible to the public but contribute to the enjoyment of the space.

**Name:**

Thames Towpath	Crane Valley	Duke of Northumberland
Melancholy walk	Old Farm Road Walk	Queen Elizabeth Walk

## Appendix Three - Qualitative Assessment Methodology

When scoring each issue, the highest score was given where the factor would merit attention or priority being given. E.g. if condition is poor, the score is 3 because this needs to be addressed and if the site has historic value, meriting priority the score is also 3. A score of 1 is given where no priority is merited.

Therefore, in combination, those sites with the highest total score need investment/attention as a priority.

**Table 7: Quality Assessment Methodology**

<b>Typology Category</b>	E.g. park, playground, sports ground, allotment. Uses GLA categories
<b>LPAC</b>	Using LPAC size based public open space hierarchy
<b>Use</b>	If well used, score 3. Not well used score 1.
<i>Quality Assessment Criteria</i>	Each site is then scored compared with others of the same type
Landscape Integrity	Score 3 = low; 1 = high
Fit for Purpose	Score 3 = not fit compared to an ideal of its type
Condition	Score 3 = poor condition c/f ideal of its type
Accessibility	Score 3 = not accessible c/f ideal of its type
Facilities	Score 3 = inadequate for its type
Safety	Score 3 = safety risks/fears evident
Boundaries and entrances	Score 3 = unwelcoming/poor condition
<i>Total Quality Score</i>	<b>Total of the above Quality Scores</b>
<b>Other Factors</b>	
Social deprivation	Score 3 = in close proximity to social housing/social exclusion area
Use	Score 3 = well used or high potential use if condition improved.
Distance to nearest alternative	Score 3 = some distance from nearest alternative of its type.
Designation	Score 3 = listed and in conservation area, 2 if in CA, 1 if has some historic value.
<i>Total other factors</i>	<i>Total of the above scores</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>= Quality Score X Other Factors Score</b>