



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

**COUNCIL CABINET
2 JUNE 2009**

Report of the Corporate Director for
Environmental Services

ITEM 11A

Parks and Open Spaces Strategy Approval of draft for final consultation

SUMMARY

- 1.1 Parks are for people. They should be an integral part of community life, owned and valued because they meet people's needs and aspirations. They have the potential to be a healing, restoring, calming, delighting, learning, health giving, socially inclusive experience within the local community and by changing to meet the changing needs of that community, can retain their relevance over successive generations.
- 1.2 The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy has been prepared using the results of public consultations, facility audits, along with reviews of other relevant strategies both internal and external to the City Council. It has been written to ensure that Parks contribute to the achievement of the Council's six priorities for 2008-2011 and to eight of the LAA outcomes chosen by the Council
- 1.3 From consultation with residents emerged a number of specific challenges to be addressed. In its response to these challenges the strategy includes a clear commitment to open consultation about development and change, the Ranger Service and security on parks, keeping heritage landscapes, equality of access, children's play, sports provision, maintaining high standards of grounds maintenance, protection of wildlife, community involvement in planning and managing parks, dealing with litter, dog fouling and vandalism, improving parks facilities, visitor information and events.
- 1.4 The Strategy sets out seven aims and for each aim provides a number of key objectives and priority actions. The aims are Quality, Community Involvement, Security, Profile, Environment, Developments and Health.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To approve the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy for final consultation amongst members, Climate Change Commission, Council Departments and Partners, and to residents through the Neighbourhood Forums.
- 2.2 To bring the finalised Strategy back to Cabinet for approval in the near future.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Derby needs a Parks and Open Spaces Strategy to guide the development of parks and open spaces to meet the current and future needs of its residents.
- 3.2 The first Derby Parks Strategy was written in 1990 and revised in 2001. However it is now out of date and needed completely re-writing.
- 3.3 There is no action plan for the strategy at this stage, but this will be developed following the approval of the final draft and will be based around the priority actions identified in the final draft.
- 3.4 A current Parks Strategy is a requirement of some external funding organisations

For more information contact: Steve Medlock, Head of Parks Services
Tel 01332 641552 E-mail steve.medlock@derby.gov.uk

Background papers: Derby Pointer Results 2001-2007
Local Plan for Derby
Woodland Strategy
Nature Conservation Strategy
Play Strategy
Sports Strategy
Getting Derby Active
Community Safety Strategy

List of appendices: Appendix 1 – Implications
Draft Parks Strategy

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 None as a result of approving the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy.

Legal

- 2.1 None

Personnel

- 3.1 None

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 The consultation process and commitment to on-going open consultation should benefit all communities in the City.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 5.1 The strategy will ensure that Derby's parks contribute to all six corporate priorities, in particular to 'Making us proud of our neighbourhoods' and 'Helping us all to be healthy, active and independent'.
- 5.2 The strategy will also assist in the delivery of eight of the Council's chosen LAA outcomes, particularly 'to have cleaner greener and safer public spaces' and 'to improve the health of children and young people'.