

Dudley Council Parks and Green Space Strategy (PPG17 Audit)



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Arabic

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Bengali

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Chinese

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Gujarati

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Punjabi

ਅਨੁਰੋਧ ਕਰਨ ਤੇ, ਇਹ ਡਾਕੂਮੈਂਟ (ਲਿਖਤ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼), ਅਤੇ ਸਥਾਨਕ ਵਿਕਾਸ ਯੋਜਨਾ (ਫਰੇਮਵਰਕ) ਸੰਬੰਧੀ ਹੋਰ ਡਾਕੂਮੈਂਟਸ ਵੱਡੇ ਪਰਿੰਟ, ਆਡੀਓ ਕੈਸੇਟ ਤੇ ਰੀਕਾਰਡ ਕੀਤੇ ਹੋਏ, ਥਰੇਲ ਫ਼ਾਰਮੈਟ, ਅਤੇ ਅੰਗ੍ਰੇਜ਼ੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਦੇ ਨਾਲ ਨਾਲ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਵੀ ਮਿਲ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਨ ਜਾਂ ਮਿਲ ਸਕਣਗੇ। ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਕੋਈ ਡਾਕੂਮੈਂਟ ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਵਿੱਚੋਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਫ਼ਾਰਮੈਟ (ਬਣਤਰ) ਵਿੱਚ ਲੈਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਪਤੇ ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ: ਪਲੈਨਿੰਗ ਪੌਲਸੀ ਟੀਮ, ਡਾਇਰੈਕਟਰੇਟ ਆਫ ਦਿ ਅਰਬਨ ਇੰਨਵਾਇਰਨਮੈਂਟ, ਡਡਲੀ ਮੈਟਰੋਪੌਲਿਟਨ ਬਰੌ ਕਾਉਂਸਲ, 3 ਸੇਂਟ ਜੇਮਸਿਸ ਰੋਡ ਡਡਲੀ Planning Policy Team, Directorate of the urban environment, Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, 3 St. James's Road, Dudley DY1 1HZ - ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਨੰਬਰ: 01384-816967 - ਈ-ਮੇਲ ਪਤਾ: udp.plan@dudley.gov.uk

Urdu

یہ اور لوکل ڈیولپمنٹ فریم ورک (مقامی بہتری سے متعلق اقدامات کا ڈھانچہ) سے متعلق دوسری دستاویزات بڑے حروف کی طباعت، آڈیو کیسیٹ، بریل یا انگریزی زبان کے علاوہ زبانوں میں ترجمے کی صورت میں دستیاب ہیں یا درخواست پر فراہم کی جائیں گی۔ اگر آپ کو دستاویز ان میں سے کسی بھی شکل میں درکار ہے تو براہ مہربانی پلاننگ پالیسی ٹیم، ڈائرکٹوریٹ آف اربن اینوائرنمنٹ، ڈڈلی میٹروپولیٹن بورو کونسل، 3 سینٹ جیمز روڈ، ڈڈلی ڈی ڈی 1 1HZ کے ساتھ رابطہ قائم کریں۔ ٹیلیفون نمبر: 01384 816967، ای میل: udp.plan@dudley.gov.uk

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1. Purpose of the Strategy

- 1.1 The purpose of the Council's Parks and Green Space Strategy is to assess the existing quantity (e.g. how much green space is currently found in the Dudley Borough), the current quality, public accessibility level and distribution of the borough's parks and green spaces. It has been prepared in response to government guidance set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG17) (July 2002) *"Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation"*.
- 1.2 One of the key objectives of the Strategy is to help inform the formulation of policy in the emerging Black Country Joint Core Strategy (JCS) and, at the local-level, help inform the formulation of policy in Dudley Council's emerging Local Development Framework (LDF). The Strategy will have a positive role to play in helping to improve the quality, accessibility and usage of the borough's parks and other green spaces and will help to ensure that existing important and sensitive open space areas within the borough continue to remain protected from inappropriate development pressures.
- 1.3 In accordance with government planning guidance the following types of open space have been captured as part of the Strategy.
- Parks and Gardens;
 - Natural and semi-natural green space;
 - Green corridors;
 - Outdoor sports green space;
 - Amenity green space (e.g. small grassed areas within housing estates);
 - Provision for children and young people green space;
 - Allotments, community gardens and urban farms;

- Cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds; and,
- Grazing land.

1.4 This document should be read in conjunction with the background Technical document (June 2009) which gives greater supporting detail of the Strategy. This Technical document is available on the Council's planning web-site at <http://www.dudley.gov.uk/environment--planning/planning/local-development-framework/local-development-scheme>

2. Policy Context

- 2.1 The Strategy has been produced in accordance with national and regional guidance. The most significant national planning guidance includes Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG17) (July 2002) *"Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation"* and its accompanying Companion Guide *"Assessing Needs and Opportunities"* (September 2002), Planning Policy Statement 1 (PPS1) (2005) *"Delivering Sustainable Development"*, Planning Policy Guidance Note 2 (PPG2) (1995) *"Green Belts"*, PPS3 (2006) *"Housing"*, PPS9 (2005) *"Biodiversity and Geological Conservation"* and PPS25 (2006) *"Development and Flood Risk"*.
- 2.2 The Strategy will be a key evidence base for policies in the emerging Black Country Joint Core Strategy (JCS) which is approaching Submission Stage in Autumn 2009. The Core Strategy takes on board policies set out in the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS).
- 2.3 Dudley's Adopted Unitary Development Plan (UDP) (October 2005) recognises the importance of the

borough's parks and green spaces and the role they play in promoting healthy lifestyles and community well being.

3. Analysis of Key Characteristics of the Borough

- 3.1 The Dudley Borough has a population of 305,300 people based on the latest information from mid-year 2007 population estimates. This is the largest population of any of the four Black Country Local Authorities, and the 16th largest in England.
- 3.2 Dudley has a population density of 31.2 people per hectare. This is higher than the figure for the West Midlands Metropolitan County (the conurbation) at 28.9. Only Sandwell, Wolverhampton and Birmingham have higher population densities.
- 3.3 It is anticipated that the number of people in the borough aged 60 years and over will increase 27.5% by the year 2026, whilst there will be a 71.9% rise in the number aged 80 years and over.
- 3.4 The population for the Dudley Borough is estimated to reach 319,000 people by the year 2026.
- 3.5 Higher densities of development combined with an increasing population will increase recreational pressures and aspirations for open space.
- 3.6 In the Dudley Borough 86,500 adults are classed as overweight, and 37,600 as obese. 18,000 children in the borough aged between 2 and 16 years of age are overweight or obese.
- 3.7 In the Dudley Borough there were 84.3 deaths per 100,000 population from Coronary Heart Disease

(CHD) in the period 2005 to 2007, which is below the England level of 95 per 100,000. CHD is one of the main causes of death in the United Kingdom.

- 3.8 Life expectancy in the Dudley Borough is 77 years for men and 81.6 years for women. Both figures are marginally below those for England as a whole (77.7 and 81.8 years respectively).
- 3.9 In the year 1991, 69.1% of the households in the Dudley Borough had use of a car or van. This had increased to 74.4% by the year 2001.

4. Public Consultation

- 4.1 Findings from the Green Spaces Householder Questionnaire Survey of 6,500 borough households completed during June 2008 indicate that there is a high level of public demand for Parks and Gardens and natural and semi-natural green space areas, with most of these green space sites visited by local residents on a weekly basis for walking and generally relaxing purposes.
- 4.2 Those residents who responded to the Questionnaire Survey felt that there is a need for more young peoples green space provision (youth facilities) and a need for more equipped children's play areas within the borough.
- 4.3 Majority of respondents to the Survey considered that the quantity of Parks and Gardens, natural and semi-natural green space, outdoor sports green space, and built indoor sports facilities was about right across the Dudley Borough.

5. Quantity Audit

- 5.1 There is enough publicly accessible green space provision in the Dudley Borough to meet national and regional targets. The Dudley Borough has on average approximately 4.51 hectares of unrestricted public access green space provision per 1,000 head of population (across all open space types captured within the Audit). The National Playing Field Association (NPFA) standard is 1.6 hectares of unrestricted public access green space per 1,000 head of population, so Dudley is above this target.
- 5.2 A total of 872 separate individual green space sites have been captured as part of Dudley Council's Parks and Green Space Strategy. Of these, 490 separate green space sites have unrestricted public access available (e.g. there are no barriers or restrictions in place preventing public access), equating to a total land area of approximately 1,376.16 hectares.
- 5.3 Central Dudley Committee Area has the highest amount (in hectares) of green space in comparison to all other Committee Areas. North Dudley Committee Area has the second highest amount (in hectares), closely followed in third place by Brierley Hill Committee Area.
- 5.4 Across all accessibility levels and all green space types, Stourbridge Committee Area has the least amount of green space in comparison to all other Committee Areas, followed by Halesowen Committee Area with the second lowest amount. However, it is important to note that this is a reflection of the large areas of Green Belt surrounding the built up area of both Stourbridge and Halesowen into the wider rural hinterland. These Green Belt areas have not been captured within the Council's Parks and Green Space Strategy.

- 5.5 When compared to neighbouring Black Country local authorities, Dudley Borough has more hectares of unrestricted public access green space provision per 1,000 head of population than Sandwell MBC. However, the Dudley Borough has marginally less provision per 1,000 head of population compared to Walsall MBC and Wolverhampton City Council.
- 5.6 The largest amount of unrestricted public access green space provision in the Borough is made up of natural and semi-natural green space provision with approximately 2.27 hectares per 1,000 head of population (equating to a total land area of approximately 691.60 hectares across borough).
- 5.7 The second highest amount of unrestricted public access green space provision found in the borough is made up of Amenity Green Space provision with approximately 0.81 hectares per 1,000 head of population (equating to a total land area of approximately 247.62 hectares across borough).
- 5.8 Across the Dudley Borough in terms of the amount of hectares of land present, there is an under-provision of children's and young peoples green, followed by an under-provision in allotment space. This is followed by grazing land (in third place). Findings from the Quantity Audit also indicate an under-provision in cemeteries and burial land across the borough. The Brierley Hill Committee Area has an under-provision of publicly accessible outdoor sports green space provision (areas such as playing fields and other outdoor pitches suitable for formal sport).

6. Quality Audit

- 6.1 Overall, the average borough Green Flag Quality Audit score was 33, approximately one third of the maximum score. Whilst this average quality score is relatively low, this does reflect the large numbers

and diversity of the green spaces selected by the Council for assessment.

- 6.2 Highest quality types of green space found in the Dudley Borough are typically cemeteries and churchyards, parks and gardens and outdoor sports facilities which scored above the borough average.
- 6.3 Natural and semi-natural green spaces as a whole scored below average against Green Flag quality standards. This reflected the large number of sites of this type and the variation in size, scale and character of these spaces.
- 6.4 The Borough-wide Green Flag Quality Audit Assessment shows that the Stourbridge Committee Area has the highest average score of 35, in comparison to all other Committee Areas.
- 6.5 North Dudley, Halesowen, and Central Dudley Committee Areas have the lowest quality score, each having an average score of 32 which is slightly below the Borough average.
- 6.6 Compared to neighbouring boroughs of Sandwell and Walsall, the green spaces of the Dudley Borough are broadly of a similar quality.
- 6.7 Many green spaces scored well in relation to measures to address dog fouling, maintain play equipment, personal safety, with relatively little apparent evidence of vandalism, damage and anti-social behaviour on many spaces.
- 6.8 Litter and waste management scored on average relatively well compared to other criteria.
- 6.9 Grounds maintenance and horticulture performed less well. Some sites were maintained to a good standard but many others that were assessed did not appear to receive regular maintenance.

6.10 Accessibility issues also scored relatively poorly with limited evidence of the provision of good and safe access through the space or links with adjacent residential or other areas.

6.11 Signage and information provision on many sites was lacking and this accounted for the three lowest scoring criteria.

7. Accessibility Audit

7.1 Parks and Gardens sites are well distributed across the Dudley Borough with the majority of settlements having access to a Parks and Garden site within a 15 minute walk time (or a 1,000 metre straight line distance).

7.2 Unrestricted public access Amenity green Space provision is also well distributed across the Dudley Borough, with the majority of settlements having access to Amenity Green Space within a 5 minute walk time (or a 300 metres straight line distance).

7.3 Dudley Borough is well-served by natural and semi-natural green space sites between 20 hectares to 99.9 hectares in land parcel size.

7.4 Dudley Borough currently has approximately 0.90 hectares of Local Nature Reserve (LNR) provision per 1000 head of population.

7.5 Brierley Hill Committee Area has an under-provision of publicly accessible outdoor sports green space provision (such as playing fields and other pitches for formal sport).

- 7.6 There are no natural and semi-natural green space sites found in the Dudley Borough of 100 hectares and above in land parcel size.

8. Assessment of Need and Demand

- 8.1 The following existing and future needs and demands have been identified by the Parks and Green Space Strategy:

Children's and Young Peoples Green Space provision

- 8.2 There is a need for more publicly accessible Children's and Young People's green space provision. This is supported by findings from the Green Spaces Householder Questionnaire Survey and the Quantity Audit.

Parks and Gardens and Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space Provision

- 8.3 There is a strong level of community demand for both Parks and Gardens and natural and semi-natural green space provision within the Dudley Borough. This is supported by findings from the Green Spaces Householder Questionnaire Survey.
- 8.4 There is a need to enhance green space biodiversity levels across the borough in accordance with Biodiversity Action Plan targets, by use of planning obligations and in accordance with the Council's adopted Nature Conservation Supplementary Planning Document.

Built indoor sports facilities and outdoor sports green space

- 8.5 Those residents who responded to the Green Spaces Householder Questionnaire Survey felt that there was a need for more swimming pools/ indoor baths within the Dudley Borough.

- 8.6 Opportunities need to be explored to ensure that as many as possible new or refurbished school sports facilities (both indoor sports halls) and outdoor sports pitches have community access (e.g. dual access) outside school operating hours.
- 8.7 There is a need to explore ways of increasing the amount of unrestricted public access Outdoor Sports green space provision within the Brierley Hill Committee Area where there is currently an under-provision of this type of publicly accessible green space.

Allotments

- 8.8 There is a need to explore ways of increasing the amount of Allotment green space within the borough to meet existing and future needs. Findings from the Quantity Audit indicate that allotment space is the second lowest type of green space provision (in terms of the amount present in hectares) within the Dudley Borough after children's and young people's green space.

Burial land

- 8.9 There is a need to explore ways of increasing the amount of burial land green space within the borough to meet existing and future needs. There is currently an under provision of burial land within the borough. Demand for burial land is likely to increase as a result of future population increases within the borough.

Grazing land

- 8.10 There is currently a demand across all parts of the borough for grazing land.

Climate change

8.11 Responding to the challenges presented by future climate change is an important issue which needs to be considered now, as well as requiring on-going consideration and action in future years. For example, maximising the role of green space for helping to contribute to urban cooling, flood risk, reducing air pollution, biodiversity enhancement and protection.

Health issues

8.12 Need and demand to ensure that there is a good supply of good quality green spaces and facilities for outdoor sport and recreation in the borough to help promote healthier lifestyles and maximise the "Green Gym" potential of the borough's green spaces. This is vital in order to help tackle rising obesity levels and related health conditions such as coronary heart disease, stroke, certain cancers and diabetes.

Future borough population increases

8.13 The Demographics Chapter of the Audit suggests that the number of people in the Dudley Borough aged 60 years and over are likely to increase by 27.5% by the year 2026, whilst there is likely to be a 71.9% rise in the number of people aged 80 years and over. The impact this may have on future demands and needs for green space will be important to consider.

9. Local Open Space Provision Standards

The Table below shows Local Open Space Provision Standards Dudley Council has identified for its Parks and Green Space Strategy (PPG17 Audit) (June 2009).

Green Space Type	Existing quantity amount currently found in the Dudley Borough per 1,000 head of population	Proposed Quantity Standard of Unrestricted green space per 1,000 head of population.	Quality Standard	Accessibility Standard
Parks and Gardens	0.72 hectares per 1,000 head of population	0.8 Hectares per 1,000 head of population.	A welcoming, clean and litter free site providing a one-stop community facility which is accessible to all and has a range of facilities and other types of open space within it.	A distance of a 1,000 metres (straightline), or about a 15 minute walking time is felt to be appropriate (so local people can gain convenient access by foot).
Unrestricted public access Natural and Semi-natural Green Space	There is 0.90 hectares of Local Nature Reserve (LNR) green space per 1,000 Head of population currently found in the Dudley Borough.	Provision of at least 1.0 Hectares of Local Nature Reserve (LNR) per 1,000 Head of Population. That no person	A clean, safe and litter free site with clear, obvious and appropriate public access. LNR's within the Borough should be aiming to achieve the	(See adjacent Quantity Standard column).

		<p>should live more than 300 metres from their nearest area of natural green space of at least 2 hectares in size.</p> <p>That there should be at least one accessible 20 hectare site within 2 kilometres (2,000 metres) from home.</p>	<p>Green Flag benchmark quality standard.</p> <p>For areas of Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space a suitable quality benchmark standard is to aim for a similar standard to that of Saltwells Local Nature Reserve (LNR).</p>	<p>(See adjacent Quantity Standard column).</p>
<p>Unrestricted public access Natural and Semi-natural Green Space which is <u>not</u> designated as a Local Nature Reserve.</p>	<p>There is 1.37 hectares of natural and semi-natural green space provision (which is not designated as LNR) per 1,000 Head of population currently found in the Dudley Borough.</p>	<p>Provision of at least 1.37 Hectares of non-Local Nature Reserve designated natural and semi-natural green space per 1,000 Head of Population.</p>	<p>A site that is safely accessible, and litter free. It should contain semi-natural habitats appropriate to the area. (See the Birmingham and Black Country Biodiversity Action Plan which sets out what important habitats are within Birmingham and the Black Country).</p>	<p>That no person should live more than 300 metres from their nearest area of natural green space of at least 2 hectares in size.</p> <p>That there should be at least one accessible 20 hectare site within 2 kilometres (2,000 metres) from home.</p>

<p>Unrestricted public access Outdoor Sports Green Space</p>	<p>0.35 hectares per 1,000 head of population</p>	<p>1.0 Hectares per 1,000 head of population.</p>	<p>A well-planned, clean litter free sports facility site that sits in harmony with its surroundings. The site should be well maintained to an appropriate match play standard, with good grass coverage and well-drained quality pitch surfaces.</p>	<p>A distance of a 1,000 metres (straightline), or about a 15 minute walking time is felt to be appropriate (so local people can gain convenient access by foot).</p>
<p>Unrestricted public access Amenity Green Space</p>	<p>0.81 hectares per 1,000 head of population</p>	<p>0.81 Hectares per 1,000 head of population.</p>	<p>A clean well-maintained green space site that is accessible to all. Sites should have appropriate ancillary furniture (litter-bins), and pathways and landscaping designed to provide a safe and secure site with a spacious outlook that enhances the appearance of the urban</p>	<p>A distance of 300 metres (straightline), or about a 5 minute walking time is felt to be appropriate (so local people can gain convenient access by foot).</p>

			area and provides a safe area for informal recreation.	
Unrestricted public access Children's and Young People's Green Space provision (such as equipped children's play areas, skate parks, etc)	0.0027 hectares per 1,000 head of population	0.1 Hectares per 1,000 head of population.	A well designed, well-maintained, clean site of sufficient size to provide stimulating and imaginative formal equipment and/or enriched play environment, which appeals to a wide range of children's and young people's age groups. The site should be safe with good levels of natural surveillance overlooking it.	A distance of a 1,000 metres (straightline), or about a 15 minute walking time is felt to be appropriate (so local people can gain convenient access by foot).
Cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds	0.21 hectares per 1,000 head of population	No standard set.		
Allotments, community gardens and urban farms	0	No standard set.		
Green Corridors	0.15 hectares per 1,000 head of population	No standard set.		

Grazing land	0	No standard set.		
Totals:	4.51 Hectares per 1,000 head of population. (Existing amount currently found in Dudley Borough)	5.08 Hectares per 1,000 head of population. (Overall Quantity Standard)	-	-

10. Action Plan

10.1 Green Space Personal Safety:

- Where resources allow, where it is practical to do so, and providing there would be no conflict to nature conservation interest, implement 'Safer by Design' modifications to Parks such as considering shrub beds landscaped areas, natural surveillance issues and lighting where appropriate. Reducing the fear of crime in Parks and other green spaces is important. A key aim is to encourage even more people to use the borough's green space areas. Safer environments will help remove barriers to access which in turn helps to support the healthy lifestyles agenda. This approach is supported by Dudley Council's Local Area Agreement (LAA) target number 17 "Perceptions of Anti-Social Behaviour".

10.2 Healthy lifestyle issues:

- Promote a sense of well-being across the Borough's Parks and other key publicly accessible green spaces in accordance with Dudley Council's Community Strategy (2005) which encourages a sense of well-being and Good Health for everyone.
- Encourage and promote the use of parks and greenspaces for a wide range of physical activities in order to improve the health and well being of residents and reduce incidence of childhood obesity. The Council has been designated as a Healthy Town and it is proposed to promote such activities within the Council's agreed Healthy Hub Parks at MSP, Silver Jubilee, Netherton, Huntingtree and The Dell
- Improvements need to remain appropriate and sensitive to the green space location and setting. For example, not harm its nature conservation interest or the landscape setting and character of the Park.

10.3 Biodiversity and Nature Conservation:

- Improving the bio-diversity value of Parks and Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space areas within the Borough through developer Section 106 contributions and other external funding.
- Encourage wildlife to flourish in our parks and natural green space areas through appropriate management.
- Ensure appropriate management of sites identified for nature conservation and monitor biodiversity.
- Assess the potential in all major new developments for providing new or improving existing open space and wildlife habitat.
- Monitor biodiversity levels.
- Take future opportunities to build-in beneficial biodiversity features within new developments in accordance with clear guidance in Planning Policy Statement 9 (PPS9) and Biodiversity Action Plan targets.
- The biodiversity value of existing open spaces needs to be maintained, and the wildlife value of others should be enhanced paying particular attention to areas of wildlife deficiency.
- Maximise opportunities to access external grants to enhance biodiversity levels.
- Create new habitats for wildlife where shortfalls have been identified.
- Restore, enhance and safeguard key biodiversity features of Borough Parks and other green spaces. This is supported by Dudley Council's Local Area Agreement (LAA) target number 197 on "Biodiversity".

10.4 Accessibility of Green Space for Local People:

- Where resources allow, develop walking and cycling routes.
- Expand opportunities for everyone to have access to green spaces in the Dudley Borough.

- Safeguard and improve (where resources allow) parks, playing fields, allotments, natural green space and children's play areas.
- Contribute to the creation of well-defined urban spaces, "pocket parks" and workings to enhance the more densely populated urban areas which lack facilities.
- Using green space that is more than meeting the Borough's needs to fund the improvement of more valued green space.

10.5 Maintenance and Management Improvements:

- Protect sensitive open space areas.
- Where resources allow, encourage the use of Parks Master Plans to enable beneficial facility improvements within the Borough's Parks (e.g. wide variety of sports and recreation for people of all ages and update associated facilities).
- Maximise support through developer S106 contributions to help improve the borough's Parks and natural and semi-natural green spaces.
- Establish an agreed hierarchy of provision in order to identify the "valued green spaces" referred to above and therefore determine a priority order for improvements to parks and green spaces, based upon an agreed quality provision and a value assessment.
- Establish a strategy for the attainment of Green Flag in line with the identified hierarchy and agreed "valued green spaces".
- Work in partnership with other stakeholders outside the Council (such as Friends of Parks Groups, environmental agencies, developers, etc) to sensitively and appropriately enhance and improve the Borough's Parks and green spaces.
- Where resources allow, work towards the future designation of new Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) to push Dudley over the 1 hectare per 1,000 population Natural England ANGSt threshold (see Quantity Audit and Accessibility Audit Chapters).

- Develop the skills required for the management of parks, green spaces, horticulture and the environment.
- Strive to achieve community/ stakeholder engagement on the development and improvement of green spaces.
- Develop opportunities to increase green space in areas of deficiency.
- Improve Parks and other green spaces through the use of developer Section 106 (s106) contributions and other opportunities.
- Continue to utilise S106 funding for Parks and other green spaces to fund improvements, in line with key local priorities.
- Where resources allow and where it is practical to do so, explore feasibility of negotiating access to key strategic sites currently under private ownership, particularly in areas where there is a high deficiency of open space.
- Where it is practical to do so, explore the potential of new recreational green space as part of major new development proposals, particularly in parts of the borough where there is a green space deficiency.
- Where resources allow and where it is practical to do so, establish a Green Grid Network and providing 'green routes' through the borough for people and wildlife.
- To maximise value for money and resources available. Green spaces are currently funded by the Council and additional funding should also be sourced.
- Where there is a large amount of low quality, low use, low value green space (which is not important, high value or sensitive green space) that is more than meeting the Borough's needs, some of these areas could potentially be considered for other uses. For example, built development which could then generate funds to help sensitively and appropriately improve and enhance nearby green space areas which are important and of a high value. In line with national planning guidance (set out in Planning Policy

Statement 1 (PPS1) (2005) "Delivering Sustainable Development" and PPS3 (2006) "Housing", the Council's policy approach is that the priority for new development proposals (including new housing development) will be on previously-developed land.

10.6 Education Awareness Issues:

- Promote environmental awareness.
- Use parks and natural green space areas (providing there is no nature conservation harm caused or conflict with preserving biodiversity levels) as outdoor classrooms to develop understanding of the environment and its management.
- Increased partnership working.
- Ensure that new built development proposals in the borough continue to help improve and maintain existing green space areas in circumstances where new developments place an increased burden on existing open space as a direct result of the increased number of new users. This is supported by clear guidance set out in paragraph 33 of PPG17 (2002) and local-level policy guidance set out in the Councils adopted Open Space, Sport and Recreation Provision Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (2007), and the most recent adopted Planning Obligations SPD.

10.7 Social Inclusion:

- Encourage appropriate events in the Borough Parks to attract visitors to the borough and maximise their tourism potential.
- Where resources allow and where it is practical to do so, increase recreational and sporting activities for everyone regardless of age and disability.
- Appropriately and sensitively improve Parks and other green spaces through the use of developer Section 106 (s106) contributions and by maximising the use of other external funding opportunities.

- Where resources allow, increase the number of local people involved in community or voluntary activities.
- Encourage all sections of the community to participate in local forums and the decision making process.
- Consult local people about what they would have in their area and work with them to develop green spaces which are sustainable and of high quality.
- Where resources allow, increase the number of Friends Groups across the Dudley Borough. The benefits of this are that local people are involved in shaping the future of their green space, promoting a sense of ownership and pride in the area, making them more sustainable.
- Where resources allow, increase local volunteer networks and involvement in conservation tasks.
- Carry out consultation with local residents to assess usage and value of their areas.

10.8 Children's and Young People's Play:

- Where resources allow, ensure that all parks, green spaces, and new playgrounds are accessible to people with mobility difficulties.
- Where resources allow and providing there is no nature conservation or residential amenity conflict, develop children's and young people's play facilities in areas of under provision (deficiency) and enhance existing play facilities where appropriate.
- Where resources allow and where it is practical to do so, provide areas for children and young people to play.
- Where resources allow, aim to achieve community access to restricted public access school sports grounds, particular in parts of the Borough where there is a deficiency of Outdoor Sports Green Space. Use of robust community use agreements will need to be included at the Development Control Planning Application stage as development proposals come forward on existing school sites.

- Where resources allow, where it is practical to do so and where there is no nature conservation to protected habitats, ensure that there is a good level of children and young people's outdoor recreational provision in appropriate locations (such as equipped children's play areas, skate parks and youth centres).

10.9 Tackling green space under-provision

- Where resources allow and where it is practical to do so, explore measures and seek out opportunities to tackle green space under-provision within the borough. For example, this includes identifying suitable and appropriate land opportunities for more burial land, allotment space, and grazing land to meet local needs and area-based deficiencies. Increasing the amount of publicly accessible outdoor sports green space provision and children's and young people's green space provision in geographic parts of the borough where there is currently a deficiency or under-supply to meet local needs.

10.10 Climate Change:

- Consider measures to reduce the impact of Climate change when planning green spaces including providing trees for future shade cover, where resources allow, consider drought resistant planting and rainwater re-cycling systems in Parks to enable irrigation of formal flower beds and other horticulture features. Using green space within new developments to help reduce flood risk and introducing new green infrastructure to allow the movement of wildlife species between habitats to help support biodiversity levels.
- Encourage green waste recycling.
- Aim to recycle all green waste produced by our parks and green spaces.

