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The Chair and Members of Enterprise
and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

23 September 2020

Dear Councillor,

Please attend a meeting of the ENTERPRISE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE to be held on THURSDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2020 at 5.00 pm, the agenda for which is set out below.

This meeting will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams software, for which members of the Committee and others in attendance will receive an invitation. Members of the public will be able to access Part 1 (Public Information) of the meeting online by following the link [here](#)

AGENDA

Part 1(Public Information)

1. Declarations of Members' and Officers' Interests Relating To Items On The Agenda
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Cabinet Member for Economic Growth - Housing Supply and Planning Reform (Pages 3 - 18)

5.05pm – report of Strategic Planning and Key Sites Manager attached

4. Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing - Parks and Open Spaces (Pages 19 - 74)

5.35pm – report of Principal Green Space Strategy Manager attached

5. Scrutiny Monitoring (Pages 75 - 82)

6.05pm - Scrutiny Committee Recommendations – Implementation Monitoring Schedule attached.

6. Forward Plan

6.15pm - The latest version of the Forward Plan of Key Decisions 1 October, 2020 to 31 January, 2021 is available via the link below:

[Forward Plan](#)

7. Work Programme for the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee (Pages 83 - 84)

6.20pm – Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2020/21 attached

8. Minutes (Pages 85 - 90)

6.30pm – Draft minutes of the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on 9 July, 2020 attached

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Randy', written in a cursive style.

Local Government and Regulatory Law Manager and Monitoring Officer

For publication

Housing Supply and Planning Reform

Meeting: Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Date: 1st October 2020

Cabinet portfolio: Economic Growth

Report by: Strategic Planning and Key Sites Manager

For publication

Purpose of reviewing the topic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To update the committee on the Council's progress in relation to its housing supply targets• To discuss the expected impacts of the forthcoming changes to legislation
What are the objectives of the review?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To provide an overview of the current situation• To identify any barriers to reaching targets• To determine any changes to plans in response to new legislation
Progress to date	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This is the first report to committee

1.0 **Background**

Housing Supply & Delivery

- 1.1 The Council is required, through its Local Plan, to identify and plan for its 'objectively assessed need' for housing, calculated using a standard methodology set out in the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).

- 1.2 For Chesterfield Borough this is found in the newly adopted Chesterfield Borough Local Plan 2018-2033, which sets a minimum housing requirement of 4,080 new homes over the Plan period, or 240 dwellings a year. Before the new Plan was adopted this was calculated annually using the Standard Method.
- 1.3 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) also requires that Council's maintain a supply of 'specific deliverable sites' sufficient to provide a minimum of five years' housing based on their housing requirement. Where there is evidence of 'persistent under-delivery' this supply must include an additional 20% buffer (see paragraph 1.6 for how under-delivery is identified).
- 1.4 The five-year supply issue was considered as part of the Examination in Public (EiP) of the Local Plan. As a newly adopted plan the five-year requirement is automatically considered met until 31st October 2021 – after which we will again need to demonstrate this supply annually.
- 1.5 The Council monitors housing completions annually at the end of each financial year and provides data on completions to the MHCLG through the DELTA system. This is then used in administering the Housing Delivery Test (HDT).
- 1.6 Under the Housing Delivery Test, the Government publishes data (in theory every November, although in reality data has not been published until the following February in each year the Test has been administered) on each Council's performance against their housing requirement. Depending on the result this can lead to one of three (cumulative) sanctions:

- Delivery is below 95% - the council must prepare an Action Plan setting out how it will increase housebuilding
- Delivery is below 85% - the council must add an additional 20% to the housing target set out in the council's five-year supply of deliverable housing sites
- Delivery is below 45% (rising to 75% in 2020) – the presumption in favour of sustainable development applies.

1.7 **Planning Reform**

1.8 On the 6th August 2020 the Government published a White Paper, "Planning for the Future", to consult on changes to the Planning system. The White Paper sets out the basis of a comprehensive review of the planning system that would affect all parts of the current system. Responses to the consultation must be submitted by 29th October 2020.

1.9 The proposals cover all aspects of the planning system.

1.10 The White Paper proposals is structured around three 'pillars':

1. **Planning for Development** – There will be greater emphasis on Local Plans, which will zone all land for Growth, Renewal or Protection, rather than 'discretionary decision making'.
2. **Planning for Beautiful and Sustainable Places** – the use of design codes, permitted development rights and standard designs
3. **Planning for Infrastructure and Connected Places** – replacement of Section 106 agreements and CIL with a new, national, flat-rate levy on all development based on value.

1.11 A summary of the key proposals of the White Paper is set out in Appendix B.

2.0 **Current position and key milestones**

2.1 The latest Housing Delivery Test results were published in February 2020 and covered the housing delivery period up to 31st March 2019. During the three-year period prior to this, housing delivery in the borough was at 66% of the housing requirement. We have therefore had to apply a 20% buffer to our housing requirement (which had already been factored into the Local Plan) and prepare a Housing Delivery Action Plan.

Housing Delivery Test Calculation for 2019				
	Year			Total
	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	
Homes required	220	227	247	694
Homes delivered	130	110	212	452
Delivery Measurement				65%

2.2 The latest Housing Delivery Action Plan was published in August 2020 and is available on the Council's website: <https://www.chesterfield.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-the-local-plan/housing-delivery-test-and-housing-delivery-action-plan.aspx>

2.3 Monitoring data on housing completions for 2019-20 shows a significant improvement in delivery, with 311 identified completions, significantly above the 240 dwellings a year target. This should result in an HDT result of 89% when the next test results are published requiring the addition of a 20% buffer and a new Housing Delivery Action Plan.

Predicted Housing Delivery Test Calculation for 2019		
	Year	Total

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	
Homes required	227	247	240	714
Homes delivered	110	212	311	633
Delivery Measurement				89%

- 2.4 A range of actions to boost delivery are set out in the Housing Delivery Action Plan (and reproduced at appendix A of this report).
- 2.5 The Council has already undertaken a number of actions from the previous Action Plan. The new Local Plan has been adopted, confirming a new housing requirement and a clear supply of sites to deliver this. The Council has also appointed a Housing Delivery Manager who is working with developers, Planners and the Council's Housing team to identify and resolve barriers to development.
- 2.6 The Council has its own programme of delivering 100 new affordable homes over five years. As part of this we have purchased additional affordable dwellings on sites that were stalled at Canal Wharf and Ringwood Meadows, providing a return to the developer and enabling them to continue with delivery on site at the same time as increasing the affordable housing supply.
- 3.0 **Barriers/obstacles**
- 3.1 The most obvious barrier to increasing housing delivery for the Council is simply that we do not deliver most of the new housing in the borough ourselves. For this we are reliant on the private sector and must work with and through them.

- 3.2 The Housing Delivery Action Plan includes an assessment of the barriers to increasing housing delivery. Unsurprisingly they are varied and complex, but include:
- A complex legacy of industry and mining affecting both previously developed land and 'greenfield' sites
 - Flood risk issues
 - Demand issues
 - Low viability (sales values are significantly lower in some parts of the borough)
 - Competing sites in the wider Housing Market Area
 - Reliance on a small number of large sites
- 3.3 It is unclear what impact Covid 19 will have on future completions, as sites were effectively shut down for the first quarter of the financial year. An additional six-month survey of completions will be undertaken from 1st October 2020 to provide data on this, but to date it appears that all shutdown housing sites have already resumed construction and developers are reporting strong sales interest.
- 3.4 However significant risks remain in the event of another national level lockdown seeing sites stall again, and in the unknown longer-term economic impacts of the current pandemic and the uncertainties of the type of Brexit the market could be faced with in the new year. These risks are incredibly difficult to predict or quantify.
- 3.5 This needs to be balanced against the longer-term benefits of HS2, which may bring additional market interest in housing in the longer term.
- 3.6 One impact of these risks may well be a shift in the market to a greater emphasis on houses with gardens, rather than the fledgling apartment market, and sites with good walking and cycling access to amenities (which is a strength of the Chesterfield Local Plan).

4.0 **Future plans**

4.1 The actions proposed to increase delivery are set out in Appendix A of this report.

4.2 The Council adopted its new Local Plan in July 2020. This addressed many of the issues, with a range of housing allocations of different sizes and including both previously developed and greenfield sites. Affordable Housing requirements are now varied across the borough to reflect viability and sales values.

4.3 The Council's instalments policy for paying the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) of new housing has been amended to make it easier for small and medium sized developers to spread payments. In the longer term a review of CIL will be undertaken to ensure that the charges and charging zones reflect housing values and viability.

5.0 **Conclusion**

5.1 Although there are long term unknowns and risks associated with the pandemic and Brexit, the Council is currently in a good position regarding housing delivery. There is evidence of significantly improvements in completion, and clear spatial planning framework and an Action Plan in place to continue to improve delivery. The new Local Plan contains a range of types and sizes of sites to provide robust choice in the housing market. Co-ordination with Housing and private developers has improved and is seeing dividends in utilising the Council's HRA resources to both support market housebuilding and increase the proportion of affordable housing delivered at the same time.

6.0 **Suggested scrutiny activity**

- 6.1 Future reports on this matter can be brought to Scrutiny on the basis of the annual publication of the Housing Delivery Test results.

Document information

Report author	Contact number/email
Alan Morey	Alan.morey@chesterfield.gov.uk 01246959707
Background documents	
These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when the report was prepared.	
Appendices to the report	
Appendix A	<i>Key Actions to Boost Housing Delivery</i>
Appendix B	<i>'Planning for the Future' – Summary of Key Proposals</i>

APPENDIX A

Key Actions to Boost Housing Delivery

Supporting the Development of Permitted and Allocated Sites			
Action	Anticipated Benefit	Timescale	Responsibility
Continue to build relationships with developers.	The Council has placed a greater emphasis on liaising with developers on site progress. Increasing the frequency of contact enables early identification of issues which the Council may be able to assist with.	Short-term, Ongoing.	Housing Delivery Manager.
Review progress on all housing allocations (e.g. permissions and build-out rates) and review the need for any site specific actions.	Now that the Council has an adopted Local Plan it is important to monitor progress on the allocated sites. Periodic review will allow the identification of sites which are in need of further promotion / assistance. The actions identified from the 2019/20 review are presented in the Allocations Log (Appendix B).	Short-term, Ongoing.	Planning Policy Team and Housing Delivery Manager.
Facilitate investment on surplus land owned by the Council.	<p>Reviewing sites in Council ownership may present opportunities for sustainable new housing sites.</p> <p>The recommendations of the Public Open Space Study may identify additional sites for potential disposal.</p>	Medium / Long Term	

Place Marketing and promotion of Chesterfield's opportunities.	A new Local Plan signifies that there are a wealth of opportunities for residential development in the borough. Promoting sites through means such as Destination Chesterfield forums or Homes England events will help to generate interest and investment in residential development.	Short term, Ongoing.	Economic Growth Unit and Housing Delivery Manager.
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Reducing Barriers to Site Development

Action	Anticipated Benefit	Timescale	Responsibility
Develop a better understanding of barriers to development within the borough through liaison with developers and landowners.	<p>More frequent updates on larger development sites will ensure that the Council is able to identify any barriers to progression early on in the process.</p> <p>Being able to identify sites which are in danger of stalling will assist in prioritising efforts to support to housing developers and increase the likelihood of such developments coming forward.</p>	Medium term, Ongoing.	Housing Delivery Manager with support from Planning Policy.
Monitor funding streams and bid for infrastructure funding.	Bidding for infrastructure funding from sources such as the D2N2 LEP and HIF scheme may unlock additional expertise, support and capacity to drive forward the delivery of new homes.	Short term, Ongoing.	Economic Growth Team, Housing Team and Planning Policy Team.
Promote development through planning briefs and masterplanning.	The production of masterplans and development briefs would be helpful in guiding future development on large and complex brownfield sites. The production of briefs with preliminary constraints and design work will reduce the risks involved for site developers enhancing	Short term, Ongoing.	Planning Policy and Development Management with input from other teams within the Council.

	confidence amongst investors.		
Gather data on Housing Demand within Chesterfield and wider HMA	Expanding knowledge on the absorption rate both locally and in the wider Housing Market Area will permit a greater understanding of whether the demand side could be further stimulated to increase housing delivery.	Medium Term	Housing Delivery Manager with input from Planning Policy
Improving Planning Processes			
Actions	Anticipated Benefit	Timescale	Responsibility
Increase the efficiency of the Council's Monitoring Process through consultation with software providers. Officer training on how to use the Council's monitoring databases more effectively.	Accurate and timely data is key to understanding any delivery issues within the borough in detail. At present the Council's spatial and monitoring data is held across multiple systems which creates a lot of data redundancy. More frequent and comprehensive reporting would allow the Council to identify any stalled sites quickly.	Medium / Long term.	Planning Policy with input from Development Management and IT.
Refine the monitoring process to provide additional clarity on "stalled sites" and development lead in times.	The collection of more detailed information on the progression of committed developments will inform how long particular sites take to deliver completions and the likely build out rates. The analysis of lag times will also enable the Council to understand if there are any identifiable process issues.	Medium term, ongoing.	Planning Policy with input from Housing Delivery Manager.
Produce a Validation Checklist.	The Council has identified an issue around delays at the validation stage where the Council needs to request alternative or additional material. A validation checklist would ensure that the requirements for each application type are transparent and easy to find. At present some applications are being delayed as they pass through the validation process without all of the required documentation.	Short / Medium term.	Planning Policy with input from Development Management.

<p>Streamline the pre-application process to ensure that any issues are addressed early.</p>	<p>The Council's planning teams provide a free pre-application service. Incorporating pre-application requests within the Council's planning application system would permit the monitoring of response times and provide a link between pre-application advice and any subsequent applications. An efficient pre-application system will ensure that applicants are fully aware of any issues at the earliest stage.</p>	<p>Short / Medium term.</p>	<p>Planning Growth Team with input from Development Management.</p>
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APPENDIX B

'Planning for the Future' – Summary of Key Proposals

Pillar 1 – Planning for Development

- 1.1 The proposals place an emphasis on plan making rather than 'discretionary' decision taking. It retains Local Plans at the heart of the system, which should be visual and map based and supported by a new standard template (not available at this time). Plans should be significantly shorter in length and limited to no more than setting out site or area-specific parameters and opportunities.
- 1.2 Local authorities and the Planning Inspectorate will be required through legislation to meet a statutory timetable (of no more than 30 months in total, or 42 if you have a recently adopted plan) for key stages of the process, and there will be (currently unspecified) sanctions for those who fail to do so. New Plans should be in place by 2023. In reality, once the time for consultation and examination of the Plan is taken out, LPAs will only have 18 months to engage with communities and draw up the Plan. Plans will continue to be reviewed every five years.
- 1.3 The current system of 'Tests of Soundness' and Sustainability Appraisal would be replaced with a single 'Sustainable Development Test' (detailed of which are unspecified) and simplified and standardised evidence requirements.
- 1.4 The 'Duty to Co-operate', which currently guides interaction between LPAs on strategic cross boundary issues would be removed, but no indication is given of any mechanism to replace this or address strategic planning issues.

- 1.5 All land within an LPA area will need to be identified in one of three categories in the Plan:
- **Growth** – Land suitable for substantial development
 - **Renewal** - existing built areas where smaller scale development is appropriate
 - **Protected** – Areas where Stringent development controls will be in place to ensure sustainability
- 1.6 **Growth** areas will include sites for comprehensive development, including new settlements and urban extensions, and areas for regeneration such as urban or industrial regeneration sites. National legislation will set out a definition of ‘substantial development’ but no indication is given in the paper of where this threshold would be set.
- 1.7 These areas would effectively have outline approval for development granted upon adoption of the Plan. The Plan will be able to set out suitable uses within these zones and design codes, based on a national model (which has not been published at this time). Developments would be brought forwards by Reserved Matters submissions or Local Development Order. Applications for uses not allowed by the Plan would need to submit a planning application as normal.
- 1.8 **Renewal** areas will cover densification and infill of residential areas and town centres. There will be a presumption in favour of development in these zones for the uses specified in the Plan. There will be a new permission route (details of which are currently unavailable) giving automatic consent for pre-specified development types that meet design and other prior approval requirements and a faster planning application process for other types of development.

- 1.9 **Protected** zones will include Green Belt (the Paper does not set out any changes to the Green Belt regime), open countryside that is not zoned for 'Growth', national and local wildlife and landscape designations, areas at risk of flooding, and Conservation Areas. The Local Plan will set out what development is acceptable in these areas.
- 1.10 Local Plans will no longer contain detailed development control policies, which will instead be covered by a revised National Planning Policy Framework.
- 1.11 The range of planning applications considered by councils will be significantly reduced. Planning application time limits should be a deadline, with no extensions of time and proposals to refund fees or automatically grant consent if they are not determined in this time frame. This will be supported by an improved validation process.
- 1.12 The information required to support applications should be reduced to a single planning statement of no more than 50 pages, with more standardisation of supporting technical information (eg: flood risk, highways impact and heritage assessments).
- 1.13 Planning authorities will be encouraged to make more use of design codes, accompanying Local Plans.

Pillar 2 - Planning for Beautiful and Sustainable Places

- 1.14 The White Paper envisages a 'fast track for beauty'. The government will publish a National Model Design Code (which will also formalise the role of the Manual for Streets) and LPAs will be encouraged to develop Local Design Codes with input from the community. Schemes which comply with local design codes should have swift approval and masterplans and site-specific design codes

could be required by condition of permission in principle granted in Local Plans.

- 1.15 It will be possible to redevelop existing dwellings through permitted development (possibly involving some prior approval process). The Paper proposes pre-approval of “popular” and “replicable” designs (although no further detail is given on this, it is not clear for example who would prepare these designs).
- 1.16 Sustainable design for housing is largely left to the Future Homes standard, which is to be progressed through the Building Regulations. There is no reference to an equivalent for non-residential buildings.

Pillar 3 - Planning for Infrastructure and Connected Places

- 1.17 The Paper proposes removing Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 planning obligations and replacing them with a single, nationally set levy based on development value. This would only be paid by development over a nationally set threshold (CIL is currently liable on all development). There would be more flexibility than currently around funding.
- 1.18 Affordable housing would be paid for out of this levy rather than secured directly through development. A proportion of the levy would also be used to fund plan making.

Agenda Item

For Publication

Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Meeting: Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Date: 01 October 2020

Cabinet portfolio: Councillor Jill Mannion-Brunt

Report by: Principal Green Spaces Officer Strategic

1.0 Background

1.1 The Council's Local Plan has recently been developed and a refreshed Parks and Open Spaces Strategy is needed to inform this in order to resist inappropriate pressure to develop green open space and to maximise and direct investment in green spaces to support new development.

1.2 Thus, there is a pressing need to refresh the strategy to provide the context, vision and strategic direction for the provision, management and improvement of green spaces across the Borough

2.0 Why are open spaces important?

2.1 The quality of our parks and open spaces can make a significant contribution to the local quality of life, health and well-being for residents. They provide places to meet, exercise and play and places to learn about nature or just enjoy a pleasant environment. They are venues for affordable recreation and provide opportunities for young people to undertake creative play and 'hang out', away from more sensitive living space. A spacious green environment can also boost the image of an area, helping to attract new investors, visitors and residents alike, whilst key sites are often the focus of civic pride, for example Queen's Park.

2.2 Benefits of Parks and Open Spaces

2.3 Now more than ever we can look at greenspace with a deeper understanding of the wider determinants of health, of which both the built and the natural environment are fundamental pillars. Broadly, it is thought that greenspace is linked to health and wellbeing in a number of ways:

- improving access to greenspace promotes healthy behaviours, such as engaging in physical activity and other recreation, and connecting those spaces together can encourage active travel;
- greenspace also can improve social contacts and give people a sense of familiarity and belonging – cleaner, greener communities are places where people wish to live and work: they can promote social contact and connectivity, foster a sense of belonging, reduce isolation and loneliness and encourage a connection to nature;
- greenspace supports the development of skills and capabilities – particularly for young people, there is emerging evidence that spending time in greenspace is associated with a range of benefits including improved motor skills, better academic performance and increased concentration;
- nearby greenspace, and green features such as pocket parks, street trees, green walls and roof gardens, also mediate potential harms posed by the local environment – it can help to reduce exposure to air pollution, reduce the urban heat island effect, and mitigate excessive noise and reduce flood risk, all of which can impair both physical and mental health.

2.4 Inequalities and greenspace

2.4.1 Evidence shows that there continues to be disparities among groups in both the quality and quantity of greenspace, and differences in the way and frequency that certain groups use greenspace. We know that:

- the most economically deprived areas have less available good quality public greenspace;
- people exposed to poor quality environments are more likely to experience poorer health outcomes than people who enjoy good quality environments;

- unequal provision of good quality greenspace means those who are at greatest risk of poor physical and mental health may have the least opportunity to reap the health benefits of greenspace;
- all demographic groups benefit, but deprived groups appear to gain the most health benefit and socioeconomic inequalities in health are lower in greener communities – providing greener environments for deprived groups could help to reduce health inequalities;
- analysis of MENE survey data across multiple years found that infrequent users of greenspace tend to be – people who are female; older; in poor health; of lower socioeconomic status; with a physical disability; ethnic minorities; people living in deprived areas; those with less local access to greenspace; and people living further from the coast.

2.4.2 For all these reasons, improving access to quality greenspace has the potential to improve health outcomes for the whole population. However, this is particularly true for disadvantaged communities, who appear to accrue an even greater health benefit from living in a greener environment. This means that greenspace also can be an important tool in the ambition to increase healthy life expectancy and narrow the gap between the life chances of the richest and poorest in society.

2.5 Understanding the value of greenspace

2.5.1 An increasing body of evidence demonstrates a positive relationship between the provision of greenspace and both improvements to population welfare and reduced costs for local areas and health authorities, businesses and central government:

- Natural England has estimated that £2.1 billion per year could be saved in health costs if everyone in England had good access to greenspace, due to increased physical activity in those spaces;
- people meeting the weekly physical activity guidelines in a greenspace setting experienced improvements to quality of life that could be quantified at approximately £2 billion per year;
- for urban greenspace settings in England, a welfare gain (QALY) of £1.2 billion was found for those undertaking one or more ‘active’ visits (30 minutes, moderate intensity activity daily) – it is further estimated that in England there would be an annual savings of about £760 million in

avoidable medical costs if people had one or more 'active' visits per week to a greenspace;

- in a review of the benefits of London's greenspace, it was found that each year, greenspace save some £580 million by contributing to better physical health, and £370 million by contributing to better mental health – health benefits comprised approximately 20% of the total economic value of London's greenspace;
- in a Birmingham valuation it was found that the annual net benefit to society of their parks and greenspace was nearly £600 million, which includes £192 million in health benefits;
- a valuation of urban parks in Sheffield showed that, for every £1 spent on maintaining parks, there was a benefit of £34 in health costs saved, with residents being the primary beneficiaries;
- a study of walking on the Wales Coastal Path found that there was a protective benefit of £18.3 million per year, due to the prevention of premature death;
- estimates of individual benefits include £135 to £452 per person per year derived from having a view of greenspace from home, and £171 to £5 per person per year derived from access to a garden;
- in England and Wales, houses and flats within 100 metres of public greenspace are an average of £2,500 more expensive than they would be if they were more than 500 metres away – an average premium of 1.1% in 2016,
- Yet despite these promising figures, local government is facing huge challenges in funding the maintenance of their existing green infrastructure, let alone funding the creation of more. Reduced local government budgets are of course one reason investment in green infrastructure is under pressure. But it is also because greenspace has traditionally been viewed as a liability, with the social, economic, health and environmental contributions to society rarely being acknowledged. Local areas need first to recognise and understand the wide range of benefits people accrue from green infrastructure, and then be able to capture and demonstrate their value so that they are not overlooked or forgotten when difficult local finance decisions must be made.

2.6 What is the council's role?

2.6.1 Local authorities play a vital role in:

- providing new, good quality greenspace that is inclusive and equitable;
- improving, maintaining and protecting existing greenspace;
- increasing green infrastructure within public spaces;
- improving transport links, pathways and other means of access to greenspace and
- providing imaginative routes linking areas of greenspace for active travel.

2.7 Aims of the parks and open spaces strategy.

This strategy will become the key document guiding the Council's protection and investment into parks and open spaces.

By adopting this strategy, the Council will have:

- clear and transparent guidance and priorities for improving its parks and open spaces, to meet the needs of community attitudes and expectations in providing green space in the borough;
- evidence of local leadership on and commitment to parks and open spaces, to underpin bids for funding for their improvement;
- clear links to and co-ordination with the Councils Corporate Plan and the emerging Local Plan;
- evidence and policies to underpin the negotiation of 'planning gain' for open space provision in association with new development;
- a developed hierarchy of parks and green spaces, with a framework for prioritisation and resource allocation for management and improvement with the basis for the development of investment-backed annual action plans
- improved accessibility to Chesterfields parks and open spaces.

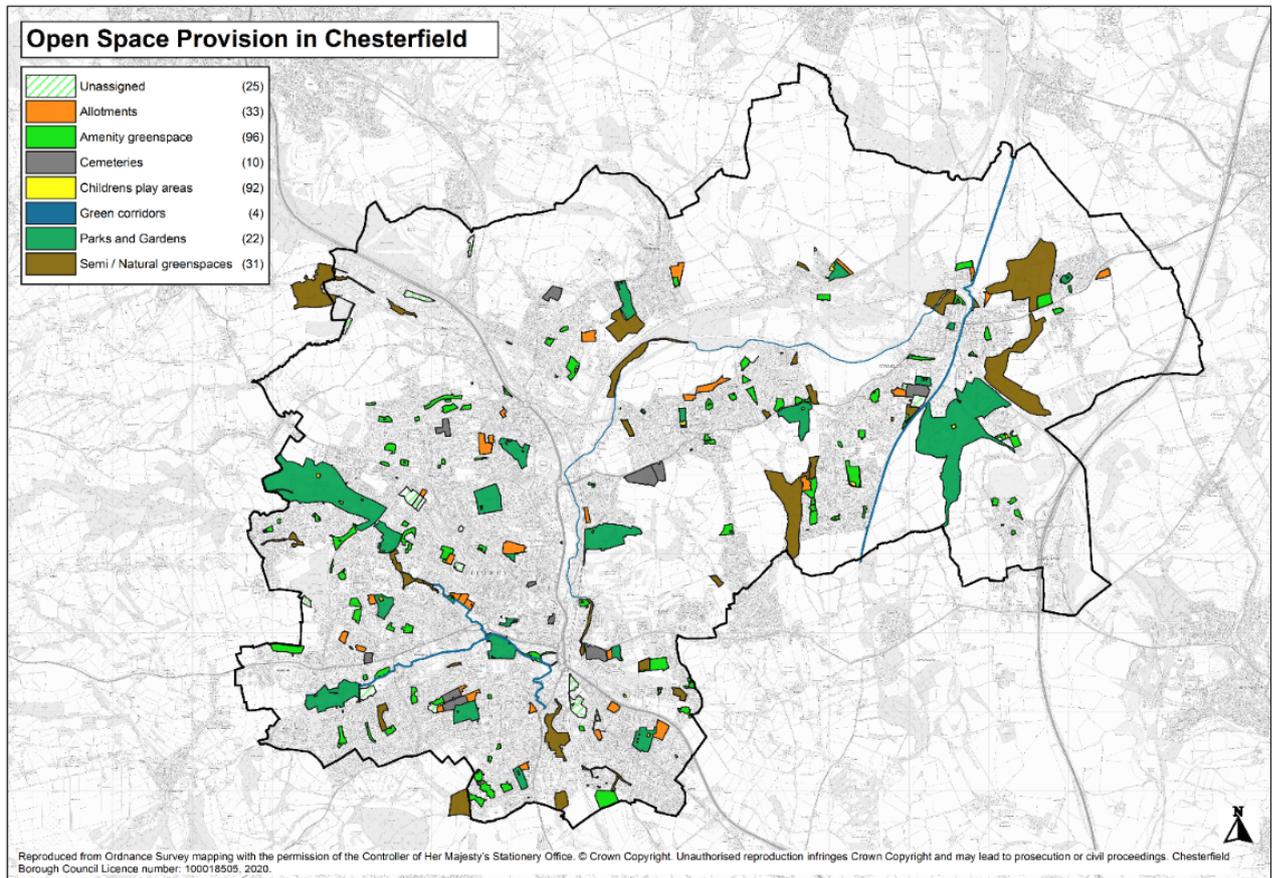
2.8 The strategy has been developed from an audit of open spaces of 0.2 ha or more in the PPG 17 Audit. The table below details the open space typologies included within the study.

Table 1: Open space typology definitions

Typology	Primary purpose
Parks and gardens	Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.
Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	Accessible sites with more of a focus on wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness. Human recreational activities are likely to be less intense (e.g. nature reserves, woodlands, plantations).
Amenity greenspace	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas.
Provision for children and young people (including teenage provision)	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction for children and young people, such as formal equipped play areas, MUGAs, skateboard areas and teenage shelters. It can also include informal areas of land surrounding formal play provision.
Allotments and Community Garden Schemes	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.
Cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds	Quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.
Green Corridors	Routes which provide for walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel. May also offer opportunities for wildlife mitigation.

Distribution of Parks and Open Spaces

The following map summarises the provision of open space across the borough.



2.9 What information and considerations underpin the strategy?

2.9.1 The gathering of data that has been carried out in the development of this parks and open spaces strategy is important in setting local standards for the type, location, quantity, quality and accessibility of green spaces, helping to identify gaps in provision and to define key priorities for investment.

2.10 National Context

2.10.1 At a national level the key policy and guidance documents that underpin this strategy and set out clear expectations for local authorities to take a strategic approach to green space are:

- The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP);

- The Biodiversity Strategy for England (BSE);
- The Localism Act, 2011;
- The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF);
- Making Space for Nature (MSN);
- Natural England's Green Infrastructure Guidance (GIG); and
- DEFRA's Green Infrastructure Partnership (GIP)
- Communities and Local Government Committee: Public Park – Seventh Report Session (2016 – 2017)
- Government Response to the Communities and Local Government Select Committee Report: The Future of Public Parks (2017)

2.11 Local Context

2.11.1 Open Space Assessment – October 2018

The Council commissioned an Open Space Assessment prepared by Knight Kavanagh and Page. The assessment provides detail with regard to what open space provision exists in the area, its condition, distribution and overall quality. This study was intended to assist in the Councils process of preparing a new Local Plan for the area and a Strategy for Parks and Open Spaces. As part of this, it has reviewed the evidence base which will help to inform better understanding of the community needs and priorities for investment. The recommendations and priorities take into consideration the findings of the assessment report as well as population distribution, health and deprivation levels and planned growth. The study also gives guidance on the consideration of potential disposal sites in areas found to have sufficient open space.

2.11.2 Chesterfield Local Plan 2018 - 2033

Sets out a strategy for development across the borough until 2033. It identifies which broad areas are suitable for development.

It also established a presumption against the loss of open space, play provision and sports facilities unless certain criteria are met. In broad terms it seeks to maintain and enhance existing provision in the Borough unless there is clear evidence of a surplus. This was formulated in the absence of an up to date evidence base on open space, outdoor sports and recreation. The Examination Inspector stated a need for further evidence to be prepared as a matter of urgency. As part of the Councils preparation for a new Local Plan it is concurrently reviewing its land holdings to help inform future decision-making policy.

2.11.3 Derbyshire Health and Well Being Strategy (2018-2023)

The vision of the Health and Wellbeing Board remains unchanged from that set out in the 2012-2015 Strategy:

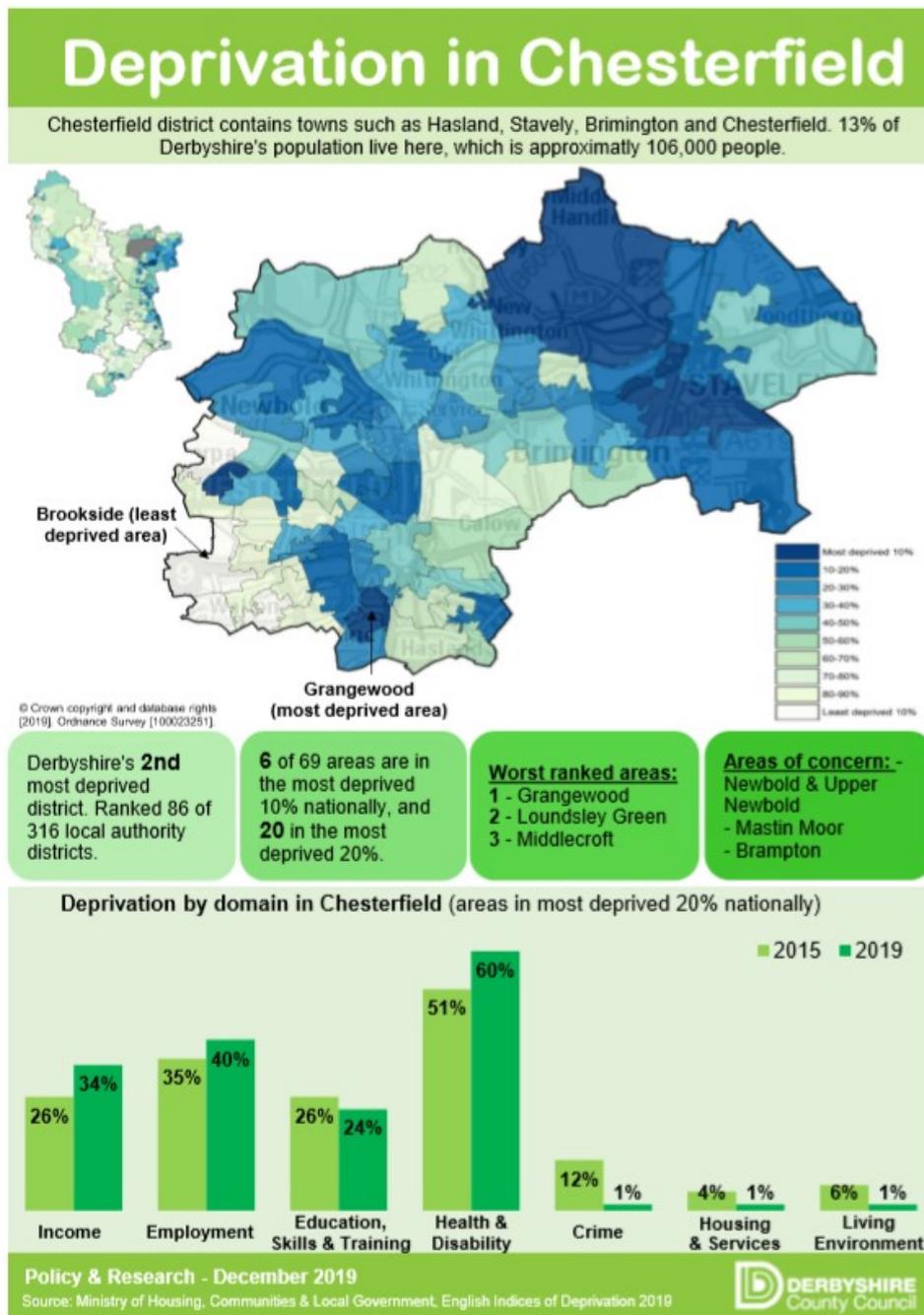
“To reduce health inequalities and improve health and wellbeing across all stages of life by working in partnership with our communities.”

The Strategy sets out the key priorities and how members will work together to improve the health and wellbeing of Derbyshire’s residents. It is focused on five priorities:

- Outcome 1: All people in Derbyshire are enabled to live healthy lives
- Outcome 2: Lower levels of air pollution in Derbyshire
- Outcome 3: All people in Derbyshire are enabled to have good mental health and wellbeing across the life course
- Outcome 4: All vulnerable populations are supported to live in well-planned and healthy homes
- Outcome 5: All people in Derbyshire have opportunities to access good quality employment and lifelong learning

Open spaces such as parks and gardens and play areas can provide an important role in helping to tackle many of these priorities and the indicators used to track them. It is widely acknowledged that open spaces can contribute to the quality of life for an individual and communities. Life expectancy, obesity levels and perceptions of residents’ trust in the areas they live are some of the indicators open spaces can influence.

Figure 1 Deprivation in Chesterfield 2019 IMD Indices



2.11.4 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

Draws together information in order to forecast the main health and wellbeing needs of Derbyshire people over the next 15 years. It provides a snapshot of the current health and wellbeing of residents. The JSNA supports re-design of services to ensure demand is met and health inequalities are identified in order to set a framework across services and

agencies. A series of reports are provided to help provide profiles to some of the key areas to be addressed.

2.11.5 Chesterfield Borough Council Plan 2019 - 2023

The Council Plan helps us to effectively invest and deploy our time, resources and energy to support key services and work with residents, partners and businesses to ensure that everyone in the borough can achieve their full potential.

The Council Plan includes our priorities for the next four years:

- Making Chesterfield a thriving borough
- Improving quality of life for local people
- Providing value for money services

These are the activities on which we will focus our efforts and want to see a real shift in over the four years. The four-year plan allows us time to plan ahead without trying to speculate about what our communities will need and expect in the distant future.

3.0 Our Methodology

3.1 Green Space Audits and Standards

3.2 There is localised recognition that there needs to be continued improvements to parks and open spaces in Chesterfield and many have been carried out to date. However, despite the enthusiasm to do so, these continued improvements cannot all be brought about at once and action needs to be organised, prioritised, resourced and adequately funded. The quality and value audits are discussed later but it is important to acknowledge the importance of these in determining policies on green spaces. With the help of open space audit scores and a quality/value matrix that categorises spaces and places, it will be easier to identify key priorities for action.

3.3 A comprehensive audit will therefore give:

- Clear policies for protection linked to prescribed and identified sites
- Give specific recommendations by area where there are opportunities to improve accessibility and quality of green spaces

- Clear understanding through custodianship of the areas to be retained and protected
- Criteria for sites that may lead to occasional disposal
- Determine what additional resources are required to build on existing good practice.

3.2 This section details the methodology undertaken as part of the Open Space Assessment used to inform the Parks and Open and Spaces Strategy. The key stages are:

- Analysis areas
- Auditing local provision
- Quality and value
- Quality and value thresholds
- Identifying local need
- Accessibility catchments

3.3 Analysis area and population

3.3.1 The whole of the Chesterfield Borough area is used for the purposes of mapping and initial audit analysis within this Assessment Report. The Strategy will split Chesterfield into 22 analysis areas in order to provide a more detailed level of analysis and to help inform future requirements and strategic recommendations.

3.3.2 The 22 analysis areas are intended to reflect the recognisable places of the different areas of Chesterfield. These relate to the 19 Wards across Chesterfield. They also reflect known barriers to movement such as major roads (e.g. A61, A619 and A617), railways (e.g. Midland Main Line) and waterways (e.g. Chesterfield Canal and River Doe Lea). Figure 2 shows the 22 analysis areas.

Figure 2 Analysis areas



3.3.3 Chesterfield is estimated to have a population of 104,440. This is used throughout the strategy to help calculate the current provision levels in hectares per 1,000 population. i.e. area of open space (in hectares) per 1000 people (head of population).

3.4 Auditing local provision

3.4.1 The assessments' focus is on those sites publicly accessible (i.e. generally private sites or land, which people cannot access, are not included). The exception is for allotments which are not open to the general public, but which are used by members of the community. Sites are initially identified using existing mapping data from previous and related studies.

3.4.2 In accordance with best practice recommendations, a size threshold of 0.2 hectares is applied to the inclusion of some typologies within the study. Sites of a smaller size, particularly for the typologies of amenity greenspace and natural and semi-natural greenspace tend to have a different role. Often this is for visual purposes (e.g. small incremental grassed areas such as highway verges) and is therefore considered as offering less recreational use in comparison to other forms of open space. Subsequently sites below 0.2 hectares for these typologies are not audited.

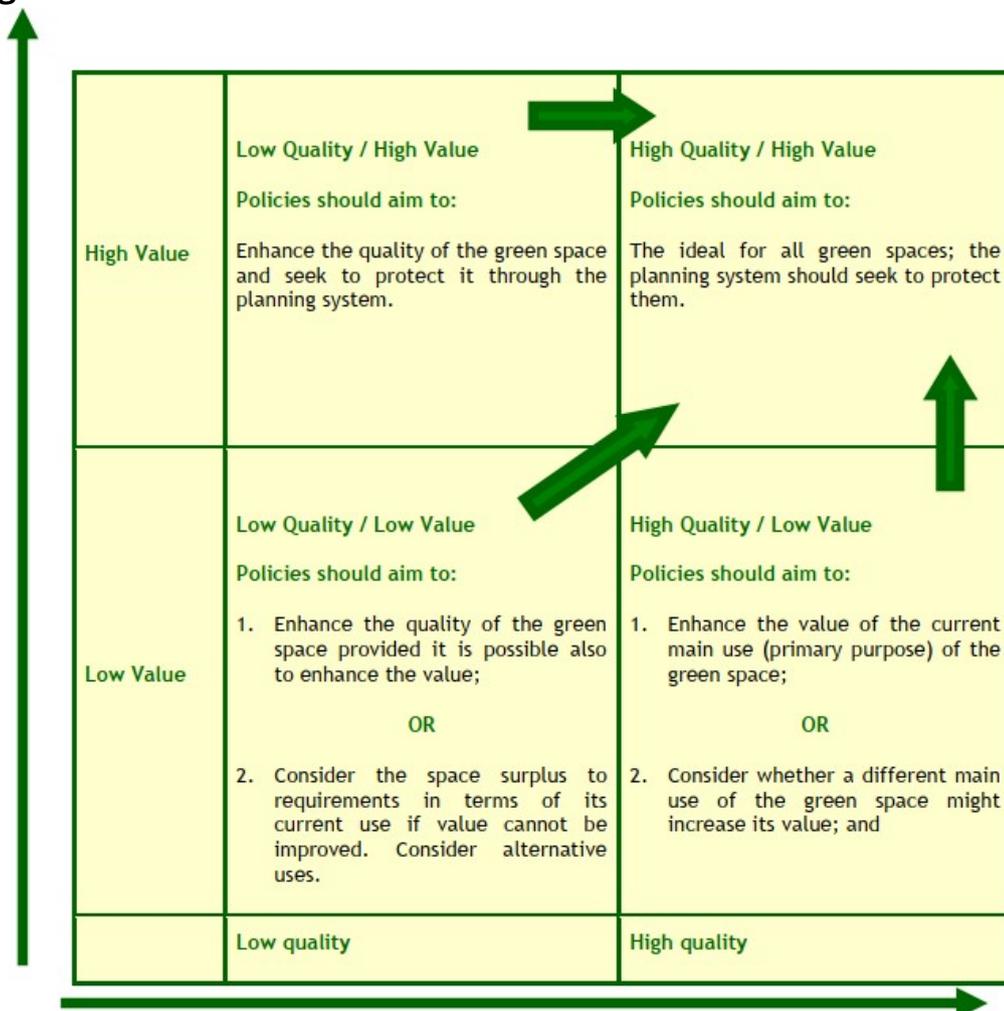
3.4.3 Each site is classified based on its primary open space purpose, so that each type of space is counted only once. However, the multi-functional

role and use of some types of open space is acknowledged. A total of 283 sites are identified and included within the study.

3.5 Quality and value

3.5.1 Each type of open space (included within the sample audit) receives separate quality and value scores. This also allows for application of a high and low quality/value matrix (Figure 3) to further help determine prioritisation of investment and to identify sites that may be surplus within and to a particular open space typology.

Figure 3



Quality and value are fundamentally different and can be unrelated. For example, a high-quality space may be inaccessible and, thus, be of little value; whereas a rundown (poor quality) space may be the only one in an area and thus be immensely valuable. As a result, quality and value are also treated separately in terms of scoring.

3.6 Analysis of quality

3.6.1 Data collated from site visits is initially based upon those derived from the Green Flag Award scheme (a national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales, operated by Keep Britain Tidy). This is utilised to calculate a quality score for each site visited. Scores in the database are presented as percentage figures. The quality criteria used for the open space assessments carried out for all open space typologies are summarised in the following table.

Quality criteria for open space site visit

- Physical access, e.g. public transport links, directional signposts,
- Personal security, e.g. site is overlooked, natural surveillance
- Access-social, e.g. appropriate minimum entrance widths
- Parking, e.g. availability, specific, disabled parking
- Information signage, e.g. presence of up to date site information, notice boards
- Equipment and facilities, e.g. adequacy and condition of provision such as seats, benches, bins, toilets
- Site problems, e.g. presence of vandalism, graffiti
- Healthy, safe and secure, e.g. fencing, gates, staff on site
- Maintenance and cleanliness, e.g. condition of general landscape & features
- Groups that the site meets the needs of, e.g. elderly, young people

3.7 Within the databases the criteria are weighted to reflect their level of importance to each different open space typology. For example, a greater presence and variety of ancillary facilities (e.g. seating, bins, paths, play equipment, landscaping, etc) and their management is expected at a park than in comparison to an amenity greenspace or other type of open space. This is intended to reflect the general role and use of each open space type.

3.8 Analysis of value

3.8.1 Site visit data plus desk-based research is calculated to provide value scores for each site identified. Value is defined in best practice guidance in relation to the following three issues:

- Context of the site i.e. its accessibility, scarcity value and historic value.

- Level and type of use.
- The wider benefits it generates for people, biodiversity and the wider environment.

3.8.2 In addition, the NPPF refers to attributes to value such as beauty and attractiveness of a site, its recreational value, historic and cultural value and its tranquillity and richness of wildlife. These elements are all considered as part of the value scoring.

The value criteria set for audit assessment is derived as:

Value criteria for open space site visits

- Level of use (observations only), e.g., evidence of different user types (e.g. dog walkers, joggers, children) throughout day, located near school and/or community facility
- Context of site in relation to other open spaces and proximity to housing
- Structural and landscape benefits, e.g., well located, high quality defining the identity/ area
- Ecological benefits, e.g., supports/promotes biodiversity and wildlife habitats
- Educational benefits, e.g., provides learning opportunities on nature/historic landscapes
- Social inclusion and health benefits, e.g., promotes civic pride, community ownership and a sense of belonging; helping to promote physical and mental well-being
- Cultural and heritage benefits, e.g., historic elements/links (e.g. listed building, statues) and high-profile symbols of local area
- Amenity benefits and a sense of place, e.g., attractive places that are safe and well maintained; helping to create specific neighbourhoods and landmarks
- Economic benefits, e.g., enhances property values, promotes economic activity and attracts people from near and far
-

3.9 Accessibility catchments

Accessibility catchments for different types of provision are a tool to identify communities currently not served by existing facilities. It is recognised that factors that underpin catchment areas vary from person to person, day to day and hour to hour. For the purposes of this process,

this problem is overcome by accepting the concept of ‘effective catchments’, defined as the distance that would be travelled by the majority of users.

3.9.1 Catchment areas are overlaid on the mapping of sites to help identify potential gaps in provision. In effect these are circular ‘as the crow flies’ areas (radial catchments). They do not simulate actual walking distances based on pedestrian routes or barriers to movement. However, significant barriers to movement are also mapped to help recognise instances where access to open space provision may be restricted. The use of radial catchment areas is a common and accepted method to identify potential gaps in provision (as set out in best practice such as FIT and Companion Guidance to PPG17).

3.9.10 Results of the community survey have been used to set initial accessibility catchments. These are presented in Table 2 and are applied to help inform potential deficiencies in each form of open space provision.

3.9.11 No catchments are set for the typologies of cemeteries. It is difficult to assess such typologies against catchment areas due to their nature and usage. For cemeteries, provision should be determined by demand for burial space.

Table 2: Accessibility catchments from respondents

Open space type		Accessibility catchment	Equivalent radial distance
Parks & Gardens		15-minute walk time	1,200m
		30-minute drive time to country parks	n/a
Natural & Semi-natural Greenspace		15-minute walk time	1,200m
		30-minute drive time	n/a
Amenity Greenspace		15-minute walk time	1,200m
Play areas & provision for young people	Children’s play	15-minute walk time	1,200m
	Youth provision	15-minute walk time	1,200m
Allotments		15-minute walk time	1,200m
		15-minute drive time	n/a

4.0 The Audit Results

4.1 Site Visit Overview

This section summarises and describes trends from the quality and value ratings for each typology. Within Chesterfield, there is a total of over 592 hectares of publicly accessible open space. The largest contributor to provision is natural and semi-natural greenspace (313 hectares). This is predominantly due to the two country parks (an equivalent to 130 hectares) being categorised within the typology.

Table 3: Overview of open space provision

Open space typology	Number of sites	Total amount (hectares)
Park and gardens	20	111
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	33	313
Amenity greenspace	95	93
Provision for children & young people	92	5
Allotments	33	40
Cemeteries/churchyards	10	30
Green corridors	4	n/a
TOTAL	287	592

4.2 Quality

The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for open spaces.

Table 4: Quality scores for assessed open space typologies

Typology	Threshold	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Park and gardens	55%	44%	61%	86%	4	16
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	40%	29%	51%	96%	11	22
Amenity greenspace	60%	33%	65%	87%	26	69

Provision for children & young people	60%	50%	67%	91%	23	69
Allotments	50%	36%	58%	73%	1	32
Cemeteries/churchyards	60%	56%	68%	87%	2	8
Green corridors	60%	61%	71%	84%	0	4
TOTAL					67	220

There is generally a good level of quality across all open space sites. This is reflected in over three quarters (77%) of sites scoring above their set threshold for quality. Proportionally parks, allotments, green corridors and cemeteries have a high proportion of sites to rate above the quality thresholds.

4.3 Value

The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for open spaces.

Table 5: Value scores for assessed open space typologies

Typology	Threshold	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Park and gardens	20%	39%	51%	90%	0	20
Natural & semi-natural greenspace		26%	41%	68%	0	33
Amenity greenspace		15%	32%	60%	6	89
Provision for children & young people		15%	63%	91%	11	81
Allotments		9%	28%	56%	1	32
Cemeteries/churchyards		32%	60%	81%	0	10
Green corridors		31%	49%	83%	0	4
TOTAL					18	269

Nearly all sites (94%) are assessed as being above the threshold for value, reflecting the role and importance of open space provision to local communities and environments. Provision for children and young people is the only typology to have any sites to rate below the value threshold. This reflects a general lack of quality equipment at such sites.

A high value site is considered to be one that is well used by the local community, well maintained (with a balance for conservation), provides a safe environment and has features of interest; for example, good quality play equipment and landscaping. Sites that provide for a cross section of users and have a multi-functional use are considered a higher value than those offering limited functions and viewed as unattractive.

Summary

- 287 sites are identified as publicly accessible open space provision. This is equivalent to over 592 hectares.
- Over three quarters (77%) of sites rate above the threshold set for quality.
- With the exception of 11 play sites and six amenity greenspaces, all open space is assessed as above the value threshold. This reflects the importance of provision and its role offering social, environmental and health benefits.

5.0 Setting, Developing and Applying Standards

- 5.1 Standards for the green space typologies (as classified in Section 1 of this report) consider surpluses and deficiencies in provision on the basis of quantitative, qualitative analysis and any consultation undertaken.
- 5.2 National recommended guidance has been used to inform the appropriate distance thresholds, which have been applied using GIS mapping to demonstrate potential surplus/deficiencies in provision. In order to set provision by standards it is important to consider any standards previously applied by the Council and through the planning framework.
- 5.3 The standard for green space previously applied reflected the National Playing Fields Association standard of 2.4 hectares per 1,000 population.
- 5.4 The location, accessibility and quality of green space is also important in ensuring that the areas are well used and appropriate to the needs of the Chesterfield community. Setting distance thresholds for each type of open space for all areas is not easy to achieve, as many factors will influence travel times. The figures are based on generic average travel times. However, the standards provided, provide guidance that help to identify gaps in provision and meet local needs as identified through detailed analysis and benchmarking.

- 5.5 In developing and applying standards of provision, it is important to be clear that:
- National standards of recommended provision have been used for comparative purposes (Fields in Trust Beyond the Six Acre Standard and Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard)
 - Existing standards of provision relate to the current level of provision of a specific typology;
 - Recommended standards of provision are based on local assessment and analysis but may be the same as a national recommended standard if appropriate, and specifically where current levels of provision do not meet a nationally recommended standard as a minimum. Equally, the future recommended standard may be the existing provision, if it is particularly high, and to lose it would significantly change the natural character of the area.
- 5.6 It is not appropriate to set local standards in the same way for each typology; this is because the majority of people access different types of provision in different ways, for example, walking to a park or children's play area, driving to an outdoor sports facility. In addition, the way in which people choose to access different types of provision may be influenced by locational factors, for example, a high-quality park may be within cycling or driving, but not walking distance.
- 5.7 With this in mind, we have developed a set of standards below for each typology. Attached at **Appendix A** are the accessibility catchment maps with the new standards applied.

Parks and Gardens

National Standard (Fields In Trust): 0.8 hectares per 1000 population which equates to 8m² per person.

Existing Provision:

- Chesterfield: 1.06 hectares per 1000 population which equates to 16m² per person

Proposed Quantity Standard: 1.06 hectares per 1000 population which equates to 16m² per person

Accessibility Standard

- Straight line walking distance threshold: 1200m or 15 – minute walk time
- Straight line driving distance threshold: Not applicable

Accessibility: All dwellings should be within the walking distance threshold of at least one park, garden, recreation ground or a sports pitch site providing opportunities for informal recreation.

Justification: All residents should have easy access to a park, garden or recreation ground. This means that accessibility is more important than quantity. Suitable designed and managed sports pitches can also fulfil some of the functions of parks and recreation grounds, but there will be a need for additional space over and above that required for the pitches and support accommodation alone. Where particular forms of green space can be multifunctional – and recreation grounds generally contain a mix of several recreation opportunities – this makes the most effective use of land. This is especially relevant within a dense urban where recreation grounds, sports fields are often multifunctional.

Deficiencies: Catchment mapping shows that areas of higher population density are covered by the walk time catchment applied. The drive time catchments applied to country parks also provides substantial coverage.

Section 106/ Community Infrastructure Levy Policy: The Council will seek contributions from all developments which will increase the use made of parks, such as residential and office developments as well as improving access to and quality of existing parks such as King George V Playing Fields.

Opportunities: Continue to upgrade the quality parks, gardens and recreation grounds to improve qualitative deficiencies. A reduction of existing parks and gardens would significantly change the natural character of the town.

Semi/Natural Greenspaces

National Standard (Fields In Trust): 1.8 hectares per 1000 population which equates to 18m² per person.

Existing Provision:

- **Chesterfield:** 3.0 hectares per 1000 population which equates to 30m² per person

Proposed Quantity Standard: 3.0 hectares per 1000 population which equates to 30m² per person

Accessibility Standard

- Straight line walking distance threshold - 1200m or 15 – minute walk time
- Straight line driving distance threshold – 30 minute drive time

Accessibility: Every dwelling should be within 1200m of at least one accessible natural green space.

Deficiencies: Most of the analysis areas are observed as initially having a deficiency in the quantity of natural and semi-natural greenspace. However, in most instances access is viewed as sufficient. In some instances, a site in a neighbouring analysis area is viewed to also serve other analysis areas. The creation of new sites to meet the quantitative shortfalls in natural provision is unrealistic in most instances. New strategic development sites will need to provide natural and seminatural greenspace. However, this will only be to serve the requirements of the population as a result of the development.

Section 106/ Community Infrastructure Levy Policy: Contributions will be sought from developers to provide new on-site natural green spaces and to seek contributions towards the enhancement of either existing natural green spaces and to increase the biodiversity of other existing green space typologies such as parks and gardens, sports pitches sites and local amenity green space.

Opportunities: The council will aim to maintain and improve the green infrastructure network in the borough on a landscape scale, by protecting, enhancing, creating, linking, and managing multifunctional greenspace within and around the urban area and settlements. This will ensure that everyone has access to high quality natural and semi-natural habitats, open space and sport and recreation facilities, whilst providing resilience to the impacts of climate change. If significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided, or through conditions or planning contributions adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for (including off-setting), then planning permission will be refused.

Amenity Greenspace

National Standard (Fields In Trust): 0.6 hectares per 1000 population which equates to 6m² per person.

Existing Provision:

- **Chesterfield:** N/A

Proposed Quantity Standard: 0.68 hectares per 1000 population which equates to 6.8m² per person

Accessibility Standard

- **Straight line walking distance threshold:** 1200m or 15 – minute walk time

Accessibility: Every dwelling should be within 1200m of at least one accessible natural green space.

Deficiencies: the proposed quantity standard suggests a standard of 0.68 hectares per 1,000 population. Overall, Chesterfield has 0.89 hectares per 1,000 population which exceeds this standard. Mapping demonstrates a good distribution of amenity greenspace across the area. No significant gaps in catchment mapping are identified.

Justification: Accessibility is more important than quantity because accessible, high quality green spaces meet local needs better than larger, more distant sites. Most forms of green space are multifunctional and therefore serve a number of purposes, the most important of which is to “soften” and enhance the appearance of an area & provide an attractive setting for buildings and for pathways and other transport routes. When assessing whether there is adequate amenity space in an area, it is important to consider the whole of the green network. Therefore, distance thresholds for amenity green spaces can be applied to other forms of green space where they serve an amenity function.

Section 106/ Community Infrastructure Levy Policy: The Council will seek contributions from residential developments for the enhancement of local amenity green space only if there are deficiencies in parks, gardens and recreation grounds, sports pitch provision, play areas and natural/semi-natural green space and to the agreed provision standards for those typologies if deemed appropriate.

Opportunities: Amenity greenspace should be recognised for its multi-purpose function, offering opportunities for a variety of leisure and recreational activities. It can often accommodate informal recreational activity such as casual play and dog walking. Many sites are likely to offer a dual function and are amenity resources for residents as well as being visually pleasing. These attributes add to the quality, accessibility and visibility of amenity greenspace. Combined with the presence of facilities (e.g. benches, landscaping and trees) this means that the better-quality sites are likely to be more respected and valued by the local community. Opportunities to increase natural features at sites should be explored.

Provision for Children and Young People

National Standard (Fields In Trust): 0.25 hectares per 1000 population which equates to 2.5m² per person.

- **Existing Provision:**

Chesterfield: 0.29 hectares per 1000 population which equates to 2.9m² per person

Proposed Quantity Standard: 0.29 hectares per 1000 population which equates to 2.9m² per person

Accessibility Standard

- **Straight line walking distance threshold:** 1200m or 15 – minute walk time

Accessibility: Every dwelling should be within 1200m of at least one accessible natural green space.

Deficiencies: In general, there is a good spread of provision across the area. All areas with a greater population density are within walking distance of a form of play provision. Gaps in the 15-minute walk time catchments are initially highlighted to a few areas of the Borough; most noticeably Barrow Hill and South of Unstone. There several gaps in provision catering for older age ranges. This is particularly noticeable to the eastern areas of the Borough. In addition, the identified barriers to movement are likely to further impact on access to provision in areas such as Brockwell, Ashgate and Loundsley Green and Woodthorpe.

Justification: All children should be able to use play areas. These spaces also meet a valuable social need for parents and carers. Accessibility is more important than quantity because many young children will not be able to walk far to a play area.

Young people tend to be a neglected group in terms of access to community infrastructure. Given the nature of youth culture and the difficulties of territorialism, it is important that young people should have a degree of choice, through access to more than one youth area within their neighbourhood.

Section 106/ Community Infrastructure Levy Policy: In the short term, developer contributions to be utilised in improving existing play areas and to ensure that youth provision is within the appropriate distance threshold.

Opportunities: the borough is well served by many play areas but there are opportunities to raise the quality and improve play spaces in key locations, in particular destination and community park sites where destination play facilities with youth provision should be developed further. A programme of play space improvement for the

Allotments

National Society for Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Standard (NASLG): 0.25 hectares per 1000 population which equates to 2.5m² per person.

Existing Provision:

- **Chesterfield:** 0.39 hectares per 1000 population which equates to 3.9m² per person

Proposed Quantity Standard: 0.39 hectares per 1000 population which equates to 3.9m² per person

Accessibility Standard

- Straight line walking distance threshold - 1200m or 15 - minute walk time

Accessibility: Every dwelling should be within 1200m of at least one accessible natural green space.

Justification: Most allotment sites in Chesterfield have a waiting list.

Deficiencies: Mapping demonstrates a good distribution of allotments provision across the area; most areas with a higher population density are being served by a catchment of an allotment. However, gaps in the 15-minute walk time catchments are initially highlighted to a few areas of the Borough including:

Barrow Hill, Duckmanton, Holme Hall and Holmebrook Valley Park

North of Dunston, Poolsbrook, South of Unstone

In addition, the identified barriers to movement are likely to further impact on access to provision in areas such as Mastin Moor and Walton and Brookside South.

Section 106/ Community Infrastructure Levy Policy: the council will seek developer contributions to be utilised in improving existing allotments across the borough.

Opportunities: improve access to allotments and community gardens. It is accepted that residents may have to drive to allotments, especially when carrying large items of equipment.

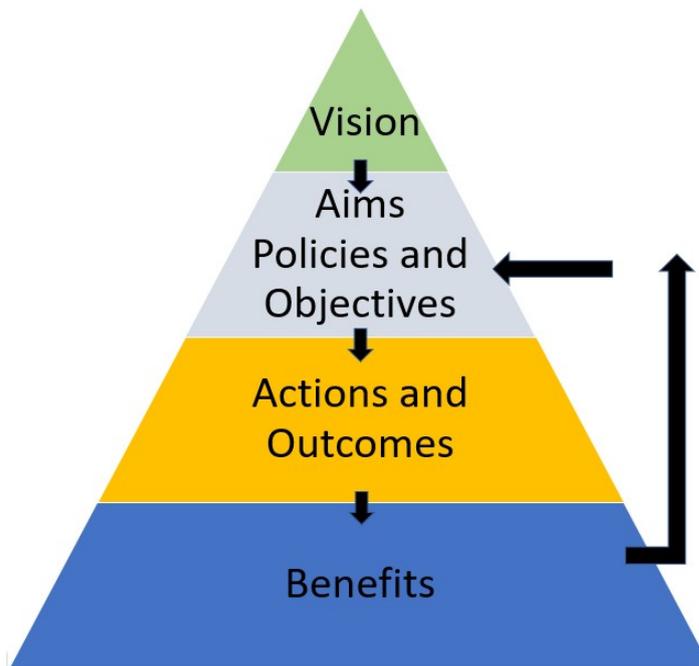
6.0 Moving Things Forward

- 6.1 The overall quality, accessibility and quantity of green space in Chesterfield is largely very good, well maintained and valued by our local communities.
- 6.2 The policies we have derived in this section for the Council and our partners to aim for, lead to a more detailed action plan that will assist the Council in this task. However, we need to be more specific as to what our priorities are and what specifically we need to concentrate on.
- 6.3 With the limited and often declining resources we have, as well as externally and from developers, we need to prioritise accordingly. We have therefore prioritised our “Strategic Parks and Open Space Network”, the sites which are most important to us, which need to be protected as well as continually enhanced through capital investment as well as enhanced management and maintenance where appropriate and realistic.
- 6.4 Many of these sites are already high quality through continued high standards of maintenance, but as prescribed, many require long term management plans and long-term investment to improve their long-term futures and development.
- 6.5 This will allow us and our partners to deliver our Park and Open Space Vision and aspirations.

6.6 Our Vision

“to provide, protect and enhance a variety of high quality, accessible open and green spaces throughout the borough, that are well designed and maintained, sustainable; support biodiversity, safe; and promote health, well-being and enjoyment, improving the quality of life for residents and visitors to the borough.”

- 6.7 Chesterfield will have a network of accessible, high quality and highly valued green spaces to be proud of, promoting sustainability, supporting biodiversity and extensively contributing to the economic, social and environmental aspirations of the borough.



This vision will guide and support Chesterfield Borough Council's actions on green spaces. This must be considered when designing and improving green spaces and management and maintenance regimes for them.

The vision has five key components:

- A strong network and infrastructure of green spaces will be protected through the planning system, enhanced and managed to provide multi-functional benefits;
- Green spaces will be socially inclusive, catering for a wide range of people, ages and backgrounds;
- Green spaces will be enhanced and managed to maximise their biodiversity value;
- Green spaces will make a substantial contribution to the visual amenity, identity, character and local distinctiveness of the town; and
- Green spaces will be managed and maintained in a flexible, creative and sustainable manner seeking to minimise energy and chemical inputs, increasing re-cycling and through use of local materials.

6.8 Delivering Change

- 6.9 The Council has been managing within existing resources in many areas but has also been improving open spaces and facilities proactively as a result of Section 106 Developer contributions and other external funding. However, in the current economic climate, these resources are likely to decline, and available funding will need to be delivered and allocated where it is really needed most.
- 6.10 This Green Spaces Strategy emphasises the need to continue to improve proactively. The Strategic Parks and Open Space Network as outlined below is the immediate priority for the Council with Developer Contributions/Community Infrastructure Levy and other funding to be targeted towards these sites. The open spaces audit has confirmed that there is generally sufficient open space provision across the borough and that the overall priority should be existing site enhancement, based on the strategic parks and open space network.
- 6.11 Delivering this change will be through delivering the Councils Corporate Policies which are summarised below and through a number of policy development areas and ultimately through a series of Action Plans detailed in Section 8, with short, medium and long term targets, working with strategic partners, local communities and key stakeholders. Not all may be achievable, but a vision has now been created and targets and opportunities identified.

Corporate Policies

- Making Chesterfield and thriving borough
- Improving quality of life for local people
- Providing value for money services

7.0 Policy Development Areas

- 7.1 The Council through its green space management, consultation and the recommendations of the Open Space Assessment undertaken by Knight Kavanagh and Page has identified a number of key issues for the future of green space provision in Chesterfield.
- 7.2 **Review Play Provision Stock** - There is a need to overhaul the play provision stock across Chesterfield. Accessibility of play is generally sufficient. In most instances any gaps in provision can be met by

improving and enhancing other existing forms of play sites. However, quality of play provision is highlighted from the open space audit and community survey as not being on a level with other open space types. In the community survey a greater proportion of respondents' rate quality as quite or very dissatisfactory in comparison to other typologies. It is recognised the overall condition of the play stock is a result of limited capital investment in play provision being able to accommodate the demands of refurbishing and improving equipment on a regular basis. In general, a handful of sites are improved per year through the help of local groups to access grants and funding opportunities.

The priorities from the analysis area summary highlight a number of sites which should be considered for enhancement. Often these are forms of provision in a strategic location and/or are recognised as serving an important role. Conversely, there are also several sites identified with the potential to be considered as surplus. This predominantly consist of sites of a low quality and play value. Their potential removal is seen as unlikely to impact on access and quantity of provision as in most instances they are within proximity to a larger and more expansive forms of play. As part of the review, consideration to providing more natural play opportunities with landscaping should be given. A slightly higher proportion of survey respondents cited preferring natural play opportunities as opposed to traditional play equipment.

Consolidation of play stock should help with maintenance checking and repair schedules; as low-quality sites will be removed. It is these sites that are likely to require more frequency of checking and repairs given their general condition. There will also be a reduction in total sites needing to be maintained.

- 7.3 **Protection of Parks and Open Spaces** - The Council wishes to protect and preserve public open space by ensuring that assets are not transferred out of the Council's ownership (with the exception of lease arrangements) except in exceptional circumstances and where alternative open space provision shall be made ensuring that where open space is lost through development alternative provision is gained to meet the standards set within the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy; ensuring that development proposals and local improvement works take all reasonable steps to avoid harm to the amenity, heritage, biodiversity or recreational value of existing open space.

7.3.1 **Ensure Quality and Access of Key and Multi-Functional Sites** - the priorities from the open space assessment highlights several sites that help or have the potential to serve gaps in provision. There are also a number of sites across Chesterfield with a multi-functional role which serve (to some extent) the wider borough. These are highlighted as strategically and locally important sites. The Council should seek to ensure the quality and access of these forms of provision. A priority for the Council should be to explore possible options to enhance the quality of these key sites given their important role across the borough and to individual analysis areas.

Key Multi-Functional Sites - The Strategic Park and Open Space Network

Destination parks are defined as those parks which attract large numbers of visitors from within and outside the Borough. They are of substantial size and/or historic importance and provide a wide range of attractions and facilities. Destination parks will also act as community parks for people living nearby.

Community parks are defined as those parks which serve more of a local need but which are of sufficient size to accommodate a reasonable range of attractions and facilities. There are 18 sites that are considered as Community parks or have the potential to be Community parks.

Natural/semi-natural green space are defined as sites that are primarily 'natural' in appearance, of significant size, listed in the DWT register of sites of importance for nature conservation and managed for wildlife but accessible for informal recreation.

Table 6: The Strategic Parks and Open Space Network

District Parks	
Holmebrook Valley Park	Pools Brook Country Park
Queen's Park and Annexe	
Community Parks	
Brearley Park	Eastwood Park
Hady Playing Field	Highfield Park
Loundsley Green	Rother Rec
Stand Road Park	Tapton Park
Inkerman Playing Fields	Ringwood Park

Whitecotes Playing Field	Badger Recreation Ground
Thistle Park	Inkersall Green Playing Fields
King George V Playing Fields	Langer Lane Recreation Ground
Manor Road Recreation Ground	Station Road Recreation Ground
Somersall Park	
Natural/Semi Natural Green Space	
Brearley Wetland LNR	Norbriggs Flash LNR
Blue Bank Pool LNR	Phipps Open Holes
Westwood	Troughbrook Wood
Cobnar Wood	Wheeldon Mill Plantation
McGregors Pond	Rother Wetland
Chesterfield Canal	

These are spaces that the Council will seek to upgrade and enhance to ensure they are High Quality/High Value.

- 7.4 **Standards for Open Space Provision** - the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy includes 'standards' for open space in Chesterfield including quality, quantity and accessibility in all settlements across most typologies. The Council will take all reasonable and practicable steps to achieve these standards across all settlements (existing and proposed new developments) and across all relevant typologies.

Increases in population will provide additional demand for the requirements of open space. New populations in many instances will warrant contributions towards open space. The quantity, quality and accessibility standards can help to inform decisions around these requirements and priorities for open space. The quantity standards can help to calculate the amount of provision required as part of a new development. Using the accessibility and quality standards can then help to identify any opportunities for potential offsite contributions. However, in some developments an onsite contribution will still be required.

- 7.5 **Dealing with Surpluses and Deficiencies in Parks and Open Space** - the Council will ensure that where surplus land exists (where typologies exceed the standards for local communities), modification to the land to address other typology shortfalls within the locality will be considered prior to consideration for disposal where practicable. The Council will seek to address deficiencies in open space (where typologies do not meet the standards for local communities) by identifying relevant funding

sources, seeking funding applications and consideration of gain through the planning system.

- 7.6 Adoption and Liability of New Open Spaces** - In seeking to address the shortfalls identified in the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy by creating new open spaces, the Council will reduce its financial liability by actively promoting the transfer to third party organisations e.g. management bodies. Where the Council does accept the asset transfer appropriate levels of revenue funding will be agreed in advance and the quality standards identified in the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy should be met, where possible, prior to transfer.
- 7.7 Open Space Changes** - In recognition of changing circumstances, the Council will continue to monitor and assess provision, need and demand to ensure an effective response by the Council and to upgrade existing open space to make better use of, or provide alternative uses, e.g. change in typology.
- 7.8 Consultation** - We will consult with residents, users and community groups, where reasonable, on proposals for development of or changes to open space, standards or policies to ensure community expectations are met in delivering and managing open space and in order to set good examples to other providers.
- 7.9 Partnership Working** - We will continue to work in partnership with the public, private and voluntary sectors including providing advice and support and acting as a critical friend in order to more effectively manage and enhance our open spaces across the Borough.
- 7.10 Management and Maintenance** - the Council recognises the importance of high-quality management and maintenance of open spaces and will seek to ensure that the quality standards identified in the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy are met. The Council will continually review how it manages its open space to ensure it provides a high-quality service that is sustainable and accessible. Specifications, procedures and protocols will be developed to supplement these policies in order to effectively manage open space.
- 7.11 Signage and Interpretation** - we will ensure that where there is an identified need appropriate marketing materials, signs and interpretation boards are in place for the Council's open spaces. Signage should be

sufficient for purpose and positioned to avoid impairing amenity and creating visual clutter.

- 7.12 **Marketing and Promotion** - to improve marketing of open space across the Borough including to fully exploit its value for education, health promotion, improved liveability of neighbourhoods and accessibility via public transport, cycling or walking.
- 7.13 **Investment in Parks and Open Spaces** - we will explore and co-ordinate all investment opportunities in our open spaces including Heritage Lottery Funding, Sport England, Landfill Tax Credits etc. We will continue, where appropriate, to seek funding through the planning process e.g. Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy, for open space provision in relation to new development.
- 7.14 **Community Cohesion** - we will work with our partners to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and improve social cohesion on open spaces.
- 7.15 **Quality Schemes** - to encourage and support schemes that promote quality and sustainability, such as Green Flag and Chesterfield in Bloom, to enhance the Council's Parks and Open Spaces.
- 7.16 **Biodiversity** - the Council has an overarching duty to consider the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and the natural environment in the exercise of all its functions. In the management, maintenance and development of open space biodiversity will be a priority. Most of the analysis areas are observed as initially having a deficiency in the quantity of natural and semi-natural greenspace. However, in most instances access is viewed as sufficient. In some instances, a site in a neighbouring analysis area is viewed to also serve other analysis areas. The creation of new sites to meet the quantitative shortfalls in natural provision is unrealistic in most instances. New strategic development sites will need to provide natural and seminatural greenspace. However, this will only be to serve the requirements of the population as a result of the development. Consequently, the Council should explore the opportunities for existing forms of open space to help meet the quantitative shortfalls.
- 7.17 **Community Engagement and Volunteering** - the Council recognises the many valuable benefits that volunteering can bring to the individual, to society and to Chesterfields open spaces. The Council will continue to encourage and support volunteering in its many forms including Friends

of Groups, tenants and residents' associations and the Chesterfield in Bloom committee. In committing to providing and extending the range of volunteering opportunities within the open spaces work programme, the Council has provided technical support and advice to community and voluntary groups that are working on projects which support the delivery of the open spaces' strategy.

- 7.18 Equality and Diversity - the Council is committed to promoting equality and diversity in the provision and management of open space including improvements to open space facilities. This commitment recognises not only our legal requirements under legislation, but also our drive to ensure we make all reasonable adjustments to ensure that our facilities are accessible to all sectors of the community.

8.0 Action Plan

- 8.1 This Action Plan will enable Chesterfield Borough Council and its partners through open space stewardship, to meet green space needs and provide a fair distribution of safe, accessible, clean, attractive green spaces, and achieve the strategic parks and open space network. They are based on the overarching policies, detailed above. Action Plans are however meant to be clear and concise and if possible, define outcomes and benefits, as well as being broadly achievable. There is an increased emphasis on partnership working. The Council is not able to deliver this without community support and stakeholder involvement. We have therefore developed an Action Plan that will need to be reviewed regularly. Chesterfield Borough Council as the principal landowner and custodian of much of the open space will be a key player but we have identified "key partners" who will have important roles to play. This includes local communities who have already indicated support for the green space we currently have. The development of any Action Plan may also be seen as over ambitious and restrictive, when taking into account existing issues such as budget pressures, staffing, skills requirement and changing national priorities.
- 8.2 With this in mind, the Action Plan will need an annual review as well as being flexible and with "stretched" targets, but with organisations who could be involved as well as strong leadership from the Council. As we have already stated, this Parks and Open Spaces Strategy is a document and delivery mechanism for many current service areas within the council (planning services, environmental services, legal and property services, buildings and projects) as well as a number of key stakeholders within the

borough. We propose to develop more detailed project plans for each defined action with more details highlighting requirements, funding issues, staffing resources, and timescales.

No.	Corporate Aim	Actions	Who	S, M, L Priority	Resource Requirement	Outcomes and Benefits
8.3	Improving quality of life for local people	The Council and partners will continue to enhance its green spaces based on an agreed investment strategy linked to the qualitative and value assessments, taking into account accessibility and local needs and further develop the parks and open space network.	JR GMc	S, M, L	Staff costs Grant funding S106/CIL Revenue costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced quality and value Improved access to green space Enhancement of local open spaces
8.4	Improving quality of life for local people	The Council and partners will continue to enhance green spaces for the benefit of local biodiversity and enhancement of its green infrastructure.	JR GMc	S, M, L	Staff costs Grant funding S106/CIL Revenue costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced quality and value Improved access to green space Enhancement of local open spaces
8.5	Improving quality of life for local people	The Council and partners will seek to tackle issues related to anti-social behaviour in green spaces.	JR GMc JM DI	S, M, L	Staff costs Revenue costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved safety in open spaces Local community empowerment Increased use of open spaces by local people
8.6	Providing value for money services	The Council will review maintenance regimes, looking at standards, levels of specification in relation to typology of space and need for development of management plans for Community Parks.	GMc CC	S, M	Staff costs Revenue costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved levels of maintenance Increased quality of most important open spaces Increased usage of open spaces

No.	Corporate Aim	Actions	Who	S, M, L Priority	Resource Requirement	Outcomes and Benefits
8.7	Improving quality of life for local people	The Council and partners will develop management plans for all existing destination and community and will involve local people, stakeholders as part of the process.	JR GMc SP	S, M	Staff costs Grounds maintenance implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved levels of management and maintenance • Local community empowerment; • Higher level of protection and continued enhancement.
8.8	Improving quality of life for local people	The Council and partners will apply the principles of Green Flag for all destination and community parks and open spaces and apply for Green Flag for the spaces listed:	JR GMc SP	S, M, L	Application costs Staff costs Changes to grounds maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased quality of the most important open spaces • Local community empowerment • Increased usage of open spaces • Raised profile locally and nationally of open space within Chesterfield • Enhancement of open spaces with increased quality • Higher level of protection and

No.	Corporate Aim	Actions	Who	S, M, L Priority	Resource Requirement	Outcomes and Benefits
						continued enhancement.
8.9	Making Chesterfield a thriving borough	The Council and partners will encourage more positive use and more activity in parks and open space by encouraging local people to use them through programmes of events and activities.	Jr GMc SP	S, M, L	Staff costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased usage of open spaces • Local community empowerment • Raised profile locally and nationally of open space within Chesterfield
8.10	Improving quality of life for local people	The Council with partners will seek to develop and update sustainable management plans for all strategic natural and semi-natural green space sites, seeking to enhance their biodiversity value in terms of site size, links, habitats and management.	GMc JR	M, L	Staff Costs; Grant funding Changes to grounds maintenance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved levels of management and maintenance • Local community empowerment • Higher level of protection and continued enhancement • Increased local biodiversity.
8.11	Improving quality of life for local people	The Council with its partners will develop a policy and strategy for trees in parks and streets as well as woodlands, linked to programmed management and mapping of trees in the borough	GMc	S, M, L	Staff Costs; Software costs and Management Survey costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved levels of management and maintenance • Efficient use of data and ability to

		mapped on an approved GIS / Tree management software.				prioritise works more effectively
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No.	Corporate Aim	Actions	Who	S, M, L Priority	Resource Requirement	Outcomes and Benefits
8.12	Improving quality of life for local people	The Council and partners will support the integration of natural and semi-natural green spaces into other forms of green space wherever possible.	GMc JR Plan	M, L	Revenue implications on grounds maintenance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased biodiversity • Improved access to natural green space • Enhancement of local open spaces.
8.13	Improving quality of life for local people	The Council and local communities will continue to manage and maintain closed churchyards and cemeteries under its ownership /management for the benefit of local people and wildlife.	CC DC GMc	S, M, L	Existing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased biodiversity • Improved access to natural green space • Enhancement of local open spaces.
8.14	Providing value for money services Improving quality of life for local people	The Council will establish an annual capital programme for improvements to its destination and community parks as well as major seminatural green space sites, to include play facilities, reviewed on a five-yearly basis, based on the parks and open spaces strategic network.	JR GMc	S, M, L	Capital costs; S106 / CIL; Grant funding Revenue implications on grounds maintenance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased quality of the most important open spaces • Local community empowerment • Increased usage of open spaces • Raised profile locally and nationally of open space in Chesterfield • Enhancement of open spaces with increased quality • Higher level of protection and

						continued enhancement.
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No.	Corporate Aim	Actions	Who	S, M, L Priority	Resource Requirement	Outcomes and Benefits
8.15	Making Chesterfield a thriving borough	<p>The Council with partners, will maximise every opportunity in relation to grant funding to include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage Lottery Fund • Landfill Tax Credit Scheme • BIG • Sport England • Groundwork UK 	JR	S, M, L	Staff costs; match funding required Revenue implications on grounds maintenance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased quality of the most important open spaces • Local community empowerment • Increased usage of open spaces • Raised profile locally and nationally of open space within Chesterfield • Enhancement of open spaces with increased quality • Higher level of protection and continued enhancement.
8.16	Making Chesterfield a thriving borough	The Council will seek developer contributions (S106/CIL) based on information available from the 'Open Space Assessment audit, provision and quality standards for off-site contributions for all types of green space	JR Plan	S, M, L		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancement of open spaces, with increased quality • Higher level of protection and continued enhancement.

						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased quality of the most important open spaces
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No.	Corporate Aim	Actions	Who	S, M, L Priority	Resource Requirement	Outcomes and Benefits
8.17	Improving quality of life for local people	The Council and other green space stakeholders will continue to develop the Friend of network develop a 'Community Involvement Action Plan' to engage and involve local communities through development of Friend's Groups in particular.	JR GMc SP	S, M	Staff costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local community empowerment; Increased usage of open spaces Enhancement of open spaces, with increased quality
8.18	Improving quality of life for local people	The Council will develop, in partnership a system to develop volunteering opportunities on council managed green space.	JR GMc SP	S, M	Staff costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local community empowerment Increased usage of open spaces Enhancement of open spaces, with increased quality;
8.19	Improving quality of life for local people	The Council will work with health partners to investigate, assess and promote new ways of using green spaces to improve health and wellbeing. This will include investigating any possible funding opportunities.	JR SP WB TH	S, M	Staff costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local community empowerment Enhancement of open spaces, with increased quality Health benefits to local people and visitors
8.20	Improving quality of life for local people	The Council will develop publicity material to publicise both strategic green space sites to all sectors of the community who need	JR SP Comms	S	Printing/Digital design costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local community empowerment;

		improved access to information on their local green spaces.				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased usage of open spaces • Raised profile locally and nationally of open space within Chesterfield
No.	Corporate Aim	Actions	Who	S, M, L Priority	Resource Requirement	Outcomes and Benefits
8.21	Improving quality of life for local people	The Council will consult and involve local communities on green space issues and developments to include the following in line with the Council's Strategy for Community Engagement and Consultation. These will include: Children, Older People, People with Disabilities, Carers, People with Learning Difficulties, Black and Minority Ethnic groups Other excluded groups	JR SP Comms	S, M, L	Staff costs	Local community empowerment; Enhancement of open spaces, with increased quality Health benefits to local people and visitors Raised profile locally and nationally of open space within Chesterfield
8.22	Making Chesterfield a thriving borough	The Council will make "access for all" an integral part of all policy, strategy and activity in the planning development and management of Chesterfields green spaces.	JR GMc Plan	S, M, L	Capital and Revenue Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local community empowerment • Enhancement of open spaces, with increased quality • Health benefits to local people and visitors • Increased usage of open spaces • Increased access to natural green space.

8.23	Improving quality of life for local people	The Council with partners will improve the network of green corridors within Chesterfield based on Green Infrastructure principles and continue to improve the links and access to other green spaces in developing the strategic network through working in partnership.	JR GMC Plan	M, L	Capital and revenue implications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health benefits to local people and visitors • Increased usage of open spaces • Increased access to natural green space.
No.	Corporate Aim	Actions	Who	S, M, L Priority	Resource Requirement	Outcomes and Benefits
8.24	Improving quality of life for local people	The Council will seek to ensure that all destination and community parks will have at least a destination play facility and, if appropriate, a youth facility, all retained as high quality and of high value to the local community.	JR	S, M, L	Capital and revenue implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health benefits to local people and visitors • Local community empowerment • Enhancement of open spaces, with increased quality • Increased usage of open spaces.
8.25	Improving quality of life for local people	The Council, with key partners will improve its network of play areas and play spaces in developing a more strategic overview of sites, with less emphasis on smaller equipped Local Areas of Play (LAP) and a greater focus on neighbourhood facilities offering greater play value.	JR	S, M, L	Capital revenue implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health benefits to local people and visitors • Local community empowerment • Enhancement of open spaces, with increased quality; • Increased usage of open spaces
8.26	Providing value for money services	The Council will continue to measure and report customer satisfaction levels in parks and open spaces.	GMC SP	S, M, L	Staff costs Consultation costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raised profile locally and nationally of open

						space within Chesterfield
8.27	Providing value for money services	The Council will identify further partnerships to assist in delivery of parks management, maintenance and development including frameworks for landscape contractors, play providers and landscape / green space consultants.	GMc SP	S, M, L	Staff costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value for money • Enhancement of open spaces, with increased quality • Local community empowerment

No.	Corporate Aim	Actions	Who	S, M, L Priority	Resource Requirement	Outcomes and Benefits
8.28	Improving quality of life for local people	The Council will work in partnership with allotment tenants to promote allotment gardening across Chesterfield as outlined in the Action Plans in the 20XX – 20XX Allotment Strategy.	JR	S, M, L		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health benefits to local people • Local community empowerment; • Increased participation in allotment gardening.
8.29	Improving quality of life for local people	The Council will continue its promotion of parks and open spaces through signage improvement programme, noticeboards, leaflets, waymarked walks and interpretation boards. Update existing website for parks and open spaces.	JR GMc SP	S, M	Capital and revenue Implications Staff costs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased usage of open space
8.30	Improving quality of life for local people	The Council will work in partnership with the Don Valley Rivers Catchment Trust to support the promotion and development of a river stewardship scheme.	GMc CC	S, M, L	Staff costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health benefits to local people and visitors • Local community empowerment • Enhancement of open spaces, with increased quality;

						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased usage of open spaces
8.31	Providing value for money services	The Council will continue to develop a consistent and agreed policy on fees and charges for events and commercial ventures in parks and open spaces	SP GMc	S	Staff costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value for money

No.	Corporate Aim	Actions	Who	S, M, L Priority	Resource Requirement	Outcomes and Benefits
8.32	Improving quality of life for local people	The Council will update and amend all parks and open spaces byelaws to ensure they are suitable for current and existing park usage	GMc SP	M	Staff cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved safety in open spaces • Local community empowerment • Increased use of open spaces by local people

No.	Corporate Aim	Actions	Who	S, M, L Priority	Resource Requirement	Outcomes and Benefits
8.33	Making Chesterfield a thriving borough	The Council will continue to seek developer contributions through Section 106 / CIL agreements to improve green spaces within Chesterfield	Plan JR	S, M	Staff costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancement of open spaces, with increased quality • Higher level of protection and continued enhancement • Increased quality of the most important open spaces
8.34	Making Chesterfield a thriving borough	The Council will continue to seek developer contributions through Section 106/CIL agreements to improve play facilities.	Plan JR	S, M, L	Staff costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancement of open spaces, with increased quality • Higher level of protection and continued enhancement • Increased quality of the most important open spaces

8.35	Making Chesterfield a thriving borough	The Council will review those spaces classed as being of genuinely low quality and low value in the light of wider planning policies, but taking account of accessibility, quality and value of alternative provision in the area and the resources available to the Council	JR Plan Estates	S, M	Staff costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher level of protection and continued enhancement. • Identification of potential savings and efficiencies in relation to existing management and maintenance.
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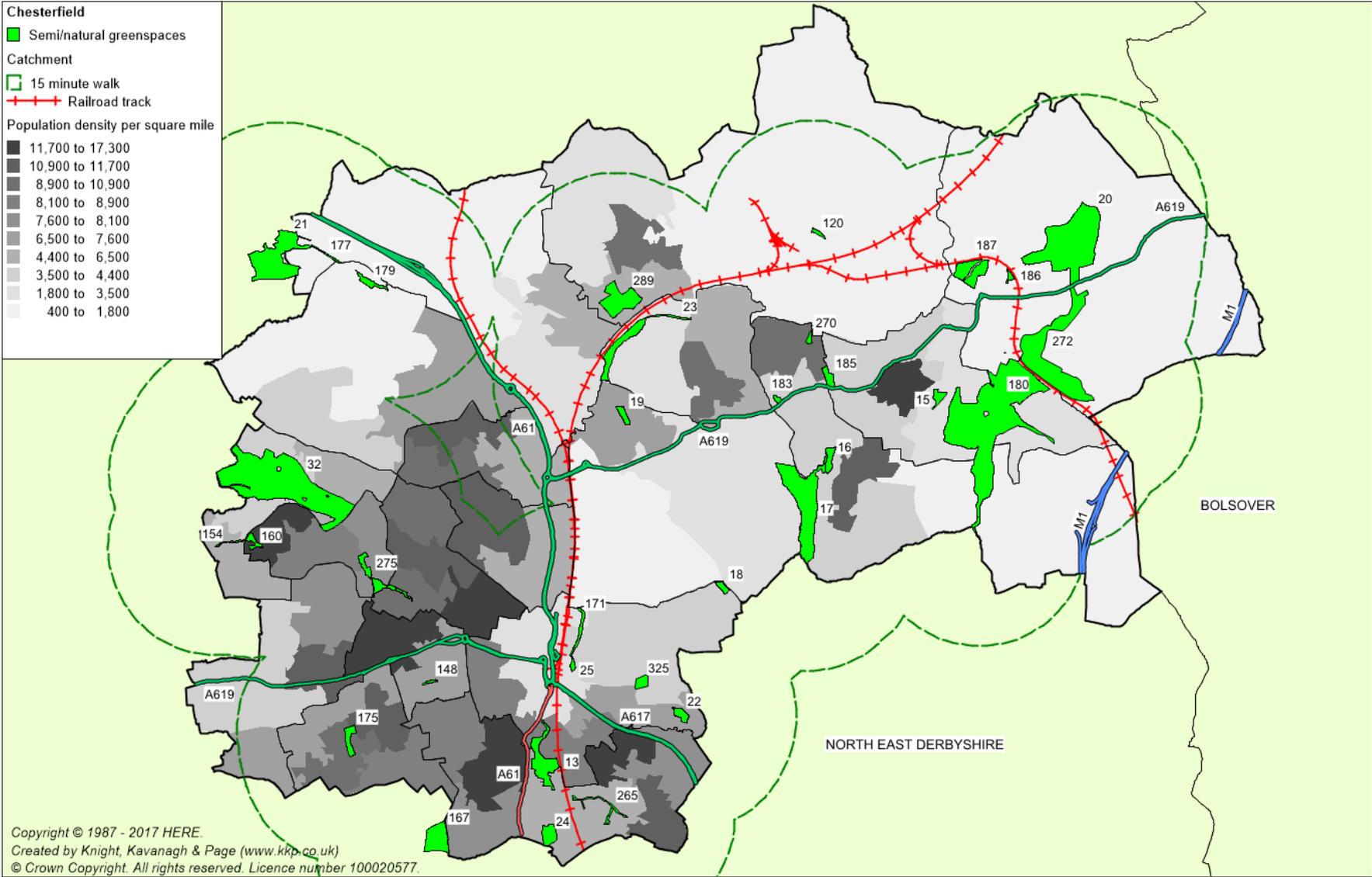
No.	Corporate Aim	Actions	Who	S, M, L Priority	Resource Requirement	Outcomes and Benefits
8.36	Improving quality of life for local people	The Council will adopt more sustainable planting and maintenance practices, to inc minimising inputs of non-renewable resources, pesticides and herbicides and to develop a programme for controlling invasive species	GMc	S, M	Revenue implications on grounds maintenance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased biodiversity • Enhancement of local open spaces. • Help to meet the Councils Climate Change targets
8.37	Making Chesterfield a thriving borough	The Council will adopt a reinvestment mechanism for capital receipts from recreational land disposals	Estates JR	S	Staff costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancement of open spaces, with increased quality • Higher level of protection and continued enhancement • Increased quality of the most important open spaces

8.38	Providing value for money services	Support sport clubs to move to the self-management of facilities	GMc	S, M		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local community empowerment Increased use of open spaces by local people
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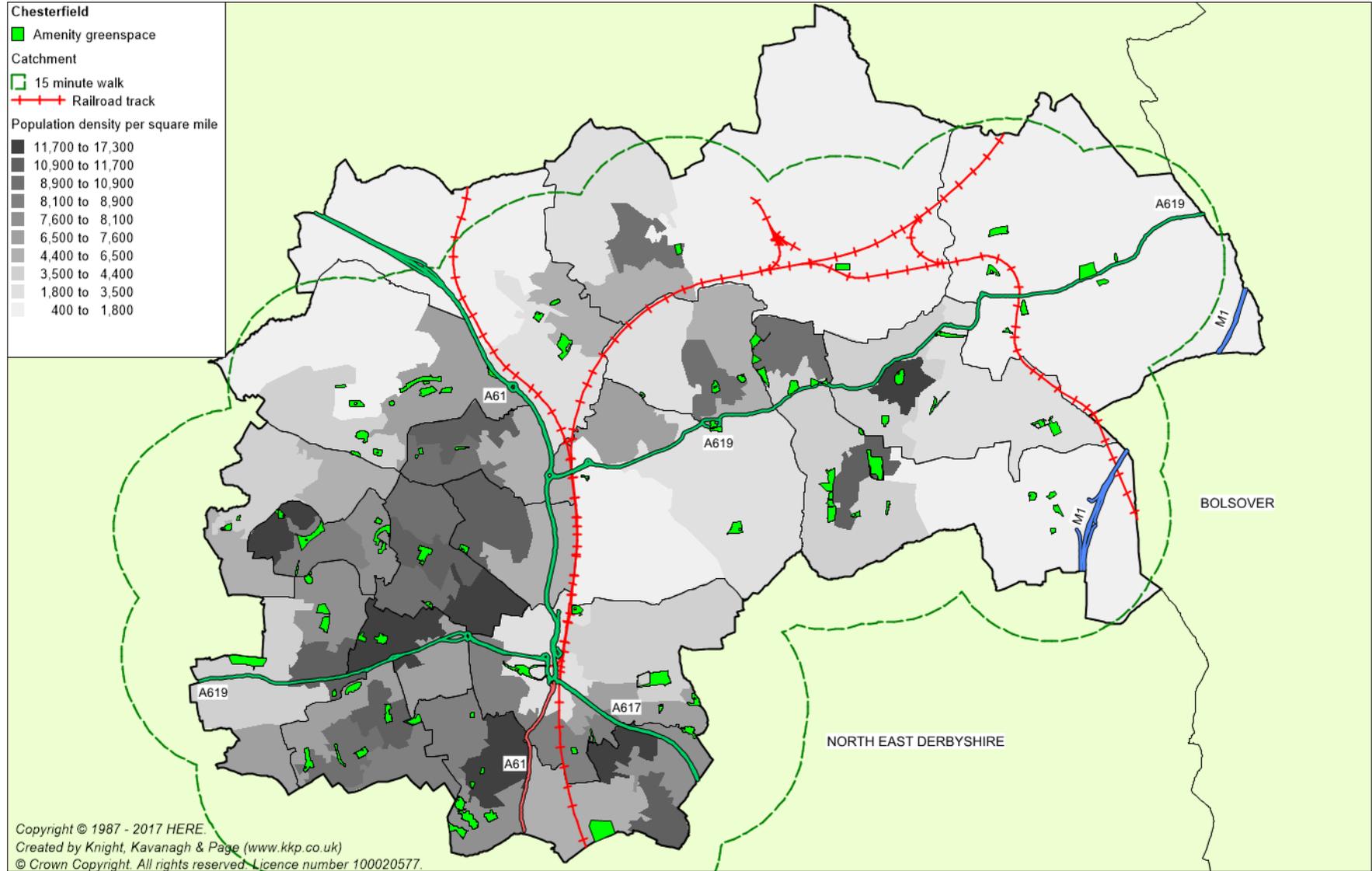
No.	Corporate Aim	Actions	Who	S, M, L Priority	Resource Requirement	Outcomes and Benefits
8.39	Improving quality of life for local people	To work with partners and volunteers to develop a Tree Council Tree Warden Scheme	GMc	S, M, L	Staff costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher level of protection and continued enhancement Local community empowerment Increased use of open spaces by local people Access to grants for funding for trees, orchards and hedgerows
8.40	Improving quality of life for local people	To capture baseline tree cover data across the borough to make tree management decisions on the basis of the best available information and to	GMc	S, M, L	Staff costs Consultancy costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased biodiversity Enhancement of local open spaces.

		ensure that resources are focused to maximise the benefits trees can provide, and that they can be targeted to areas where they are most needed.				<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Help to meet the Councils Climate Change targets• Local community empowerment
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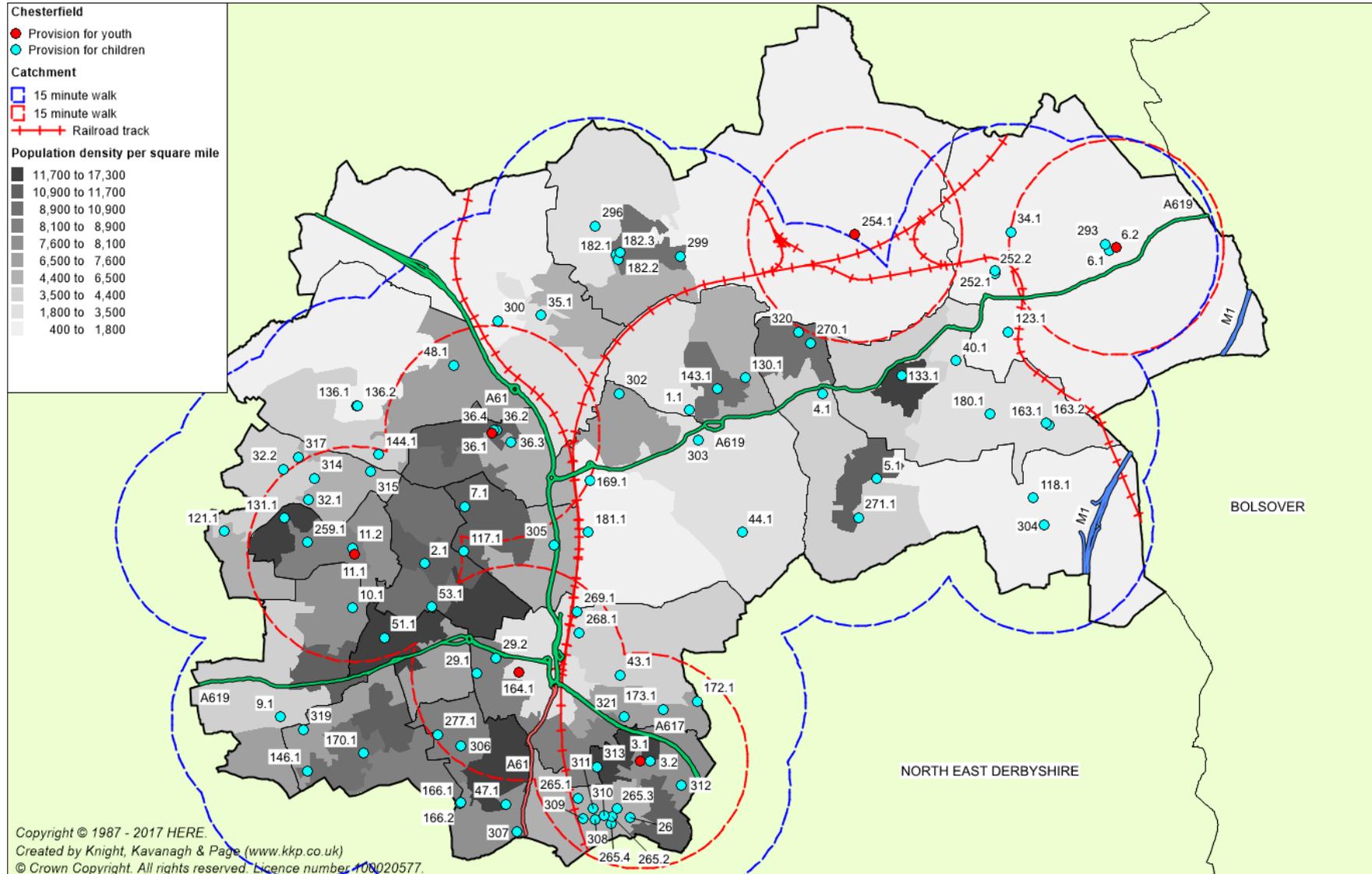
Natural and semi-natural greenspace mapped against 15-minute walk time



Amenity greenspace mapped against 15-minute catchment



Provision for children and young people mapped against catchments



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SCRUTINY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS - IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING SCHEDULE

Ref No	Item (Scrutiny Issue or Topic. SPG = Scrutiny Project Group work)	Decision Dates (Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet, Council & its Committees)	Scrutiny Committee Recommendations and/or <i>Decision making body resolution</i> (<i>italics = Agreed by Scrutiny Committee but not yet considered by decision making body</i>) *	Completion Date for Actions	Action / Response Completed	Further Action Required by Scrutiny (6 monthly progress reports)
CCO1 Page 75	Statutory Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Ctte	CCO 29.09.11 (Min. No. 44)	Progress report on sharing information re alcohol related health problems and hospital admissions.	6 monthly wef 29/09/11.	Statistics requested for each 6 monthly meeting	Agreed on 08.01.15 that statistics on alcohol related health problems / hospital admissions be reported to each 6 monthly meeting.

Ref No	Item (Scrutiny Issue or Topic. SPG = Scrutiny Project Group work)	Decision Dates (Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet, Council & its Committees)	Scrutiny Committee Recommendations and/or <i>Decision making body resolution</i> (italics = Agreed by Scrutiny Committee but not yet considered by decision making body) *	Completion Date for Actions	Action / Response Completed	Further Action Required by Scrutiny (6 monthly progress reports)
CCO4	Implementation of Universal Credit	CCO 22.05.18 (Min. No. 6) Cabinet Member for Homes & Customers 16.07.18	Re. provision of computer terminal(s) and support for Universal Credit claimants in Staveley area. Cabinet Member's response noted by CCO – 17.07.18 (Min. No. 14) – computer terminals and support available at several locations within Staveley area – provision to be monitored.	6 monthly progress reports	Cabinet Member's response noted by CCO – 17.07.18. Report considered by CCO – 27.11.18. 6 monthly progress reports considered by CCO – 26.03.19 and 30.01.20.	Monitor as part of ongoing review of implementation of Universal Credit.
CCO5	Community Rooms	CCO 26.09.19 (Min. No. 17) Cabinet 22.10.19 (Min. No. 54)	Community Rooms SPG report approved by CCO 26.09.19. Cabinet Response: 1. That the Cabinet Member for Housing initiates conversations with the Chesterfield Care Group regarding the hiring of community rooms. 2. That the Cabinet: a. Supports the refurbishment and retention of Bonsall Court as a community room. b. Notes and endorses the	March 2020		November 2020

Ref No	Item (Scrutiny Issue or Topic. SPG = Scrutiny Project Group work)	Decision Dates (Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet, Council & its Committees)	Scrutiny Committee Recommendations and/or <i>Decision making body resolution</i> (<i>italics = Agreed by Scrutiny Committee but not yet considered by decision making body</i>) *	Completion Date for Actions	Action / Response Completed	Further Action Required by Scrutiny (6 monthly progress reports)
Page 77			<p>arrangements to lease Burns Close to the Umbrellas Cosy Group on a five year lease.</p> <p>c. Agree that alternative uses be explored for Monkwood Road in line with the Council's health and wellbeing priorities.</p> <p>3. That the website be updated and amended to include a central location for finding room hire information for all venues across the Council including the community rooms.</p> <p>4. That a dedicated phone line for community room enquiries be established within the Careline and Support Service with a voicemail facility.</p> <p>5. That the call centre staff be provided with up to date information on the hire of community rooms.</p> <p>6. That the promotion of community</p>			

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Page 78			<p>rooms on the Council's website be improved, making the rooms more obvious to potential hirers.</p> <p>7. That a new leaflet be produced that includes details of all the community rooms.</p> <p>8. That a promotional drive take place to coincide with the completion of the work to the sheltered schemes.</p> <p>9. That a booklet be produced that incorporates terms and conditions for the community rooms along with how to use the facilities in the rooms.</p> <p>10. That the door entry systems that have been installed at Wimborne Crescent and Winster Court be kept under review to understand if this is the most effective way for hirers to gain access.</p>			

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EW6 Page 79	Skills	EW 05.02.19 (Min. No 48) Cabinet 26.02.19 (Min. No 110)	Skills SPG report approved by Enterprise and Wellbeing 05.02.19 Cabinet Response: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Cabinet thanks the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee for the report which highlights an important area of work for the Council and reflects our commitment to driving skills development in the Borough through our support of the Skills Action Plan and continued engagement with key partners and stakeholders. 2. That the Cabinet notes and endorses the recommendations, and acknowledges that the recommendations can be accommodated within the normal work programme and through partners. 3. That the decision to co-fund the Enterprise Co-ordinator post be deferred for consideration as a 	Monitoring Action is being developed in consultation with senior officers to identify target dates for completion.		Monitor progress – December 2020

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			<p>growth request as part of the budget setting process for 2020/21. The Cabinet recognises the positive impact of the Enterprise Co-ordinator for Chesterfield and that this is currently co-funded for 2 years until 2019/20.</p> <p>See SPG Report for recommendations.</p>			
EW7 Page 80	Future Use of the Former QPSC Site	<p>EW 3.10.19 (Min. No. 20)</p> <p>Cabinet 22.10.19 (Min. No. 53)</p>	<p>SPG report approved by EW 3.10.19.</p> <p>Cabinet Response:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the use of the new sports pitch be monitored through the Council's normal management processes against the objective of balancing the need to achieve a commercial return and provide opportunities for community and health and wellbeing development. 2. That the marketing approach and pricing structure for the sports pitch be reviewed as necessary as part of the Council's overall marketing and 	December 2020		

Ref No	Item (Scrutiny Issue or Topic. SPG = Scrutiny Project Group work)	Decision Dates (Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet, Council & its Committees)	Scrutiny Committee Recommendations and/or <i>Decision making body resolution</i> (<i>italics = Agreed by Scrutiny Committee but not yet considered by decision making body</i>) *	Completion Date for Actions	Action / Response Completed	Further Action Required by Scrutiny (6 monthly progress reports)
			pricing of its sports and leisure services.			
OP8 Page 81	HS2	OPSF 11.09.18 Cabinet 23.10.18 (Min. No. 48)	Cabinet Response: 1. That the Cabinet thanks the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum for the first class work that has been taken forward in looking at how the Council is preparing for HS2 and, in particular, for the Forum's efforts in broadening and deepening the understanding of Council Members of the subject matter. 2. That Cabinet notes and endorses the recommendations of the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum. 3. That Cabinet endorses, in particular, the Forum's recommendation to establish a new Skills Scrutiny Project group and resolves to defer to the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum further consideration of the merit of	Following Parliament's consideration of the Hybrid Bill	Recommendations approved by Cabinet 23.10.18 Monitoring update considered by OPSF - 19.03.19	Monitor after Hybrid Bill has been taken to Parliament.

Ref No	Item (Scrutiny Issue or Topic. SPG = Scrutiny Project Group work)	Decision Dates (Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet, Council & its Committees)	Scrutiny Committee Recommendations and/or <i>Decision making body resolution</i> (<i>italics = Agreed by Scrutiny Committee but not yet considered by decision making body</i>) *	Completion Date for Actions	Action / Response Completed	Further Action Required by Scrutiny (6 monthly progress reports)
			<p>establishing new Scrutiny Project Groups to look at particular aspects of HS2 as part of the future work programming discussions.</p> <p>See SPG Report for recommendations.</p>			
<p><i>Abbreviations Key : OP = Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum. CCO = Community, Customer and Organisational Development Scrutiny Committee. EW = Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee). TBA (to be agreed).</i></p> <p><i>* Note recommendation wording may be abridged.</i></p>						

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2020/21										
	OPSF 17.09.20	EW 01.10.20	OPSF 19.11.20	EW 3.12.20	OPSF 21.01.21	EW 04.02.21	OPSF 18.03.21	EW 01.04.21	OPSF 13.05.21	
	CCO 24.09.20		CCO 26.11.20		CCO 28.01.21		CCO 25.03.21		CCO 20.05.21	
	EW 01.10.20								EW 27.05.21	
Scrutiny project groups:	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	
Climate change - air quality	From previous work programme									
Community safety and providing for young people	From previous work programme									

Items for committee:

Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum

Climate Change Action Plan	OPSF						OPSF		
Northern Gateway/Elder Way	OPSF						OPSF		
Arvato and Kier - lessons learnt			OPSF						
Council Plan progress update			OPSF						
Budget update			OPSF						
Covid-19 emergency planning/business continuity			OPSF						
ICT Improvement Programme					OPSF				OPSF
Council's commercial approach					OPSF				OPSF
OSC Annual Work Programme	OPSF								

Customer, Community and Organisational Scrutiny Committee

Chesterfield Visitor Economy	CCO				CCO				CCO
Implementation of Universal Credit	CCO						CCO		
Statutory Crime and Disorder	CCO						CCO		
Investing in our staff - apprenticeships			CCO						
External communications			CCO						
Food and energy poverty					CCO				CCO

Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Parks and Open Spaces Strategy/Play Strategy		EW						EW	
Delivering the 5 year housing supply and the impact of planning reform		EW						EW	
Homelessness, accommodating released prisoners and winter provision				EW					EW
Commercial Services (T&F group)				EW		EW		EW	
Schemes and trials for increasing recycling						EW			

Monitoring of previous scrutiny project group recommendations:

Community Rooms			CCO				CCO		
Future use of the former QPSC site				EW				EW	
Skills				EW				EW	
HS2					OPSF				

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ENTERPRISE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**Thursday, 9th July, 2020**

Present:-

Councillor Brittain (Vice-Chair)

Councillors	Coy	Councillors	Snowdon
	Hollingworth		Catt
	T Gilby	Neil Johnson	Economic Development
Liz Cook	Housing	Christine Durrant	Executive Director

*Matters dealt with under the Delegation Scheme

40 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' AND OFFICERS' INTERESTS RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

No declarations of interest were received.

41 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Kate Caulfield and Ade McCormick.

42 MINUTES

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

43 CABINET MEMBERS FOR HOUSING, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TOWN CENTRES & VISITOR ECONOMY - COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND RECOVERY

The Executive Director presented an update to the committee on the significant impact of COVID-19 across the Borough and the Council's long-term plans. It was acknowledged that there had been a higher level of resilience in Chesterfield due to the public sector nature of its workforce but that the rates of unemployment would increase and the self-employed were particularly vulnerable.

The Council had responded promptly to requests for Business Rate Relief and that had brought £18 million back into the economy. Grants had also been awarded to businesses and the business rates team and the finances teams had worked very hard in this area. As a commercial landlord with 400 tenants, the council had offered payment holidays or deferment as assistance.

The markets had re-opened following a huge amount of work including cross-agency working, which was really important, and the feedback had been positive. A grant of £92,000 had been received to re-open the high street and this had helped to fund communications and also the temporary public realm adaptations.

There had been a rise in active travel, with 95% of bus routes open, but only 30% in use and this was a positive move, with the hope that this change might be retained moving forward.

All major developments had continued, with the view that this would instil confidence in other developers to move forward with their projects.

The current priorities were to offer advice to start ups and raise the profile of the Borough to attract businesses and secure investment.

The Assistant Director for Economic Development informed the committee that approximately 50% of town centre businesses were open and as the number increased it was important to maintain social distancing. An overview of current developments in the borough was presented as follows;

- At Peak Resort, David Lloyd had started work on site and a planning application had been received for a health and wellbeing campus situated there
- The Enterprise Centre at the Northern Gateway was pushing ahead, and it was hoped that the public realm work on Elder Way and Packers Row would start at the end of August
- HS2 was maintaining progress, with a potential for 10,000 new jobs
- The Staveley Town Deal was worth £20 million and sited as a fantastic opportunity to improve wellbeing in that area

It was acknowledged that the visitor economy had been massively impacted by COVID-19 and the Economic Development team were identifying measures to help support recovery.

The Assistant Director for Economic Development responded to a question regarding the vacant units below the Premier Inn, explaining that there were currently two interested parties. The units were still being marketed and it was hoped that once those two units were occupied this would encourage interest from others.

Discussion took place around levels of unemployment and the difficulties in forecasting how this would impact Chesterfield and its supply chain. The committee was assured that grant monies secured from D2N2 were contracted and therefore guaranteed.

The Executive Director presented an overview of the Housing Service to the committee and started by highlighting the commitment of all staff from the beginning of lockdown and throughout. It was noted that even if staff were not able to do their normal job they did not hesitate to help in other roles and redeployment was witnessed across the Housing Service.

Careline staff made friendly calls to residents in order to check on wellbeing. The partnership working around rough sleeping had been essential and the Assistant Director for Housing and her team led on the 'Keeping everyone in' strategy county wide.

The ban on tenant evictions was being lifted 23rd August and planning work was underway to deal with any potential back log. Throughout the lockdown period there were a reduced number of calls to the homelessness team but those had now resumed.

All but emergency property moves had been suspended and the allocations team were working through the backlog. A recovery plan was in place. The tenancy management and sustainment teams were focussed on supporting vulnerable tenants.

The Commercial services team responded quickly to the lockdown by producing risk assessments that allowed them to continue with emergency repairs and planned essential maintenance. It was acknowledged that the Commercial Services Team and Housing Team had worked together excellently throughout.

Members noted their appreciation to the staff and the importance of keeping services open, particularly Careline. The restarting of allocations was seen as a positive move. A question was asked regarding how successful the offer of alternative accommodation had been in terms of

homelessness. The Assistant Director of Housing confirmed that the procurement of a nearby hotel had been very successful as it presented an opportunity for staff to engage with the residents daily and form relationships whilst also involving other agencies.

A member asked about the redeployment and furloughing of staff. The Executive Director explained that a review was conducted at the start of lockdown by HR to identify areas that might need additional resources. Staff were asked to volunteer for redeployment and therefore some staff were moved and some retrained. There were still some staff on furlough at the time of the meeting.

Clarification was given regarding the availability of materials. No significant problems were encountered at the start of lockdown when carrying out emergency repairs, but plaster became scarce. It was made very clear to staff that if they did not have adequate PPE then they should not undertake relevant tasks. On this basis, the only service affected was Careline, where there was a brief pause in service.

It was reported that corporate support had been provided by Commercial Services including sourcing and installing screens and increased cleaning services. Refuse collection continued throughout lockdown. The Parks and Open Spaces teams had worked hard to keep the parks open and consulted with the various tennis clubs, bowls clubs, angling societies etc.

Leisure centres were planning to re-open 25th July. Members would be required to book in advance before attending the facilities and activities would have a phased return for example starting with lane swimming and the gym before lessons and classes could resume. Careful consideration had been given to staff and user safety in terms of reduced capacities, enhanced supervision and increased cleaning regimes.

The Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing advised that a video would be made available the following week on both leisure centres. The staff had been well briefed and were looking forward to welcoming back users.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report be noted.
2. That a further update on the impact of COVID 19 on homelessness be considered by the committee at a future date.

3. That it be noted that wherever possible, reports to the Enterprise and Wellbeing Committee be prepared and circulated with the agenda.

44 **FORWARD PLAN**

The Forward Plan for the four-month period 1 July, 2020 to 31 October, 2020 was presented for information.

RESOLVED –

That the Forward Plan be noted.

45 **SCRUTINY MONITORING**

The Committee considered the Scrutiny recommendations monitoring schedule.

RESOLVED -

That the Scrutiny monitoring schedule be noted.

46 **SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2020/21**

The Committee noted that the meeting of the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum on 25 June, 2020 had confirmed an interim work programme, including the following items for the next scheduled meeting of the Enterprise and Wellbeing Committee on 1 October, 2020:

- Parks and Open Spaces Strategy
- Five Year Housing Supply
- Progress Report on the Skills Action Plan

It was noted that further work was scheduled to finalise the scrutiny work programme for the whole of 2020/21, prior to submission to the scrutiny committees in September and October, 2020.

RESOLVED -

- 1) That the items from the interim work programme for the Committee's next scheduled meeting on 1 October, 2020 be approved.