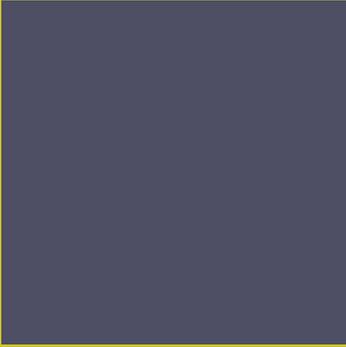


GREEN SPACE Strategy



April 2012

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The Council also has due regard to eliminate discrimination and to proactively promote equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different groups when performing its functions.

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Bolsover District is recognised as being a particularly green district. The district's largely rural environment, boasting several large country parks and estates is complemented by a wide range of more local recreational areas in towns and villages. These are assets that the District's residents are justifiably proud of and which play an important role in defining the character of the District. Green Spaces offer opportunities where people can relax and enjoy the fresh air or participate in active and healthy sporting and recreational pursuits. Green Spaces also provide valuable wildlife habitats and help to mitigate climate change. In short green spaces play a vital role in the quality of life of those who live and work in the District.
- 1.2 However, the upkeep of green spaces which is so important to the realisation of their many benefits is mainly reliant on public funding which is under intense pressure. The help of many sectors of society: local authorities, town and parish councils, voluntary groups, developers and national agencies will be needed to sustain the District's green space resource. New green spaces will be needed to cater for a growing population, and provision of these will normally be reliant on funding from local development. In order to make these various contributions more effective, the District Council has prepared this Green Space Strategy. It is the culmination of considerable research as well as consultation with local residents, agencies and developers and will set the scene for the management and development of the borough's green spaces over the next twenty years.
- 1.3 The Strategy provides a vision and identifies priorities for how green space should be planned and managed. It will help to secure attractive and easily accessible spaces for all to enjoy. The Strategy sets out proposals for how existing green spaces can be protected and improved. It identifies those neighbourhoods and villages where new green space provision is a priority. It also includes exciting proposals for town parks to be established in each of the District's four towns. These improvements will take time which is why this is a 20 year strategy. However, with the support and commitment of the whole community there is no reason why the ambitions of the Strategy cannot be met.
- 1.4 Green Spaces within the context of this Strategy are those spaces which are accessible to the public (although some may be subject to access restrictions) are in the main undeveloped and open, and found within or on the edge of the district of Bolsover. They mainly provide spaces for informal recreation and relaxation, children's play and sports but also include sites with a single main function such as cemeteries and allotment gardens or

open amenity space within built-up areas. They form an important part of the District's Green Infrastructure which is a term used to describe a wider resource including rivers, canals, woodland, etc.

1.5 Bolsover district has significant existing green space resources with around 870 hectares of green space sites owned and managed by a range of mainly public authorities and bodies. However, there is a recognised need to accommodate growth in housing and this strategy seeks to provide a structure by which it will be possible to balance the supply of green spaces with demand arising from increased population across the district, as well as to make up for areas where current provision is inadequate. Meeting this need can in part be achieved by setting out an agreed way forward which will be embedded within the district's emerging development plan. In turn, the delivery of the correct types and amount of new and enhanced green spaces across the district can be facilitated through the planning process.

1.6 The Bolsover District Sustainable Community Strategy (2006-2020) provides a clear vision to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of local areas. The green space strategy supports its specific aim 'A Healthy Environment – A Better Place to Live' which sets out priorities for protecting the landscape and built heritage, promoting access to the countryside and being a good custodian of the district's natural assets and built heritage. Bolsover's proposed vision for green space builds from the Sustainable Community Strategy and states:

'Through partnership working, provide welcoming, accessible, healthy, safe, secure and high quality green spaces which contribute to the well-being and quality of life of the communities of Bolsover District, now and for the future'.

1.7 The draft strategy categorises and quantifies the green space resource across the district. Definitions within this strategy refer to both 'formal' green spaces (e.g. tended or mown and providing open space and sports facilities) and 'semi-natural' green spaces (those areas with less formal, less intensively managed vegetation which provides more support for wildlife). Following on from community based discussions, and discussion with Council officers, standards have been developed for a minimum quantity of both formal and semi-natural spaces proportionate to settlement population. It is proposed that the council will work towards achieving a minimum of 3.6 Ha of green space per 1,000 people per settlement (towns, main villages and villages) comprising of 2.4 ha for formal green space and 1.2 ha for semi-natural green space.

- 1.8 As well as standards for the quantity of space the draft strategy recognises that it is appropriate to establish a hierarchy of formal green spaces in relation to their role, function, size and distribution. In turn specific accessibility standards are presented in relation to each level of sites within the hierarchy. The strategy recognises that at local and neighbourhood levels there is a need for smaller spaces which can be easily and safely accessed by local residents, and that larger sites with a broader recreational offer will service a larger geographical area and resident population. The existence of a green space provision within a settlement above minimum standards does not remove the need to provide additional green space within new residential developments of significant size. Additional green spaces will be needed to cater for the needs of new residents and to meet accessibility standards, and also to ensure that acceptable living environments are created. However, the existence of any green spaces nearby to proposed developments will be taken into account in those settlements where overall provision is above minimum levels.
- 1.9 In establishing strategy standards for the quantity and accessibility of green spaces it is possible to analyse the level of existing provision within each settlement in relation to these standards. This allows for the strategy to identify the type, location and scale of new green space provision to be delivered in each settlement in order to satisfy agreed strategy standards.
- 1.10 The strategy sets out the relative levels of provision of green space for the main settlements of the district, recognising where deficit exists in relation to formal and semi-natural green space standards, both in terms of quantity and accessibility. It then anticipates green space needs in response to anticipated growth proposed over the new local plan period (2011 to 2031).
- 1.11 The comparison of existing provision against proposed standards shows marked variations in provision across different settlements. It is possible to rank settlements in relation to how they perform against Green Space Strategy standards for quantity (not accessibility) of sites. This shows that South Normanton, Clowne, Glapwell, Pleasley, Whitwell and Hodthorpe all have significant deficits of formal green space, and that nine settlements again including Clowne and Hodthorpe are seriously deficient in terms of semi-natural green space. This ranking should help to prioritise resource management and investment decisions in relation to green spaces across Bolsover.
- 1.12 A broad range of green space requirements need to be accommodated in towns and villages across the district and the potential or opportunity for delivering new sites to meet those needs may vary considerably. Where lower-tier sites are found to be in deficit, such as Equipped Play Areas and Local Green Spaces, the potential opportunities for future provision is

mostly good. However, where settlements are in need of substantial amounts of semi-natural green space, opportunities for delivery would sometimes appear challenging.

1.13 Key findings from the study of the main settlements are summarised in a table on the following page:

TABLE 1: MAIN SETTLEMENTS - KEY FINDINGS	
Main Settlement	Key Green Space Issues
Barlborough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good provision in terms of formal and semi-natural green space provision; • Some small residential areas in north of the village do not have neighbourhood parks close by; • Two Equipped Play Area sites required to meet accessibility targets.
Bolsover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good level of green space provision, particularly semi-natural green spaces; • Significant absence of a 'Town Park' facility; • Poor accessibility to formal green space at eastern and northern fringes of the town and in Carr Vale; • 'Bolsover north' strategic development allocation expected to deliver green space elements to address elements of recognised shortfalls.
Clowne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing shortfall in quantity of formal (6.99 Ha) and semi-natural green space (4.64 Ha) across the settlement although most of town with good accessibility to sites; • Significant absence of a 'Town Park' facility; • Neighbourhood and local formal green space provision is generally good; • Several neighbourhoods without Equipped Play Areas.
Creswell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good provision of both formal and semi-natural green space; • Good provision of local sites but need exists for an Equipped Play Area in the north east of the village;

TABLE 1: MAIN SETTLEMENTS - KEY FINDINGS

Main Settlement	Key Green Space Issues
Pinxton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just over minimum standard for provision of formal green space but clear shortfall of 1.5 ha in accessible semi-natural green space • Settlement tightly constrained by transport infrastructure and business/industrial estates, limiting green space delivery apart from to the west. • Requirements identified for 2 new equipped play areas, in north-east and south-west of the village.

TABLE 1: MAIN SETTLEMENTS - KEY FINDINGS

Main Settlement	Key Green Space Issues
Shirebrook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good levels of formal green space provision but significant deficiency in semi-natural green space sites (6.4 ha) Significant growth proposals could exacerbate semi-natural green space shortfalls unless new provision is made; • Opportunities to change site management regimes to deliver semi-natural spaces on formal green space sites may exist, but would need careful consideration
South Normanton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant shortfall of 11 ha in formal green space; • Lacks a 'Town Park' as defined in the Strategy; • Constraints on provision of new sites by transport infrastructure (which also detract from existing green space quality) and explosives factory; • Relatively good lower tier site provision across the town, although more equipped play areas appear to be needed; • Poor access to Green Infrastructure assets.
Tibshelf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent green infrastructure and semi-natural green space provision through access to Five Pits Trail; • Good quantity of formal green space, but linear settlement form results in northern parts of Tibshelf having sub-standard access to neighbourhood and local sites; • Pockets of housing lacking an Equipped Play Area;

TABLE 1: MAIN SETTLEMENTS - KEY FINDINGS

Main Settlement	Key Green Space Issues
Whitwell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good current provision of semi natural green space, but shortfall of 1.2 ha in formal green space; • Sites for equipped play areas required to north and south of Whitwell's central spine

- 1.14 The draft strategy presents a draft policy proposal to help inform green space policy for the new Local Plan. This is developed so as to safeguard existing green spaces and to facilitate the delivery of the aspirations of this strategy. It seeks to ensure that delivery of public green space is secured through new housing development, and that the levels of provision secured through development is responsive to the green space needs within the settlement in which it is proposed.
- 1.15 Delivery of changes to the public green space resource through implementation of the new Local Plan policy will be directed towards the priorities identified in the detailed settlement profiles of this strategy.
- 1.16 National planning indicates that qualitative considerations should form part of green space planning. The Council, together with its strategic partner North East Derbyshire District Council, is currently in the process of carrying out service reviews. Consequently, the detail of how green spaces will be managed and maintained will be tackled primarily through that service review process. Nevertheless qualitative standards are proposed within the Strategy and should be taken into account as important considerations within the service review process.
- 1.17 Research indicates that generally the quality of green spaces across the District is lower than national and sub-regional averages where consistent indicators can be compared. Findings based upon Office for National Statistics data (2008/9) also suggests lower levels of public satisfaction with Bolsover's green space resource in comparison with districts across the North Midlands and South Yorkshire. In contrast, the importance attached by communities to green spaces is high.
- 1.18 In order to improve quality and improve satisfaction levels, the Strategy sets a qualitative standard of 60% for formal and semi-natural green spaces, equipped play areas and allotments which previous surveys showed to have average quality scores of 56%, 52%, 55% and 50% respectively.

- 1.19 Well designed and well managed Green Space has tremendous potential to bring communities together to recreate and relax on a regular basis and to provide favoured locations to hold or celebrate special events. This Strategy has identified a lack of flagship town parks in the District which can act as focal points in urban areas, accommodate diverse activities, and be an emblem and source of local pride. At present, only one town (Shirebrook) has a green space (Kissingate) which fully meets the requirements set in the Strategy for 'town park' status. The creation of Town Parks in Bolsover, Clowne and South Normanton is likely to be reliant on provision and/or funding by new development. However, the proposed strategic housing allocation at Bolsover North should provide a means to realise this in Bolsover town. The realisation of town parks in Clowne and South Normanton may take longer to realise but there are several possibilities worthy of further investigation. In order that these parks achieve their flagship potential, the Council will strive to achieve a minimum quality standard of 70% in all town parks.
- 1.20 The next few years, if not longer, are likely to be a period of severe constraint on public expenditure, and the financial resources necessary to implement green space strategy proposals will be limited. Therefore, securing funds through developer contributions via the planning system (Section 106 agreements, and potentially the Community Infrastructure Levy), and through other sources such as lottery funding and central government grant awards will be of paramount importance. Clear and rigorously implemented planning policy which will limit development if the necessary social and green infrastructure is not put in place will also be a necessary and powerful component in delivering green space aspirations.

2. Introduction and Context

The Need for a Green Space Strategy and Background

- 2.1 High quality green spaces which are accessible to the public, which allow for a range of recreational and sporting activities to take place, as well as opportunities for relaxation, access to nature and safe places to play are critical components of sustainable and inclusive communities. Attractive and diverse green environments also help to attract investment and support job creation.
- 2.2 Bolsover District has a significant green space resource with around 870 hectares of green spaces owned and managed by a diverse range of organisations. However, the way in which this resource is distributed means that whilst there is abundant green space in some areas, others are less well provided for. In addition, significant population growth is anticipated within the District over the next 20 years. This Strategy looks ahead and seeks to provide a structure to balance the supply of green spaces with demand arising from this increased population, and set out a way forward which can be reflected within the district's emerging development plan. In turn, the delivery of the correct types and extent of new and enhanced green spaces across the district can be facilitated through the spatial planning process.
- 2.3 This Strategy builds upon the green space assessment work undertaken by consultants and Council officers in 2010 and 2011. A summary of this work, known as a green space audit, will be published alongside this Strategy on the Council's website under the title of Bolsover Green Space Audit: Quantity and Accessibility Report. The Report provides an important reference resource and evidence base on which the both the Green Space Strategy and the Local Development Framework can be developed.

Links to other Strategies

- 2.4 The Council has prepared the Green Space Strategy within a wider context of corporate priorities which identify the importance of green space and a healthy, diverse environment within which communities can develop and thrive.
- 2.5 The **Sustainable Community Strategy** for Bolsover District (2006-2020) provides a clear vision for the future in order to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of local areas. The green space strategy supports this aim specifically "A Healthy Environment – A Better Place to Live" which sets out priorities for protecting the landscape and built heritage, promoting access to the countryside and being a good custodian of the district's natural assets and built heritage. The Bolsover District

Council **Corporate Business Plan (2007 – 2011): A Taste of Further Things to Come** outlines the Council's broad strategy direction and is the authority's top-level business planning tool. The development of the Green Space Strategy is supported by the Council's Corporate Plan and sets out a long term vision for green spaces across the District to ensure that they are valued and well used community resources.

- 2.6 The Green Space Strategy has also been produced with reference to:
- A Greenprint for Biodiversity in Bolsover (2006)
 - A Strategic Green Infrastructure Study for Bolsover (2008)
- 2.7 A more detailed analysis of key national, regional and local policies and strategies relating to green space is set out at chapter 3 of this document.

The Spatial Context of Bolsover's Green Space Resource

- 2.8 Bolsover District is situated in the north east of Derbyshire, within the East Midlands region. It is one of eight district councils in Derbyshire, had an estimated population of 74,980 in 2011 and covers an area of 160 Km² (15,989 hectares).
- 2.9 Most of the District is rural in nature, but there are four principal towns as well as five 'main' villages. Many of the towns evolved around traditional industrial activities, in particular coal mining, although now all of the former collieries have now closed. This has had a significant impact on the landscape, nature of the built communities and the District's demographics.
- 2.10 The Indices of deprivation from 2004 shows Bolsover ranked 46 out of 354 local authorities and districts in England which places it in the top 20% most deprived local authorities, nationally. Some parts of the District exhibit particularly high levels of deprivation, being amongst the top 10% of most deprived. Less than 1% of the population is from minority ethnic communities.
- 2.11 The contraction of the coal industry and related uses resulted in a physical legacy of derelict and despoiled land, although much of this has been tackled through a variety of initiatives. Nevertheless, parts of the district enjoy strong environmental qualities. There are seven sites of special scientific interest, including Creswell Crags, 15 regionally important geological sites, two local nature reserves, and 110 sites included in the county register of local wildlife sites.
- 2.12 Of specific archaeological interest are Bolsover Castle, the internationally significant Creswell Crags and 12 medieval settlements. English Heritage also lists three parks and gardens as being of historic interest - at Hardwick

Hall, Bolsover Castle and Barlborough Hall. There are also other historic houses and estates in private ownership within the District such as Carnfield Hall.

- 2.13 Green spaces and Green Infrastructure assets and components do not stand in isolation within administrative boundaries. Accessibility to valued and important 'green' environmental assets, particularly those of a strategic value, is not limited by the district boundary. Bolsover's communities are able to access relatively easily other strategic green space resources, particularly to its east and west, such as Sherwood Forest and its managed recreational elements, the Welbeck and Clumber Parks' woodlands and lakes, and the Derbyshire Dales and Peak District. Often, local green space assets, such as the linear multi-user trails network extend across district and county boundaries, for example the Five Pits, Teversal and Blackwell Trails. However in other respects, parts of the district are constrained by transport infrastructure and significant urban concentrations, particularly to the south and south-east which limit access to open space.

A Vision and Aims for Bolsover's Green Spaces

- 2.14 This Strategy is based upon the following vision for green spaces across Bolsover. It states:

'Through partnership working, provide attractive, accessible and healthy green spaces that are well maintained, safe, and valued by local people. The District's green spaces will be planned and managed so that they contribute positively to the well-being and quality of life of the communities of Bolsover District, now and for the future'.

- 2.15 This is supported by the following aims:

- To set Local Standards for the quantity, quality and accessibility of green space;
- To raise the overall quality of green space in the District and residents' satisfaction with green spaces;
- To set out a framework for partnership working to improve the management of green space in the District;
- To ensure that resources for green spaces are used effectively;
- To provide more opportunities for local people to become involved in the design, management and interpretation of green spaces.

3. The Role and Functions of Green Space and Green Infrastructure

- 3.1 Green spaces and green infrastructure are important components of our living, working and leisure-time environments. The public benefits that a high quality accessible green space network can offer are many-fold, particularly in relation to facilitating the development of more sustainable and healthy communities set within a positive environmental context.
- 3.2 Good quality parks and public spaces are of economic, social and environmental value. They are often highly valued by local communities and individuals¹. Research carried out by CABE Space suggests that 85% of people surveyed felt that the quality of public space and the built environment has a direct impact on their lives and the way they feel. Conversely, local authorities often consider public green spaces to be undervalued assets and a significant financial cost^{2, 3}.
- 3.3 There is evidence that high quality green spaces have positive economic impacts, for example upon property prices, in attracting business investment and the well-being of workers.
- 3.4 Safe, clean spaces encourage people to walk and exercise more and therefore offer significant health benefits. Parks and green spaces offer places for sport and recreation, benefiting physical health and mental wellbeing. There is even evidence that access to good quality local spaces can help us live longer. Green spaces can also bring significant community benefits as places to play, encouraging neighbourliness and social inclusion and as a venue for events that bring people together.
- 3.5 Increasingly, the wider environmental functions that green spaces help provide are being understood and valued, particularly in light of climate change concerns. 'Eco-system goods and services' are those natural functions and processes upon which we all depend, and can be considered as natural life support systems for the planet. DEFRA have sought to raise the profile of this important environmental role⁴. Even at the local scale, functions such as atmospheric regulation through photosynthesis in plants, carbon capture and storage, water supply, storage and filtration, functional flood plains, heat absorption and urban cooling, plant pollination and food supply and habitat provision can make significant and positive

¹ <http://www.rudi.net/node/22142>

² <http://www.rudi.net/node/20844>

³ <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110118095356/http://www.cabe.org.uk/files/the-value-of-public-space.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.ecosystems-services.org.uk/ecoserv.htm>

environmental contributions. In combination, the value of these interlinked functions from networks of green space is highly significant.

- 3.6 Green spaces are categorised within this study and its preceding evidence-base reports, in order to assess the relative adequacy of existing provision of spaces which play different roles. This categorisation enables specific policies to be developed to address shortfalls, target resources effectively and to meet community needs.
- 3.7 There are close similarities and overlaps between 'Green Spaces' and 'Green Infrastructure'. **Green spaces** are those individual spaces whose primary purpose is recreation and which are predominantly open, undeveloped, mainly soft-surfaced public spaces, often characterised by intensively managed mown areas and landscaped spaces, but also including informal grassland and woodlands where management is not as frequent and less routine. Playing fields and playgrounds can be important components of public open space. **Green Infrastructure**, is the broader network of green spaces and natural elements (including flood plains, watercourses and open water) which contribute to and support a healthy, functional and robust natural environment. The term Green Infrastructure has evolved in recognition of the importance of connected, semi-natural green spaces in supporting sustainable communities. This is just as important as the 'grey' infrastructure of transport, built development and utilities. Both make significant contributions to the quality of life to local communities. Benefits from green infrastructure include opportunities for relaxation and healthy recreation, mitigation of some climate change impacts and reduction in its causes, strengthening of local landscape and townscape character, securing important habitat space and linkages between important sites and presenting attractive alternatives to routes dominated by motorised transport.
- 3.8 This Strategy does not purport to be a Strategy for Green Infrastructure. Its focus is those spaces whose primary purpose is recreation. However, the Council regard Green Infrastructure as a valuable concept worthy of significant attention through a variety of planning documents and policies. Accordingly the Green Space Strategy is complemented by the District's Green Infrastructure Study, and by policies proposed for inclusion within the Council's Local Plan relating to landscape, biodiversity, habitats of ecological value, woodlands, etc. Taken together these measures give good support to the District's green infrastructure. The enhancement and protection of an integrated Green Infrastructure network will be a key aim of the Site Specific Allocations Development Plan Document.

4. Policy Context

- 4.1 This section of the strategy summarises key policy and guidance material relevant to the Bolsover Green Space Strategy and presents links between the Strategy and other related planning, regeneration and community policies, plans and strategies. Policy at international, national, regional and local scales has influenced the approach which Bolsover's Green Space Strategy has adopted. This achieves consistency across spatial planning units, and establishes a sound basis and justification for the approach set out.

International

- 4.2 The most relevant international policy guidance on open spaces is the Council of Europe Recommendation No. R(86)11 which demonstrates a high level commitment from the European Union by the recognition of the value of urban green space.
- 4.3 Also influential is the CABI report, "*Is the Grass Greener...? Learning from International Innovations in Urban Green Space Management*" (2004), which is a comprehensive document about green space management with examples of international good practice.

National Policy Context

- 4.4 The national context for planning of green space is now set by the recently published National Planning Policy Framework or NPPF. The most relevant sections appear under Section 8 of the NPPF which is concerned with promoting healthy communities. Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve places which promote meetings between members of the community who might not otherwise come into contact with each other, and high quality public space should form part of safe and accessible developments. Paragraphs 73 and 74 of the NPPF state:

"73. Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required.

74. Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- *an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or*
- *the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or*
- *the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.”*

4.5 The most pertinent national planning guidance in place during the preparation of the Green Space Strategy was Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (July 2002). This provided detailed guidance on the consideration of open space, sport and recreation matters in relation to the land use planning system. Bolsover DC completed a green space audit which was based upon the guidance set out in PPG17 and the Companion Guide. The Green Space Strategy draws upon this audit work and sets out a vision for green space in the district and realistic recommendations for delivering this vision. This approach is also supported by the new NPPF.

4.6 Other pertinent strategic guidance includes:

Green Infrastructure Guidance (2009) - This document, published by Natural England, has been written to assist strategic decision makers to understand the important roles and functions of green infrastructure, and demonstrate good practice in planning and providing for delivery of green infrastructure components.

Accessible Natural Greenspace in Towns and Cities - A Review of Appropriate Size and Distance Criteria (1995) - This guidance for strategic open space planning focusing on natural and semi-natural green space was published by English Nature in 1995. English Nature suggested that accessible natural green spaces have an important role to play in improving quality of life in urban areas. English Nature subsequently adopted the Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt) model and published “A Space for Nature” through which to promote ANGSt aspirations.

Natural England’s Housing Growth and Green Infrastructure Policy (2009) - This Position Statement sets out Natural England’s views on green belt land but may also assist all those involved in strategic planning, design and development to understand the important roles and functions of green infrastructure, and demonstrate good practice in planning and providing green infrastructure.

DEFRA Guidance on Implementing ‘the Biodiversity Duty’ (2007) - Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 requires all public bodies to have regard to biodiversity conservation when carrying out their functions. This is sometimes referred to as the ‘biodiversity duty’ and will help embed consideration of biodiversity into the decision making of all relevant sectors. This guidance is for local authorities and other public bodies on how to implement the duty.

Sport England – Sport England have produced a wide variety of guidance on planning for sport at both the strategic and local levels. This guidance stresses the advantages of a planned approach and a strong evidence base, whilst supporting the local determination of appropriate levels of provision.

Urban Green Nation: Building the Evidence Base (2010) - This report produced by CABI Space assembles the national evidence about the quantity, quality and use of publicly owned urban green space in England. It also examines the significant impact of local green spaces on people’s health and well-being.

Health and Well Being

- 4.7 It is now widely acknowledged that good physical and mental well-being is facilitated by health-enhancing built and natural environments which provide opportunities to follow healthy lifestyles. A number of papers have been published on this issue including:

Wellbeing and the Natural Environment: A Brief Overview of the Evidence (2007) -

A brief overview of the main literature exploring the links between well-being and the natural environment, with a particular focus on contact with green spaces (Dr J. Newton, university of Bath 2007).

Building Health: Creating and Enhancing Places for Healthy, Active Lives. Blueprint for Action (2007) – This is a collection of papers created by the National Health Forum in partnership with Living Streets and CABI, demonstrating how the design of towns, cities and buildings might encourage physical activity.

Health, Place and Nature: How Outdoor Environments Influence Health and Well-Being - A Knowledge Base (2008) – Prepared by the Sustainable Development Commission, this paper examines how aspects of the built and natural environment contribute to health and wellbeing through a comprehensive review of the literature investigating the links between the outdoor environment and health.

Green Space Management

- 4.8 There are numerous guidance documents addressing green space management which aim to improve the quality and quantity of green space across communities. The most relevant and recent documents are:

Open Space Strategies Best Practice Guidance (September 2008) -

This draft guidance by CABE and the Mayor of London provides advice on assessing the quantity and quality of open spaces and on identifying the needs of local communities and other users of open spaces.

A Guide to Producing Park and Green Space Management Plans (2004) -

This CABE document provides comprehensive guidance on the management of the planning process and to producing management plans for green spaces.

Recognising Innovation and Imagination in Open Space Management (2005)-

This document from the Institute of Leisure and Amenity Management was first published in 2001 and revised in 2005 and sets out to demonstrate how imagination and innovation can place parks and green spaces at the centre of local communities.

Living Places: Cleaner, Safer, Greener (2002)

This document sets out the Government's response to the Urban Greenspaces Task Force report 'Green Spaces Better Places', within a wider report addressing the public realm and the government's recognition of the role that this plays in creating sustainable, 'liveable' towns and cities.

Making Contracts Work for Wildlife – How to Manage and Encourage Biodiversity in

Parks (2006) - This CABE Space guide, prepared for green space practitioners, provides straightforward advice on encouraging biodiversity in parks and green spaces.

Regeneration

- 4.9 Green spaces can play an important role in regeneration schemes and a number of policy documents show how good quality open spaces can deliver social, economic and environmental value in urban areas. These include the CABE Space document **Start with the Park – Creating Sustainable Urban Green Spaces in Areas of Housing Growth and Renewal (2005)** - which is aimed at strategic decision-makers and provides them with a clear route for successful place-making in areas of housing growth and renewal.

East Midlands Regional Plan

- 4.10 During preparation of the Strategy, the Coalition Government have introduced legislation to enable Regional Spatial Strategies (RSSs) to be revoked. However, the East Midlands Regional Plan has informed regional

and local planning policy and some of the main principles set out in the Plan remain relevant. One key issue identified in the Plan for the East Midlands is the growing impact of climate change and the need to identify where opportunities might exist to provide further green infrastructure and increase the biodiversity value of sites as part of their overall environmental quality and ecological function. Work undertaken for the Plan, also showed that Bolsover District was in an area which is particularly well placed to derive many benefits from the enhancement of green infrastructure.

Local Policy Context

4.11 Key local documents particularly relevant to the Green Space Strategy are:

Bolsover Local Development Framework - Revised Preferred Options to the Core Strategy (April 2010)

This document is a key component in the process of revising the spatial planning framework for the district (within the region and sub-region) to 2026, which will culminate in a various elements of a new Local Plan being adopted. The emerging vision for the district states that;

'By 2026 Bolsover's communities will have ... A network of green spaces [that] will have been improved to link and enhance the setting of the District's key heritage sites, [and] offer a wide range of opportunities for recreation and sustain wildlife.'

4.12 The Bolsover Green Space Strategy must contribute to the development of the new Local Plan for the District. This is achieved both through policy development and by highlighting locations where the quantity and quality of open space can be delivered and/or improved.

4.13 A Strategic Green Infrastructure Study for Bolsover (2008)

This document sets out a review of green infrastructure assets, constraints and opportunities across the district and presents a suggested strategic direction needed to deliver enhanced Green Infrastructure throughout Bolsover District.

5. Standards for Quantity and Accessibility

- 5.1 An up-to-date and detailed green space assessment has been carried out by Bolsover District Council to establish the extent of the overall resource across the district. The findings of this survey are set out within the Green Space Audit: Quantity and Accessibility report. This Strategy uses that audit as a key reference in relation to considering green space provision and identifying priorities to meet any recognised shortfalls. The detail of the audit report is not however repeated in full within this strategy, but is available on request to the Council's planning policy team.
- 5.2 Previous work relating to the emerging Green Space Strategy undertaken by CFP Consultants and Bolsover District Council led to the development of typologies for the variety of green spaces which are found across the district and are recognised as offering specific recreational and environmental functions, individually and in combination. These have been developed with reference to national guidance⁵ and other best practice.

Green Space Typologies

- 5.3 In order to be able to plan for a locally responsive green space resource key classifications used within the strategy are set out below.
- 5.4 It is also of particular importance to appreciate the distinction made in this report between 'green space' and 'green infrastructure'. The primary function of Green Spaces is recreation. Green Infrastructure includes green spaces, but also includes other elements whose primary function is not recreation e.g. rivers, hedgerows, farmland and forests. Some of these wider green infrastructure elements may have a secondary recreational role e.g. woodland managed by the Forestry Commission. Whilst these are valued resources, they do not fall within the definition of green space used in this Strategy. (The Council has already mapped and produced a study of its strategic green infrastructure, which can be viewed on the Council's website (Green Infrastructure Study 2008).

⁵ DCLG, Assessing Needs and Opportunities – Companion Guide to PPG17, 2001.

TABLE 2: GREEN SPACE TYPOLOGY

Green Space Type		Primary Purpose
Formal Green Space	Amenity Green Space	Areas for casual recreation or for the provision of visual interest.
	Outdoor Sports	Areas providing outdoor sports facilities. Outdoor Sports areas are further categorised as either public free access (publicly owned facilities where no booking/payment is required), public restricted access (publicly owned facilities where booking/payment is required), and private facilities (where payment is required). Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA), skateboard ramps and BMX tracks are included in this category.
	Equipped Play Areas	Areas with at least two or more items of play equipment within close proximity.
Semi-Natural		Semi-natural habitats (e.g. woodlands, wetlands, scrub, meadows, etc) which are freely accessible to the public. Land used primarily for agriculture or forestry is excluded from this definition.
Allotments		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		Burial ground laid out expressly for internment of the dead and for quiet contemplation – not including churchyards. Also includes closed burial grounds which may be used for informal recreation.
Golf Courses		Land used for golf courses is placed in a separate category due to the distorting effect they would have on figures for provision for outdoor sports if included in that category

5.5 In considering the adequacy of, or future aspirations for open space provision within communities across the district it is important to be able to recognise where green space is, or is not, accessible to the general public. Sites are therefore considered to have either of the following access level profiles:

TABLE 3: ACCESS LEVEL PROFILES	
Access Level	Description
Free	Sites have unrestricted public access, without prior arrangement, although some sites may have access restrictions between dusk and dawn.
Restricted	Sites may be publicly or privately owned but access is limited in some way, for example through membership of an organisation, or require payment of an admission fee or prior entry arrangement.

5.6 The Strategy employs a hierarchy of formal, (amenity, outdoor sports and equipped play areas) and freely accessible open space typologies which reflect the functional relationship between recreational offer and size. In doing so these can be recognised to present functional roles to address community needs across a range of spatial scales, as follows:

TABLE 4: GREEN SPACE HIERARCHY	
Category	Description
Level 1: District Level Green Space Attraction	<p>Green space which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attracts regular visitors from a wide area, not just from a town or village or from adjacent settlements; • minimum size of site 10 hectares; • has a car park; • is open to the general public

TABLE 4: GREEN SPACE HIERARCHY

Category	Description
<p>Level 2:</p> <p>Multi Functional Town Park</p>	<p>Multi-functional Green Space situated in or adjacent to a town which is open to the general public and which :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contains at least three of the following uses: amenity green space, outdoor sports, semi-natural green space, equipped play area; • has a minimum size of 4 hectares;
<p>Level 3:</p> <p>Village or Neighbourhood Park</p>	<p>Green Space situated in or adjacent to a town or village which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • combines at least two of the following uses: amenity green space, outdoor sports, semi-natural green space, equipped play area; • has a minimum size of 2 hectares; • is open to the general public
<p>Level 4:</p> <p>Local Green Space</p>	<p>Other green spaces which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide one or more of the following uses: amenity green space for informal casual recreation, outdoor sports, semi-natural green space, equipped play area; • has a minimum size of 0.5 hectares; • is open to the general public

Green Space Quantity

5.7 The adoption of a quantitative standard for provision of green space is one of the key proposals of this Strategy. The Council’s Local Plan (adopted in 2000) recognised – as a benchmark - the minimum standard recommended at the time by the National Playing Fields Association. This standard recommended a minimum of 2.4 ha of outdoor playing space per 1,000 population. The term ‘outdoor playing space’ covered pitches and sports facilities for youth and adult use, equipped play areas for children, and casual play space. The Local Plan contained no benchmark for provision of semi- natural space.

5.8 This Strategy recommends a minimum of 3.6 ha of green space per 1,000 population, of which 2.4 ha should consist of formal green space, and 1.2 ha of semi-natural green space. This standard should be applied both at a District wide level, and within each key settlement (i.e. town, main village or village as identified in the District's settlement hierarchy). In comparison with standards used elsewhere, this standard might be considered to be a modest one. However, the following considerations have been influential in proposing this target:

- The District has a strong green infrastructure resource, of which green space is only a part. As a consequence, there are many hectares of green infrastructure in the District e.g. Forestry Commission woodlands, which are not counted in green space totals, but which have an important secondary recreational function.
- A slight majority of participants in initial discussions about the Green Space Strategy considered that there was a need for more green space. However, the Council's work on the green space audit, shows that there are marked disparities in provision across the District. Some settlements have low green space provision, others have an abundance. Consequently, it is hardly surprising that residents in areas of low provision should feel that more is required, but this does not necessarily mean that a high quantitative standard should be set across the District. Analysis of the distribution and abundance of green space suggests that the priority should be to increase the amount of green space in settlements with low levels of provision. As this strategy demonstrates, the achievement of 3.6 ha of green space per 1,000 population in all settlements will be challenging.
- Constraints on public sector funding are currently exceptionally tight. In future years, the Community Infrastructure Levy, if implemented and viable within the District, offers a possible means of filling some of the gaps in provision but given the other infrastructure demands that are likely to be placed on any such fund, it would be unrealistic at this stage to assume that anything other than outstanding green space needs would be addressed through this means. Housing supply in the district needs a major boost if it is to attain anticipated targets and the Council must be careful not to threaten the viability of new residential development with over aspirational green space requirements. Consequently, the Strategy has responded to concerns expressed by the development sector during consultation on a draft green space strategy.
- Quantity of provision is only part of the equation in creating attractive and beneficial green space; quality of provision, management and maintenance are just as important. The perception of green space managers is that resources are currently very stretched. It is important

therefore not to increase the green space resource beyond the capacity to manage it well.

- Not every local authority sets a standard for provision of semi-natural open space, but it is considered appropriate to set such a standard because of the well documented benefits of access to more natural spaces, not least their role in mitigating climate change and supporting biodiversity. In most sizeable developments, the retention of existing semi-natural features is in any event a desirable objective and relatively common practice. The adoption of this standard will help to ensure greater equity in provision/safeguarding of such areas.

5.9 The targets, therefore, are intended to afford an appropriate minimum level of open space needed to facilitate community well-being and provide an attractive and functional environment in which to play and relax. Levels exceeding these targets, however, should not automatically be regarded as ‘excess’ provision. A settlement may have a large green space which is providing a strategic function beyond the immediate environs of the settlement; or green space may have additional non recreational functions e.g. forming a open break between settlements, or providing buffer land between residential areas and adjoining uses.

5.10 Standards for the *quantity* of accessible public green space are proposed for two broad categories of public open space:

TABLE 5: QUANTITY STANDARDS	
Category	Quantity Standard per 1000 population (by settlement)
Semi-Natural Green Space	1.2 Ha/1000 people
Formal Open Space (Amenity, Outdoor sports and Equipped Play Areas)	2.4 Ha/1000 people

5.11 Standards of provision in each settlement are based upon accessible spaces within 400 metres of the settlement edge, (further details on how this has been done are available in the Quantity and Accessibility report). Standards for the amount of other specific green space types such as equipped play areas, allotments or sports fields have not been developed in relation to the district’s needs and aspirations. However, the Council will take account of any national guidance on such provision, although local

evidence of need is likely to be the determining factor. Standards for other elements of public green space are expected to be developed in the future as resources permit, for example, for outdoor sports provision. In the interim, paragraph 5.12 of this Strategy sets out some guidelines which may be useful in considering local provision of allotments, amenity green space and outdoor sports.

- 5.12 Across the District the spatial distribution of green space varies significantly in both the number of sites and the amount of land provided. A generous level of accessible semi-natural land partly reflects the industrial heritage of the district where derelict and contaminated sites have been reclaimed and restored and made available for public enjoyment. For example the Country Parks (such as those at Poulter Country Park and the Peter Fiddler nature reserve). Historic assets also contribute to the generally good supply of semi-natural green space such as the parkland of Hardwick Hall near Doe Lea. Amenity green space sites typically consist of land around housing, village greens, recreation grounds etc. and can occasionally be of historic or cultural importance, such as the Creswell Model Village which has also achieved the Green Flag Award for its quality.
- 5.13 Overall there are a total of 304 green space sites within the district. However, within this number many are 'parent' sites, within which there occur 'child sites', which are smaller parcels of land with specific uses (for example an Equipped Play Area or sports field) which are contained within a wider public open space, such as a town park. In total there can be seen to be 448 green space 'parcels', including all child sites totalling nearly 870 hectares of green space. This represents over 5% of the total land area of the District.
- 5.14 The level of public access to these spaces has been considered as part of this Green Space Strategy, and is set out below. Overall, approximately 77% of green spaces considered by the Strategy have unrestricted public access. 23% of green spaces have limited access where, for example, access is restricted by membership or subject to prior booking requirements.
- 5.15 The 72 sites that have restricted access are either allotments or outdoor sports facilities. There is also one restricted access amenity green space in Scarcliffe, which is used as a school playing field during school hours, but is publicly accessible at other times.

TABLE 6: ACCESS LEVEL PROFILES

Access	No. of Sites	% of Sites
Unrestricted	232	76.32%
Restricted	72	23.68%
Total	304	100.00%

5.16 A breakdown of green spaces into different types is of interest in relation to understanding the scale of the various elements of the green space resource, but in itself does not help illustrate disparity or shortfall.

TABLE 7: PROVISION OF GREEN SPACE BY TYPE

Green Space Type	No. of Sites	Amount of Land (Ha)	Proportion of Green Space (by Area)
Allotment	44	48.19	5.55%
Amenity Green Space	157	109.20	12.57%
Cemetery	24	23.86	2.75%
Equipped Play Area	65	3.45	0.40%
Golf Course	2	105.08	12.10%
Outdoor Sports (private)	18	19.01	2.19%
Outdoor Sports (public)	59	47.55	5.47%
Outdoor Sports (public/restricted)	10	10.44	1.20%
Semi-Natural	69	501.99	57.78%
Grand Total	448	868.77	100.00%

5.17 A key aim of the Strategy is to facilitate a greater equity in provision of green space across the District's settlements. The analysis shows that

whilst the District as a whole has a substantial formal green space resource, there is wide variation in the amount of provision from one settlement to another. The specific resource distribution by each settlement is set out in detail as follows:

TABLE 8: PROVISION OF FORMAL GREEN SPACE BY SETTLEMENT

Settlement	Population	Formal green space sites	Formal green space area (ha)	Provision per 1,000 population
Barlborough	2,833	12	10.11	3.57
Blackwell	1,547	7	4.28	2.77
Bolsover	10,706	45	28.50	2.66
Clowne	7,452	20	10.89	1.46
Creswell	5,411	29	14.72	2.72
Doe Lea	746	5	4.01	5.38
Glapwell	1,486	4	2.11	1.42
Hilcote	435	4	1.95	4.48
Hodthorpe	641	6	1.07	1.67
Langwith	1,122	6	3.05	2.72
New Houghton	1,295	5	6.50	5.02
Newton	1,506	6	5.34	3.55
Palterton	387	3	1.05	2.71
Pinxton	4,342	13	10.56	2.43
Pleasley	923	3	0.87	0.94
Scarcliffe	358	6	1.84	5.14
Shirebrook	10,774	39	26.72	2.48
Shuttlewood	886	6	4.05	4.57
South Normanton	10,386	24	13.94	1.34
Tibshelf	3,470	13	11.81	3.40

TABLE 8: PROVISION OF FORMAL GREEN SPACE BY SETTLEMENT

Settlement	Population	Formal green space sites	Formal green space area (ha)	Provision per 1,000 population
Westhouses	628	3	1.91	3.04
Whaley Thorns	1,068	9	9.41	8.81
Whitwell	3,616	15	7.44	2.06

TABLE 9: BREAKDOWN OF FORMAL GREEN SPACE PROVISION BY SETTLEMENT

Settlement	Amenity green space sites	Amenity green space (ha)	Outdoor sports sites	Outdoor sports (ha)	Equipped play area sites	Equipped Play Area (ha)
Barlborough	7	6.04	2	3.99	3	0.08
Blackwell	2	1.12	3	3.10	2	0.06
Bolsover	27	15.47	10	12.40	8	0.63
Clowne*	9	2.82	7	7.89	4	0.18
Creswell	15	10.15	8	4.33	7	0.24
Doe Lea	3	3.00	1	0.92	1	0.09
Glapwell	2	0.36	2	1.73	1	0.02
Hilcote	1	0.48	2	1.43	1	0.04
Hodthorpe	3	0.77	1	0.24	2	0.06
Langwith	4	1.99	1	1.03	1	0.03
New Houghton	3	5.07	1	1.23	1	0.20
Newton	3	3.65	1	1.34	2	0.35
Paltrerton	1	0.07	1	0.94	1	0.04
Pinxton	8	8.02	3	2.43	2	0.11
Pleasley	1	0.47	1	0.29	1	0.11
Scarcliffe	4	1.49	1	0.30	1	0.05
Shirebrook	21	15.19	10	11.03	8	0.5
Shuttlewood	2	2.36	2	1.59	2	0.10
South Normanton	13	6.34	5	7.41	6	0.19
Tibshelf	7	8.72	2	3.00	4	0.09
Westhouses	1	1.20	1	0.68	1	0.03
Whaley Thorns	5	5.67	3	3.73	1	0.01
Whitwell	8	3.98	5	3.30	2	0.16

TABLE 10: PROVISION OF SEMI-NATURAL GREEN SPACE BY SETTLEMENT

Settlement	Population	Semi-natural green space sites	Semi-natural green space area (ha)	Provision per 1,000 population
Barlborough	2,833	3	9.78	3.45
Blackwell	1,547	1	0.71	0.46
Bolsover	10,706	12	62.50	5.84
Clowne	7,452	1	4.30	0.58
Creswell	5,411	4	15.01	2.77
Doe Lea	746	3	17.96	24.08
Glapwell	1,486	1	5.25	3.53
Hilcote	435	2	7.5	17.24
Hodthorpe	641	0	0.00	0.00
Langwith	1,122	1	40.14	35.78
New Houghton	1,295	2	52.89	40.84
Newton	1,506	3	9.35	6.21
Paltrorton	387	1	0.22	0.57
Pinxton	4,342	3	3.73	0.86
Pleasley	923	3	45.48	49.27
Scarcliffe	358	0	0.00	0.00
Shirebrook	10,774	5	6.51	0.60
Shuttlewood	886	0	0.00	0.00
South Normanton	10,386	9	14.22	1.37
Tibshelf	3,470	2	21.89	6.31
Westhouses	628	0	0.00	0.00
Whaley Thorns	1,068	2	38.71	36.25
Whitwell	3,616	2	7.90	2.18

Accessibility

- 5.18 Residents of the towns, main villages and villages in the District should have easy, safe and convenient access to green space. Accessibility standards have been set and related to the hierarchy of sites outlined within this chapter.
- 5.19 In proposing these standards reference has been made to the Companion Guide ‘Assessing Needs and Opportunities’ and earlier publications by the London Planning Advisory Committee. The walking distances have also taken into account local planning guidance relating to other facilities such as public transport, schools, and employment.

TABLE 11: CATEGORIES BY WALKING DISTANCE	
Category	Accessibility Standard
Level 1: District Level Green Space Attraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All residents should be within 7.5km of a Level 1 Site
Level 2: Multi Function Town Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All residents should be within 2km walking distance of a Level 2 Site
Level 3: Village or Neighbourhood Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All residents of towns and villages should be within 800m walking distance of a Level 2 or Level 3 sites
Level 4: Local Green Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All residents of towns and villages should be within 400m walking distance of a Level 1, 2, 3, or 4 Site.

- 5.20 GIS analysis has been undertaken to identify locations that currently lack accessible green space. Measurements have been taken ‘as the crow flies’, however it is hoped that future iterations of this analysis can be conducted using actual footpath route information, as the Council secures access to more sophisticated software.
- 5.21 The Quantity and Accessibility Report sets out in detail which parts of the district’s settlements were deficient in 2011 in terms of the accessibility aspirations set out above. (Isolated dwellings cannot reasonably be accommodated within the scope of the study, and the Council’s ability to

deliver accessible green space to all residents outside settlements is very limited).

- 5.22 It is acknowledged that there may be situations where it would be unreasonable to insist upon implementation of the above accessibility standards. For example, some residents may live in a small group of residential properties which are isolated from the main residential areas of a particular settlement. In such situations, exceptions to the above standards will be considered.

6. Planning Policy

- 6.1 This section sets out the proposed approach to spatial planning and policy development for green space within the emerging Local Plan. It presents a policy framework which the Council and its partners can use to help deliver the vision set out in the Green Space Strategy. In particular it seeks:
- To achieve greater equity in provision of, and access to, green spaces;
 - To achieve greater efficiency in the provision of green spaces;
 - To ensure that different types of green space are provided which respond to different needs and opportunities.
- 6.2 The proposed Local Plan policy for leisure and recreation, takes into account comments made on the policy contained in the 'Core Strategy: Revised Preferred Options', published in April 2010; as well as comments on a suggested policy contained in the draft Green Space Strategy. Consequently, it is proposed to include the following policy in the Publication Version of the new Local Plan.

Proposed Policy for Green Space and Play Provision

In association with the overall spatial strategy for future growth and development, improved formal and informal recreation facilities will be secured to meet the recreational needs of existing and future residents. The following standards will be used in relation to green space and play provision to ensure that the District as a whole, and each individual settlement, has an acceptable level of green space provision and that all residents of identified settlements have reasonable access to green spaces and play areas:

Quantitative standards:

Formal Green Space: A minimum of 2.4 ha per 1,000 population

Semi-natural Green Space: A minimum of 1.2 ha per 1,000 population

Accessibility standards:

Level 1 District Level Green Space Attractions: All residents should be within 7.5 kilometres of a large green space which has a minimum size of 10 hectares, and has a car park which is open to the general public.

Level 2 Town Park: Residents in a town should be within 2 kilometres walking distance of a multi-functional green space which is open to the public and situated in, or adjacent to a town, has a minimum size of 4 hectares and contains at least three of the

following features: amenity green space, outdoor sports, semi-natural green space, equipped play area.

Level 3 Village or Neighbourhood Green Space: Residents of towns, main villages and villages should be within 800 metres walking distance of a green space which is open to the public and situated in, or adjacent to a town, main village or village, has a minimum size of 2 hectares and contains at least two of the following features: amenity green space, outdoor sports, semi-natural green space, equipped play area.

Level 4 Local Green Space: Residents of towns, main villages and villages should be within 400 metres walking distance of a green space which is open to the public and situated in, or adjacent to a town, main village or village, has a minimum size of 0.5 hectares and contains one or more of the following features: amenity green space, outdoor sports, semi-natural green space, equipped play area.

Equipped Play Areas: Residents of towns, main villages and villages should be within 400 metres walking distance of an equipped play area.

The above standards will be used to determine where new provision of green spaces and play areas are required to address the needs of existing and future residents. In applying the standards the geographical context of the relevant settlement, including the form, location and size of residential populations, will be taken into account.

Any residential development of over 25 dwellings will be required to make provision for new or enlarged green space either on site or within 400 metres walking distance of the site, in accordance with the above minimum standards. In settlements where the current provision for either formal or semi-natural green space exceeds minimum standards, a reduction will be made (see note below) in the relevant standard to reflect the percentage of the development site which is within 400 metres walking distance of existing provision which is open to general public access and which is recognised as level 4 or above. In addition, all new residential developments will be expected to make reasonable contributions for on-going maintenance, either for new green spaces and/or to improve any town parks, neighbourhood/village or local green spaces falling within the relevant walking distance of such development, in order to accommodate increased use and ensure that minimum quality standards can be achieved.

Development proposals will be required to avoid any adverse effect upon, or loss of, existing green spaces as identified in the Council's Green Space Strategy and associated documents, unless the asset affected does not meet an identified need and is not required to satisfy a policy standard, or the development secures a satisfactory replacement facility or an improvement in existing provision which outweighs any loss. The only exception to this would be if a development proposal was clearly of greater overall benefit to the local community than existing or realistic potential uses of the green space.

- 6.3 The policy proposed above is rather detailed, but if included in the Local Plan, does have the merit of making green space policy clear both to local communities and to developers. Consistent application of the policy will help to reduce the current inequalities in green space provision. In areas of existing green space deficiency, developers will be required to make full provision of at least the minimum requirement for green space needs arising from their proposals. However, in settlements where current provision for either formal or semi-natural green space exceeds minimum standards, a reduction should be made in the relevant standard to reflect the percentage of the development site which is within 400 metres walking distance of existing provision which is open to general public access. So if 20% of a development site is within 400 metres walking distance of existing formal green space then the minimum requirement for formal green space would be reduced by 20% to 1.92 ha, rather than 2.4 ha. A reduction of up to 100% would be possible on sites of up to 100 dwellings, but would be limited to a maximum reduction of 50% on sites over 100 dwellings, as it would not be desirable to have large new housing areas without any green space provision. In addition, any discount must not impinge upon or take precedence over the achievement of any other desirable planning objective e.g. the retention of site features such as woodland or green corridors, providing buffers between uses, provision of strategically important green space etc. Any sites requesting a reduction on this basis of the presence of existing provision within 400 metres would need to agree a commuted sum for the enhancement and upkeep of relevant existing sites. In addition, reductions would not be made where this would reduce the overall level of green space provision in the settlement as a whole below minimum provision levels on completion of the proposed development.
- 6.4 On smaller developments of less than 25 dwellings, new green space provision is not essential. Small green spaces are relatively expensive to maintain and have limited appeal. However, smaller developments should contribute to the enhancement of those green spaces which will clearly provide for the hierarchy of green space needs relevant to each

development. This could potentially include a town park if situated within a 2 kilometre walk of the development site, and/or a neighbourhood/village park if located within 800 metres, and/or a local green space if within 400 metres. It should also be noted that a District Level green space attraction like a major Country Park may also meet the criteria of a local green space if situated within 400 metres of a development.

Priorities for New Green Space Provision

- 6.5 In view of the limited resources likely to be available, it is important that the Council and its partners take a strategic view and set clear priorities in addressing the disparity in the provision of green space across the District's settlements. These priorities can then inform decision making in relation to planning functions, partnership initiatives, and asset management. Opportunities may arise to facilitate improved green space provision either through the Community Infrastructure Levy or through the Council's own activities e.g. a housing renewal scheme. This approach will necessarily need to be subject to flexibility and responsive to opportunities which might only be deliverable in certain communities/locations, but would nevertheless expedite green space delivery.
- 6.6 The following tables set out the hierarchy of Bolsover's settlements in terms of need for formal and semi-natural green space, ranked in accordance with relative levels of current provision by settlement population size against green space strategy target provision standards.

TABLE 12: FORMAL GREEN SPACE NEEDS HIERARCHY

Need ranking	Settlement	Population	Deficiency per 1000 population	Additional green space required to attain minimum standard (ha)
1	South Normanton	10,386	1.06	10.99
2	Clowne	7,452	0.94	6.99
3	Glapwell	1,486	0.98	1.46
4	Pleasley	923	1.46	1.35
5	Whitwell	3,616	0.34	1.24

TABLE 12: FORMAL GREEN SPACE NEEDS HIERARCHY

Need ranking	Settlement	Population	Deficiency per 1000 population	Additional green space required to attain minimum standard (ha)
6	Hodthorpe	641	0.73	0.47

TABLE 13: SEMI-NATURAL GREEN SPACE NEEDS HIERARCHY

Need ranking	Settlement	Population	Deficiency per 1000 population	Additional green space required to attain minimum standard (ha)
1	Shirebrook	10,774	0.60	6.42
2	Clowne	7,452	0.62	4.64
3	Pinxton	4,342	0.34	1.48
4	Blackwell	1,547	0.74	1.15
5	Shuttlewood	886	1.20	1.06
6	Hodthorpe	641	1.20	0.77
7	Westhouses	628	1.20	0.75
8	Scarcliffe	358	1.20	0.43
9	Palterton	387	0.63	0.24

6.7 Having set a minimum standard there must be some prospect of increasing the quantity of provision in settlements with major deficiencies. Accordingly, it is proposed that in any such settlement, the Local Plan will require any major urban extensions (i.e. over 25 dwellings) to the existing settlement framework to include proposals and make provisions which will help to reduce green space deficits in the settlement. In addition, in the Site Allocations Development Plan Document, preference will be given – all

other matters being equal – to those potential residential sites where new green space provision would best help to meet local deficiencies in adjoining or nearby residential areas.

Types of Provision

- 6.8 In addition, to identifying significant disparities in the amount of green space provided in different settlements, work for this Strategy, has identified a major gap in the type of provision. The District is well provided for in terms of Level 1 green spaces such as major country parks, and is reasonably well provided for in terms of Level 3 (i.e. neighbourhood/village) green spaces and Level 4 (local) spaces. However, there are major gaps in provision at the Level 2 or town park category. Chapter 4 of this Strategy defines a town park as:

Multi-functional Green Space situated in or adjacent to a town which is open to the public and:

- contains at least three of the following uses: amenity green space, outdoor sports, semi-natural green space, equipped play area;
- has a minimum size of 4 hectares.

- 6.9 Shirebrook Town Park clearly meets the above criteria. It extends to over 6 hectares of mainly amenity green space, but includes an all weather sports pitch, equipped play area, skate park, and pond for angling. Bolsover and South Normanton have no equivalent facility. Barlborough Country Park meets the size and use criteria, but is separated from the nearby settlement of Clowne and therefore could not be said to be adjacent to it. Accordingly three of the District's four towns are without a town park facility. This is a significant gap in provision. Small towns such as Ashbourne, Bakewell, Clay Cross, and Alfreton all have facilities of this nature. Such parks provide an opportunity for accommodating a range of activities in one place as well as the ability to hold a variety of events. They should also be an emblem of civic pride and a means of promoting social cohesion. They should be regarded as an essential component of a town's infrastructure in the same way as a town centre, a supermarket and a secondary school are regarded as essential components. However, without deliberate prioritisation and planning, such facilities are unlikely to occur. Accordingly, the importance attached to the establishment of town parks in Bolsover, Clowne and South Normanton will be reflected in the Local Plan.

Guidelines for provision of outdoor sports, amenity green space and allotments

- 6.10 The Strategy has not set minimum standards for provision of land for outdoor sports, amenity, or allotments. It is considered that local communities would find such standards to be too restrictive. It is clear that that different Parishes have taken very different approaches to green space provision, and that these probably reflect different cultural values and historical legacies. Nevertheless, it may be useful to provide some very general guidelines for local use.
- 6.11 The organisation Fields in Trust, are the successor to the National Playing Fields Association. The Trust recommends provision of 1.2 ha per 1,000 population for outdoor pitch sports. This would appear to be a very ambitious target for many settlements in the District, hence the guideline suggested for local assessment is 1 ha per 1,000 population.
- 6.12 There are no national standards for the provision of amenity green space as defined in this Strategy. However, if 1 ha per 1,000 population is considered a suitable guideline for assessing provision of outdoor sports pitches, then given the Strategy's minimum standard of 2.4 ha for formal open space (which includes outdoor sports, amenity space and equipped play area) then a similar 1 ha per 1,000 population guideline would be a useful benchmark for commenting upon provision of amenity green space.
- 6.13 The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) suggests a national standard of 20 allotments per 1,000 dwellings. Applying a local occupancy rate of 2.17 people per dwelling, converts this into 20 allotments per 2,170 people, or 9.21 allotments per 1,000 people. An average plot is said to be 250 square metres or 0.025 ha. This equates to 0.23 ha per 1,000 population. For ease of application, it is suggested that an appropriate guideline for local assessment would be 0.25 ha. The association of interest in allotments among former mining communities, means that provision in many settlements in the District greatly exceeds this guideline. Accordingly, it is not suggested here that the guideline should be used to automatically question the quantity of provision in areas with higher levels of provision. Such questions need detailed and locally specific examination. However, the guideline may be useful in questioning the lack of provision in certain settlements.
- 6.14 To summarise, the following guidelines are suggested for considering provision of different types of green space. For example, they have been used in making comments on provision in the settlement profiles contained in Appendix One to this report. It is stressed that these figures are **not** being proposed as standards that should be achieved, but put forward simply as a possible guideline to take into consideration.

TABLE 14: LOCAL GUIDELINES FOR CONSIDERATION OF PROVISION OF GREEN SPACE TYPES

Green Space Type	Provision per 1,000 population
Allotments	0.25 ha
Amenity green space	1 ha
Outdoor sports	1 ha

7. Management and Quality

- 7.1 National planning guidance in the form of Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (Planning for open space, sport and recreation) indicates that qualitative considerations should form part of green space planning. The Council, together with its strategic partner North East Derbyshire District Council, is currently in the process of carrying out service reviews. Consequently, the detail of how green spaces will be managed and maintained will be tackled primarily through that service review process. Nevertheless the qualitative standards proposed within the Strategy and the comments made below should be taken into account as important considerations within that process.
- 7.2 Quality in respect to green spaces can be seen to be a function of a complex combination of factors, including accessibility, safety and cleanliness, facilities available, grounds maintenance, conservation and heritage interest and information and interpretation offer. A large variation has been recognised in the standard of individual formal and semi-natural green spaces across Bolsover, based upon systematic assessment using Green Flag Awards national standards benchmarks, and through stakeholder group opinions gained through early work on the Green Space Strategy. Overall, levels of public satisfaction with green spaces vary considerably, and differences are apparent in satisfaction levels between settlements generally and then again between types of green space across the district.
- 7.3 The Council's research recognises that, generally, the quality of green spaces across the District is lower than national and sub-regional averages where consistent indicators can be compared. Findings based upon Office for National Statistics data (2008/9) suggests that lower levels of public satisfaction with Bolsover's green space resource in comparison with districts across the North Midlands and South Yorkshire.
- 7.4 Green spaces, particularly those within settlements can deliver significant social, environmental and public health benefits, particularly within socially disadvantaged areas. However, such sites and particularly those with poor natural surveillance have been historically subject to vandalism, tipping, littering, dog fouling and sometimes are the focus for anti-social behaviour. These issues are likely to remain to some degree, although increasing publicity of successful enforcement actions and conviction through the courts may help to address those problems. Clearly it will be important for the Council and its partners and stakeholders to focus upon on-going management of open space assets as much as it will be to deliver new sites in areas of provision deficit if public benefits are to be fully realised.

- 7.5 The next few years, if not longer, are likely to be a period of severe constraint on public expenditure, and the financial resources necessary to implement green space strategy aspirations will be limited. Therefore, securing funds through developer contributions via the planning system (Section 106 agreements, and potentially the Community Infrastructure Levy), and through other sources such as lottery funding and central government grant awards (for example the Council's successful bid for Playbuilder finance) will be of paramount importance if green space strategy aspirations are to be delivered. Clear and rigorously implemented planning policy which will limit development if the necessary social and green infrastructure is not put in place to support increases in community population will also be a necessary and powerful component in delivering green space aspirations.
- 7.6 Financial constraints may not necessarily restrict and indeed may encourage alternative approaches to managing and delivering the green space budget across the district. It may be possible to implement alternative management regimes across the existing green space resource which would allow for different combinations of public benefits to be delivered. For example, alternative management and mowing regimes for non-sports field formal open spaces which encourage managed naturalisation and delivers landscape/townscape and biodiversity benefits may also allow funds to be re-directed to improved equipment maintenance, planting or improved litter collection and supervision. Such an approach of managed conversion of formal green spaces to semi-natural green spaces might also present important opportunities for delivery of accessible semi-natural green space across settlements where a deficit is identified in this strategy, and where a technical surplus of formal green spaces occurs and in doing so removing or reducing the need to deliver completely new sites.
- 7.7 Current green space management structures across Bolsover District are complex, reflecting historic ownership and local administrative frameworks. Ownership of Equipped Play Areas and local sites by parish councils is widespread, and the County Council manages a number of larger sites, particularly those which have been delivered through derelict site reclamation. Care needs to be taken to ensure that these different roles do not complicate and frustrate the overall delivery of a more integrated green space management service, and more aspirational approaches to green space site delivery and quality. However it also notes a strong commitment to green space objectives corporately across services. Whilst this strategy does not seek to present recommendations in this respect it is an area where review may be appropriate.

- 7.8 Green Spaces are for people to enjoy and benefit from. Primarily this means the community living around each green space. It is important that the local community see green spaces as their green spaces and have a sense of ownership because they are involved in how green spaces are designed, managed, maintained and used. The recent growth of voluntary Friends of Groups, therefore, is most welcome and deserving of further encouragement.

Quality Assessment

- 7.9 As part of the Green Space Audit, Bolsover District Council carried out a quality assessment of 284 green spaces between March 2005 and March 2010. The assessment was based upon the criteria for the Green Flag Award, the national quality award for parks and green spaces, and each site was scored out of 100.
- 7.10 Quality standards are recommended for Formal Green Space, Semi-natural Green Space, Provision for Children & Young People and Allotments. Priorities for action, as of March 2012, are also identified. A detailed list of the sites noted below can be obtained from the Council's Planning Policy Team. The list will be updated when appropriate.

Formal Green Space

- 7.11 Based on the Bolsover District Council Open Space Audit the average quality score for Formal Green Space within the District is 56.3%, however, there is significant variation with the lowest quality score being 25% and the highest 80%.
- 7.12 A household survey of green space users carried out to inform the Green Space Strategy found that respondents were more likely to be satisfied with the quality of parks and gardens than outdoor sports facilities. Overall, 29.5% of respondents were dissatisfied with the quality of Formal Greenspace, with a slightly smaller proportion (27.3%) indicating they were satisfied. Two thirds of the members of the Bolsover Youth Council were dissatisfied with the quality of parks and gardens.
- 7.13 In order to raise the overall standard and improve customer satisfaction levels, the Council will strive to ensure that a minimum quality standard of 60% is achieved on all formal green spaces based on the methodology developed for the Open Space Audit undertaken by Bolsover District Council.

GS1: Quality Standard for Formal Green Space

All Formal Greenspaces to achieve a minimum quality score of 60%.

- 7.14 The minimum quality score has been set at 60% to help achieve an increase in the quality of Formal Green Space across the District. It represents a modest increase in the average quality of these spaces but will require that the lowest quality spaces are improved significantly. The standard is intended to be achievable but will require those organisations managing green spaces to work in partnership to achieve an increase in the overall quality of green space in the District. The proposed standard reflects the views expressed through consultation and also the wider vision of the strategy to improve the quality of green spaces across the District. Priorities for action against the proposed minimum standard are shown below.

TABLE 15: FORMAL GREEN SPACE BELOW 60% QUALITY STANDARD

Settlement Hierarchy	Priorities for Action as of 2012
Towns	6 Formal Green Spaces score below the proposed minimum quality standard – Bolsover (2), Clowne (1), Shirebrook (3)
Main Villages	5 Formal Green Spaces score below the proposed minimum quality standard Creswell (2), Pinxton (1), Whitwell (2)
Villages	7 Formal Green Spaces score below the proposed minimum quality standard

Semi-natural Green space

- 7.15 There is limited data available about the quality of semi-natural green space in the District. The Open Space Audit carried out by Bolsover District Council assessed four semi-natural green spaces which achieved an average quality score of 52%. Accordingly Bolsover District Council has adopted a quality standard for semi-natural green space of a minimum score of 60%.

GS2: Quality Standard Semi- natural Green Space

All Semi-natural Green Spaces to achieve a minimum quality score 60%

- 7.16 The quality standard has been set at 60% based on the aspiration to achieve an increase in the quality of green spaces across the District. Whilst, it is based on a small sample of spaces it has been set at the same level as other green space types in order to achieve consistency. Further work needs to be undertaken to further develop baseline information, from which priorities can be established and progress measured.

Provision for Children & Young People

- 7.17 Based on a sample of 55 sites that were assessed as part of the Bolsover District Council Open Space Audit the quality scores ranged from 34% to 80% with an average score of 55%. The Household Survey found that overall 37.1% of respondents were dissatisfied (or very dissatisfied) with the quality of children's play provision against 30.1% who were satisfied (or very satisfied). There was an even stronger response for teen provision with 53.5% dissatisfied (of which 19.6% were very dissatisfied) against 5.7% of respondents who displayed positive levels of satisfaction.
- 7.18 In order to raise the overall standard and improve customer satisfaction levels, the Council will strive to ensure that a minimum quality standard of 60% is achieved for all equipped provision for children and young people.

GS3 : Quality Standard for Children & Young People

Achieve a minimum quality standard of 60% for all equipped provision for children and young people.

- 7.19 The standard seeks to achieve an increase in the overall quality of provision for children and young people and reflects the views expressed by Bolsover residents and young people through the consultation processes. The quality standard is also consistent with that set for other green space types in the District. Priorities for action against the proposed minimum quantity standard are shown below.

TABLE 16: EQUIPPED PLAY AREAS BELOW 60% QUALITY STANDARD

Settlement Hierarchy	Priorities for Action as of 2012
Towns	7 play spaces score below the proposed minimum quality standard – Bolsover (3), Shirebrook (2), South Normanton (2)
Main Villages	5 play spaces score below the proposed minimum quality standard – Creswell (1), Pinxton (1), Tibshelf (1), Whitwell (2)
Villages	8 play spaces score below the proposed minimum quality standard

Allotments

- 7.20 Derived from the Bolsover Open Space Audit, the average quality score based on a sample of 46 sites is 50%. In order to raise the overall standard the Council will strive to ensure that a minimum quality standard of 60% is achieved for allotments based on the methodology developed for the Open Space Audit undertaken by Bolsover District Council.

GS4 : Quality Standard for Allotments

All allotments to achieve a minimum quality score of 60%.

The proposed standard aspires to raise the quality of allotments across the District and is consistent with the quality standard for other green space types. Priorities for action against the proposed minimum quantity standard are shown below.

**TABLE 17: ALLOTMENTS BELOW
60% QUALITY STANDARD**

Settlement Hierarchy	Priorities for Action as of 2012
Towns	16 allotments score below the proposed minimum quality standard – Bolsover (4) , Clowne (4), Shirebrook (8)
Main Villages	2 allotments score below the proposed minimum quality standard –Creswell (1), Whitwell (1)
Villages	8 allotments score below the proposed minimum quality standard

‘Flagships’

7.21 Well designed and well managed Green Space has tremendous potential to bring communities together to recreate and relax on a regular basis and to provide favoured locations to hold or celebrate special events. This Strategy has identified a lack of flagship town parks in the District which can act as focal points in urban areas, accommodate diverse activities, and be an emblem and source of local pride. Accordingly, in order that these parks achieve their potential, the Council will strive to achieve Green Flag status in all town parks. The Green Flag Award scheme is the benchmark national standard for parks and green spaces in the UK. It was first launched in 1996 to recognise and reward the best green spaces in the country and it continues to provide the benchmark against which parks and green spaces are measured. In order to qualify for an award, a site must attain a score of 66%. The Council gained first hand experience of the award scheme through the successful application for green flag status for Creswell Model Village. Without necessarily applying for further green flag wards - a process which does require considerable staff time - the Council aims to ensure that its flagship town parks exceed green flag award requirements through the following standard.

GS5: Quality Standard for Town Parks

All Town Parks to achieve a minimum quality score of 70%.

7.22 This proposed standard seeks to ensure that the District’s Town Parks will be special places. These parks which will be situated in prominent and

highly accessible locations will help to foster civic pride, improve quality of life and promote the District as a desirable place to live and work.

Partnership Working

7.23 A number of different organisations have responsibility for aspects of green space provision, management and maintenance within the District. The County Council manage several large country parks and an extensive system of greenways. The District Council own and manage some sites directly. Parish Councils own some sites, and manage them directly or employ the District Council to manage them. Several other organisations such as the National Trust and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust own and manage green space within the District.

7.24 Delivering improvements in green space provision, at a time of scarce public resources will be very challenging. It is important, therefore, that the various agencies involved in green space should work in a co-operative manner. Accordingly, this Strategy proposes the establishment of a Green Space Action Group. The Group would bring together appropriate representatives from the District Council, County Council, Parish Councils, other providers and interest groups to:

- Facilitate a sense of common understanding and purpose;
- Improve communication and co-ordination;
- Identify and pursue funding opportunities;
- Promote and champion the benefits of high quality green space.

GS6: Green Space Action Group

A Green Space Action Group will be established to facilitate co-operation amongst green space providers and managers.

As the Local Strategic Partnership has developed considerable experience in bringing together different partners to work effectively, it would appear to provide an appropriate mechanism to establish the Action Group. The LSP have confirmed that they are prepared to take on this role.

Community Involvement

7.25 The involvement of local communities in major decisions and changes affecting their local green spaces is essential. Green spaces fulfil a wide range of functions and therefore affect many different members of the community. Where opportunities for change arise local communities

should be asked what they like and dislike about their green spaces and what could be improved.

7.26 One of the main benefits of green spaces is their capacity to bring people together and foster a sense of community pride and social inclusion. Accordingly communities should be supported to take a more direct role in the promotion, care and management of green spaces. In recent years, a number of friends of groups have been established in the District. Friends of Groups are usually formed by local residents who have got together because they have a particular interest in a local green space. The aim of Friends of Groups is usually to support a green space through working in partnership with the owners and managers of the site. Possible activities include:

- Providing information;
- Helping to shape development and management plans for a green space;
- Bidding for resources to facilitate specific improvements;
- Organising events or activities for the local community;
- Assisting in practical tasks to improve a green space.

GS7: Community Involvement

Wider community involvement will be sought in the design, management, and interpretation of green spaces.

Appendix: Green Space Profiles

- A.1 This appendix summarises the findings of the green space audit and compares green space provision in each key settlement against the standards of the Green Space Strategy. Green space profiles for 'lower tier' settlements across the district are presented in more general terms than the towns and main villages, reflecting their smaller populations and lower expected levels of residential development over the next 20 years.
- A.2 The comments regarding future anticipated population growth are based upon the Council's intended housing target for this period of 6,000 additional dwellings, and the potential minimum additional housing requirements for key settlements set out in Appendix C to the report on the District Housing Target to Planning Committee of 28 September 2011. If any of these targets change significantly during the course of progressing the Local Plan, then consequential amendments will need to be made to the profiles.
- A.3 It is intended that a more detailed account of the green space resource in each key settlement, and of the requirements and possible options for future change, will be set out in a discussion document. This will incorporate and further explore the ideas and suggestions included in the draft Green Space Strategy, published in November 2011. The discussion document may be used to inform work on the Site Allocations Development Plan Document. However, it is useful to separate out the content of a document which is exploratory in nature, from the provisions set out in this Strategy.

**TABLE 18 - GREEN SPACE PROFILE:
BOLSOVER (including Bolsover Town, Carr Vale and Hillstown)
Estimated Population in 2011 : 10,706**

Accessibility	<p>The whole settlement is deficient against the Level 2 Town Park accessibility standard, due to the absence of any such facility.</p> <p>Neighbourhood green space site accessibility (800m) deficiencies are evident in the east of the town around Horsehead Lane, and on the northern edge of around Springfield Crescent. Parts of Carr Vale fall outside accessibility targets for neighbourhood green space sites. Shortfalls in accessibility to local green space sites are found across wider areas of the eastern parts of the town, affecting much of the Moor Lane housing estate and the outer elements along Langwith Road. Equipped Play Area deficiencies are found in small areas on the central southern extreme of the town, on the eastern parts of Langwith Road and in pockets of housing close to the town centre such as those immediately south of the castle around Castle Lane.</p>
Quantity	<p>Meets minimum requirement for formal green space with 2.66 ha per 1,000 population.</p> <p>Meets minimum requirement for semi-natural green space with 5.84 ha per 1,000 population.</p>
Quality	<p>2 formal green space sites, 3 play areas and 4 allotment sites in need of improvement to meet quality standard.</p>
Type	<p>The town has no level 2 (Town Park) facility.</p> <p>Outdoor sports accounts for 12.4 hectares - not unreasonable provision for a town the size of Bolsover.</p> <p>Allotments have a major land take and account for 11.3 hectares.</p>
Growth	<p>Population growth between 2011 and 2031 is anticipated to be around 4,350, with growth focused on the north-eastern edge of the town. A strategic-scale development site at Bolsover North is likely to deliver at least 40% of that and should have capacity to deliver a town park. Future development will also provide opportunities to rebalance the distribution of green space which is heavily skewed towards the west of the settlement.</p>

**TABLE 18 - GREEN SPACE PROFILE:
BOLSOVER (including Bolsover Town, Carr Vale and Hillstown)
Estimated Population in 2011 : 10,706**

Priorities

Establish a town park and address deficiencies in access to green space. Equipped play areas needed in south west of settlement. Query whether area devoted to allotments is still supported by existing demand, but also note anticipated population growth.

**TABLE 19 - GREEN SPACE PROFILE:
CLOWNE (Estimated Population in 2011:7,452)**

Accessibility	<p>The whole settlement is deficient against the Level 2 town park accessibility standard, due to absence of any such facility.</p> <p>The town meets all neighbourhood green space accessibility targets, primarily as a function of the linear park in the heart of the settlement.</p> <p>At the local scale, there is a deficiency in access to local green space sites identified across central-southern parts of the Ringer Lane housing estate.</p> <p>A deficiency in access to Equipped Play Areas is evident in the south and east of the town.</p>
Quantity	<p>Current provision of 1.46 ha per 1,000 population is well below the minimum requirement for formal open space.</p> <p>Current provision of 0.58 ha per 1,000 population is well below the minimum requirement for semi-natural open space.</p>
Quality	<p>1 formal green space site and 4 allotment sites in need of improvement to meet quality standard.</p>
Type	<p>Outdoor sports accounts for 7.9 ha – not unreasonable provision for a town the size of Clowne.</p> <p>Amenity green space accounts for only 2.8 ha – this low provision may affect the perceived environmental quality of the town.</p> <p>Allotments account for 1.65 ha</p>
Growth	<p>Population growth between 2011 and 2031 is anticipated to be around 1,500, with growth focused on the western and possibly northern edges of town. This will provide opportunities to increase current provision and possibly to create a town park.</p>
Priorities	<p>Establish a town park and address deficiencies in access to green space in the Ringer Lane housing estate. Equipped play areas needed in south and east of the town. Significant increase in amenity green space and semi-natural green space required.</p>

**TABLE 20 - GREEN SPACE PROFILE:
SOUTH NORMANTON (Estimated Population in 2011 : 10,386)**

Accessibility	<p>The whole settlement is deficient against the Level 2 Town Park accessibility standard, due to absence of any such facility. Accessibility from the main residential areas to neighbourhood green space sites is fully satisfied.</p> <p>Accessibility to local level green spaces is deficient in the western fringe of the town either side of the B6019 Alfreton Road, and in and around the Carr Lane / Sporton Lane / Sough Road housing estate.</p> <p>Access to Equipped Play Areas (EPAs) is deficient over large areas of South Normanton. The residential area stretching southwards from Carter Lane West to Storth Lane and the eastern part of the Chine in Broadmeadows in the south are over 400 metres from an EPA. To the west of the settlement, a section of Alfreton Road, and the housing to the north (including Windmill Rise and the roads leading off West Street) are EPA deficient.</p>
Quantity	<p>Current provision of 1.3 ha per 1,000 population is well below the minimum requirement for formal open space.</p> <p>Meets minimum requirement for semi-natural green space with 1.4 ha per 1,000 population, although much of this is located in a strip alongside the A 38 and is of limited appeal.</p>
Quality	<p>2 play areas in need of improvement to meet quality standard.</p>
Type	<p>Outdoor sports accounts for only 7.41 ha</p> <p>Only 1 ha of allotments, less than 10% of provision in Bolsover Town.</p>
Growth	<p>Population growth between 2011 and 2031 is anticipated to be around 1,650. Most of this growth is likely to take place within the existing settlement framework. Settlement expansion might provide opportunity to address deficiencies, otherwise options appear to be relatively limited; consequently emphasis should be placed on improving quality.</p>

**TABLE 20 - GREEN SPACE PROFILE:
SOUTH NORMANTON (Estimated Population in 2011 : 10,386)**

Priorities	Needs a town park and a significant increase in amount of provision and also in quality of provision. Need for more equipped play areas, outdoor sports provision and allotments. Separate Green Infrastructure Study also identified South Normanton/Pinxton as a priority for provision and enhancement of green infrastructure.
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**TABLE 21 - GREEN SPACE PROFILE:
SHIREBROOK (Estimated Population in 2011: 10,774)**

Accessibility	<p>The central location of Shirebrook Town Park means that accessibility targets for level 2 multi-functional green space are met across the whole settlement.</p> <p>Accessibility to neighbourhood and local green spaces is also good with only a few residential properties outside of requisite distances.</p> <p>Accessibility to Equipped Play Areas is deficient in a significant central strip of the town running roughly north to south. Residents in the north east of the town around Station Road, Burlington Avenue, and Langwith Road lack access to nearby play areas.</p>
Quantity	<p>Meets minimum requirement for formal green space with 2.5 ha per 1,000 population.</p> <p>Current provision of 0.6 ha per 1,000 population is well below minimum requirement for semi-natural green space.</p>
Quality	<p>3 formal green space sites, 3 play areas and 8 allotment sites in need of improvement to meet quality standard.</p>
Type	<p>Outdoor sports accounts for 11 ha – not an unreasonable provision for a town the size of Shirebrook</p> <p>Amenity green space accounts for 15.2 ha – may be opportunities to use some of this to meet deficit in semi-natural green space.</p> <p>Allotments account for 5.5 ha.</p>
Growth	<p>Population growth between 2011 and 2031 is anticipated to be around 1,750. It is thought that most, if not all, of this growth is likely to take place within the existing settlement framework.</p> <p>The South Shirebrook area presents a major opportunity to address the lack of semi-natural green space, ideally linking in with and enhancing the disused Pleasley to Clowne railway.</p>
Priorities	<p>Provision of semi-natural green space mainly through provision in new developments, but also possibly by changes in management. Provision of equipped play areas in central and north eastern areas of the town.</p>

**TABLE 22 - GREEN SPACE PROFILE:
BARLBOROUGH (Estimated Population in 2011 : 2,833)**

Accessibility	<p>Generally well provided for in terms of access to green spaces. However, about 100 residential properties on the north west fringe of the village fall outside accessibility standards for neighbourhood green space.</p> <p>An area along and to the east of the A619 (Chesterfield Road) is outside the 400 metres standard for access to an Equipped Play Area.</p>
Quantity	<p>Meets minimum requirement for formal green space with 3.6 ha per 1,000 population.</p> <p>Meets minimum requirement for semi-natural green space with 3.5 ha per 1,000 population.</p>
Quality	<p>All sites appear to meet quality standard</p>
Type	<p>Outdoor sports accounts for 4 ha – good provision for a village the size of Barlborough, and this total does not include Barlborough Golf Course which is classified separately.</p> <p>There is no allotment provision.</p>
Growth	<p>Population growth between 2011 and 2031 is anticipated to be around 450.</p>
Priorities	<p>Provision of Equipped Play Area in central area of settlement.</p> <p>Consideration to provision of allotments.</p>

**TABLE 23 - GREEN SPACE PROFILE:
CRESWELL (Estimated Population in 2011: 5,411)**

Accessibility	<p>The whole of Creswell meets minimum standards for distances between housing and green spaces. This is a consequence of an extensive series of well distributed formal open spaces across the village.</p> <p>Accessibility to Equipped Play Areas is also good for all main residential areas.</p>
Quantity	<p>Meets minimum requirement for formal green space with 2.7 ha per 1,000 population.</p> <p>Meets minimum requirement for semi-natural green space with 2.8 ha per 1,000 population, mainly due to the proximity of Creswell Craggs.</p>
Quality	<p>2 formal green space sites, 1 play area and 1 allotment site in need of improvement to meet quality standard.</p>
Type	<p>Outdoor Sports accounts for 4.3 ha</p> <p>Amenity Open Space accounts for 10.2 ha</p> <p>Allotments account for 5.9 ha – a relatively high level of provision.</p>
Growth	<p>Population growth between 2011 and 2031 is anticipated to be around 850.</p>
Priorities	<p>Further provision for outdoor sports would appear to be desirable. Query whether land take for allotments is supported by demand.</p>

**TABLE 24 - GREEN SPACE PROFILE:
PINXTON (Estimated population in 2011: 4,342)**

Accessibility	<p>Pinxton almost meets all minimum requirements for accessibility to green spaces, reflecting its allocation of parks and amenity space across the village. Only a very small number of properties to the northern parts of Woodfield Road, close to the M1 fall outside a 400 metre distance for access to a local green space, and those distances are only exceeded by very small amounts.</p> <p>Access to Equipped Play Areas (EPAs) is less well provided for across the village. Better access is needed in the south-western parts of the village, mainly north of Wharf Road around the Park Lane area. In the northern parts of Pinxton, Woodfield Road and the east of Brookhill Lane fall outside minimum accessibility distances for EPA.</p>
Quantity	<p>Just meets the minimum requirement for formal green space with 2.4 ha per 1,000 population.</p> <p>Current provision of 0.9 ha semi-natural green space per 1,000 population is below the minimum requirement.</p>
Quality	<p>1 formal green space site and 1 play area in need of improvement to meet quality standard</p>
Type	<p>Outdoor sports accounts for 2.4 ha – a low level of provision for a village the size of Pinxton.</p> <p>Amenity green space is relatively high accounting for 8 hectares. There is no allotment provision.</p>
Growth	<p>Population growth between 2011 and 2031 is anticipated to be around 550. Some growth will occur within the existing settlement framework, but it is possible that a modest extension to existing village boundaries may also provide opportunities for additional green space provision.</p>

**TABLE 24 - GREEN SPACE PROFILE:
PINXTON (Estimated population in 2011: 4,342)**

Priorities	<p>Provision of semi-natural open space required. Separate Green Infrastructure Study also identified South Normanton/Pinxton as a priority for provision and enhancement of green infrastructure.</p> <p>Further provision for outdoor sports would appear to be desirable, possibly through changes to management of the Wharf Road Recreation Ground.</p> <p>Establish Equipped Play Areas in the north east and south west of the village.</p> <p>Consider allotment provision.</p>
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**TABLE 25 - GREEN SPACE PROFILE:
TIBSHELF (Estimated population in 2011: 3,470)**

Accessibility	All of the village south of the Church of St John the Baptist is within access standards to neighbourhood and local green spaces. In contrast, residential areas to the north of the church are beyond 800 metres to neighbourhood green space sites, and all areas north and east of Brooke Street are beyond 400 metres to local green space sites. Consequently, a significant proportion of the settlement has sub-standard access to neighbourhood and local green spaces. Access to Equipped Play Areas is good, with all main residential areas within 400 metres of a play area.
Quantity	Meets the minimum requirement for formal green space with 3.4 ha per 1,000 population. Meets the minimum requirement for semi-natural green space with 6.3 ha per 1,000 population. Tibshelf has excellent access to the Five Pits trail and Tibshelf ponds.
Quality	1 Play area in need of improvement to meet quality standard
Type	Outdoor sports account for 3 ha. Amenity green space accounts for 8.7 ha Allotments account for 1.6 ha
Growth	Population growth between 2011 and 2031 is anticipated to be around 550. Most of this growth will probably occur through modest extensions to existing village boundaries, and this should also provide opportunities for additional green space provision.
Priorities	Provision of green spaces in northern half of settlement.

**TABLE 26 - GREEN SPACE PROFILE:
WHITWELL (Estimated population in 2011: 3,616)**

Accessibility	<p>Access to neighbourhood level green space is good for the majority of the settlement, although its western fringes, west of Hillside and Sandy Lane, are deficient. The same area is also nominally deficient in local green space – although the site to the north of Bakestone Moor is only marginally under the required size for a local green space site. Areas of the village north and west of the war memorial at the main village crossroads are also deficient in local green space. A central swathe of the village - generally running north-south either side of Southfield Lane - lies beyond 400 metres from an Equipped Play Area.</p>
Quantity	<p>Current provision of 2.1 ha formal green space per 1,000 population is below the minimum requirement. Current provision of 2.2 ha semi-natural green space per 1,000 population meets minimum requirement although nearly all such provision is found on one site.</p>
Quality	<p>2 formal green space sites and 2 play areas in need of improvement to meet quality standard</p>
Type	<p>Amenity green space amounts to 4 ha and Outdoor sports provision amounts to 3.7 ha, which is a reasonable balance of uses within the formal green space category. However, overall provision is low. Allotments appear to be well provided for with 3 ha.</p>
Growth	<p>Population growth between 2011 and 2031 is anticipated to be around 200. Reclamation and/or redevelopment of former colliery tip site may afford some opportunity to accommodate semi-natural green space provision.</p>
Priorities	<p>Provision of green space in western and north western areas of village. Equipped play areas needed in central areas. Query whether land take for allotments is justified by demand.</p>

TABLE 27 - GREEN SPACE PROFILE: THE VILLAGES

This table briefly outlines the key green space issues and priorities for the smaller settlements within the District. Proposals for growth within these settlements are likely to be tightly controlled and consequently opportunities for the delivery of enhanced green space provision through developer contributions - the most likely funding source, are therefore limited. Nevertheless, aspirations to address needs for green space provision and to remove inequalities in provision remain an objective for all communities across the district. In villages which the Local Plan identifies as 'growth villages' there may be potential for new green space provision through new development. Elsewhere, the potential establishment of a Community Infrastructure Levy may provide an opportunity to set up a district wide fund which could be used to address clear strategic needs.

Blackwell	Blackwell is adequately provided for in terms of formal green space with 2.8 Ha/1000 population, but has an under provision of semi-natural green space with 0.5 ha per 1,000 population. Outdoor sports and allotments are well provided for.
Doe Lea	Doe Lea enjoys a good level of provision of formal green space, comfortably exceeding the minimum standard. It also enjoys a very significant provision of semi-natural green spaces, largely due to the proximity of the Glapwell Countryside site and the Doe Lea nature reserve.
Glapwell	Glapwell suffers from a significant shortfall in formal green space in relation to settlement size. A shortfall of 1.46 ha has been identified. Growth expectations are however minimal and therefore provision of new formal green space is unlikely to be delivered from growth immediately in or around the village. Consequently new provision may be reliant on creation of a central district wide fund (possibly through the Community Infrastructure Levy) which can address clear strategic priorities. Semi-natural green space provision is however significantly over strategy targets at 3.5 ha/1000 population.

TABLE 27 - GREEN SPACE PROFILE: THE VILLAGES

Hilcote	Current provision in Hilcote comfortably exceeds minimum targets for both formal and semi-natural green space, the latter mostly taking the form of a green corridor along a disused railway. There are no allotments, but this is not surprising in a village of under 500 people.
Hodthorpe	Hodthorpe is under provided in terms of formal green space with 1.7 ha per 1,000 population and no provision at all of semi-natural green space. It is, however, well provided for in terms of allotments with 1.85 ha, a large provision for a village of under 700 people. It is anticipated that Hodthorpe will be identified as a growth village in the Local Plan, which should provide an opportunity to improve green space provision.
Langwith	Langwith benefits from close proximity to a large area of semi-natural green space at Poulter Country Park, and provision of formal green space also meets the minimum quantity standard.
New Houghton	New Houghton benefits from close proximity to a large area of semi-natural green space at Pleasley Country Park and also has ample formal green space. It is anticipated that New Houghton will be identified as a growth village in the Local Plan, which should provide an opportunity to improve the quality of existing green space provision.
Palterton	Palterton is adequately provided for in terms of formal open space with 2.7 ha per 1,000 population, but is under provided in semi-natural open space with just 0.6 ha per 1,000 population. Allotments are well provided for with 1.40 ha devoted to this use.
Pleasley	Pleasley is underprovided with formal green space with just 0.9 ha per 1,000 population, but enjoys abundant semi-natural green space due to the proximity of Pleasley Country Park. The village has 0.5 ha of allotments.

TABLE 27 - GREEN SPACE PROFILE: THE VILLAGES

<p>Scarcliffe</p>	<p>Scarcliffe is well provided for in terms of formal open space with 5.1 ha per 1,000 population, but has no semi-natural open space. However, the proximity to Langwith Wood a private wood which is crossed by a public footpath does provide some contact with the natural world. There are no allotments, but this is not surprising in a village of under 500 people.</p>
<p>Shuttlewood</p>	<p>Shuttlewood is well provided for in terms of formal open space with 4.6 ha per 1,000 population, but has no semi-natural open space. For its size it has large areas devoted to outdoor sports (1.6 ha) and to allotments (2.3 ha). It is anticipated that Shuttlewood will be identified as a growth village in the Local Plan, which should provide an opportunity to improve green space provision e.g. by creating or incorporating a semi-natural area.</p>
<p>Westhouses</p>	<p>Westhouses is well provided for in terms of formal open space with 3 ha per 1,000 population, but has no semi-natural open space. Allotments account for 0.7 ha which would appear to be good provision for a village with a population of under 700.</p>
<p>Whaley Thorns</p>	<p>Whaley Thorns has the highest provision of formal open space per head of population in the District – 8.8 ha per 1,000 population, and also has high levels of semi-natural green space due to neighbouring Poulter Country Park. There are also nearly 3 ha of allotments which is a large area for a relatively small settlement.</p>