

Green Space Strategy



for Stevenage 2010 - 2020

A Strategy for the Green Infrastructure of Stevenage

“What is the good of your stars and trees, your sunrise and the wind, if they do not enter into our daily lives?”

E.M Forster

Foreward

Stevenage is often perceived, by those who have never visited the town, as a concrete jungle, but that analogy could not be further from the truth.

At its inception Stevenage was designed with a great deal of emphasis on green space, and it's importance in helping to create a thriving cohesive community. Today Stevenage continues to provide a wonderful variety of green spaces – from parks to allotments, quiet spaces for contemplation to outdoor sport facilities, and play areas to wildlife havens.

The Council recognises that good quality green spaces provide a significant benefit for local communities as the basis for good quality neighbourhoods. As a result we have strived to protect and invest in the green spaces and infrastructure of the town.

We have been largely successful in providing some excellent green facilities, which have been recognised at a national level through the attainment of a Green Flag Award for Fairlands Valley Park and success in Britain in Bloom. Much of this success has been as a result of partnership working with our local community.

But, as our community grows and evolves so must the way in which we develop and promote our green spaces. This strategy aims to build on what has already been achieved and move forward to ensure that the town's green spaces are not only retained and meet the needs of the whole community, but actively involve our community in their future maintenance and improvement. This Green Space Strategy sets out, for the first time, a clear vision for green spaces in Stevenage, which are supported by objectives, and priorities for the provision and management of this most valued asset.

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Executive Portfolio Holder for Environment and Regeneration

Contents

	Page
Introduction	
What is Green Space?	1
Why is Green Space Important?	3
Why is a Green Space Strategy Required?	6
Strategic Context	
National Policies and Initiatives	8
Regional Policies and Initiatives	9
Links to Local Strategies	9
Historical Context	
The Development Corporation Years	11
Provision and Protection Since 1980	12
Demographic Structure of Stevenage	13
Current Provision	
Audit of Open Space	14
Methodology	
Background Information	17
PPG17 Study, Consultation and Visioning	17
Consultation	21
Green Infrastructure Study	22
Conservation Area Appraisals	22
Water Cycle Strategy	22
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	23
Landscape Sensitivity Studies	23
Other Data Sets	23

Key Issues	24
Strategic Objectives	
Maintenance and Management	25
Community Safety	27
Community Engagement	28
Wildlife Conservation	30
Provision for Children and Young People	31
Outdoor Sports	32
Allotments	33
Cemeteries	34
Green Corridors	35
Water	36
Promotion	36
Health & Safety	37
Trees	38
Funding Statement	38
Action Plan	40
Appendices	
Appendix A: Setting Standards	52

Introduction

What is Green Space?

Green space is the natural environment that provides the setting in which we live, work and play. It makes a major contribution to raising the quality of life of both residents and visitors.

The nature of green infrastructure is diverse and in many instances any single green space features may include trees; hedgerows and shrub areas; close mown and meadow grassland, water features, play spaces and sports pitches. Planning Policy Statement 12 (PPS12) defines green infrastructure as:

“a network of multi-functional green space, both new and existing, both rural and urban, which supports the natural and ecological processes and is integral to the health and quality of life of sustainable communities.”



Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) focuses on auditing, and assessing the need for, open spaces from a recreational viewpoint. The companion guide to PPG17 states that “open space and sport and recreation facilities can make a major contribution to ensuring that villages, towns and cities are places in which people will choose to live.”

Table 1 illustrates the PPG17 open space typologies, definitions and some local examples.

Table 1

Type	Definition	Examples
Parks & Gardens	Includes urban parks, country parks and formal gardens	Fairlands Valley Park, Town Centre Gardens, Bowling Green
Natural & Semi-Natural	Includes publicly accessible woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands, wetlands, open & running water, wastelands.	Shackledell Grassland, Ashtree Wood, Ridlins End Nature Reserve, Ely Close Dell, Whomerley Wood, Symonds Green Common
Amenity Green Space	Includes informal recreation spaces, green spaces in and around housing, domestic gardens and village greens.	Shephall Green, Campshill Park, The Dell, Burymead, The Oval, The Noke
Provision for Children & Young People	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people	Bowes Lyon Skate Park, Skegness Road Play Area, St Nicholas Park
Outdoor Sports Facilities	Natural or artificial surfaces either publicly or privately owned which is used for sport and recreation. Includes school playing fields.	Ridlins Playing Fields, Marriots School, Stevenage Town Rugby Football Club, Stevenage Golf Course
Allotments & Community Gardens	Opportunities for those people wishing to grow their own produce as part of the longterm promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.	Broxdell Allotments, Greydells Allotments
Green Corridors	Including rivers and canal banks, cycle ways and rights of way.	Gresley Way, Lanterns Lane, horse & pony route
Cemeteries and Churchyards	Including disused churchyards and other burial grounds	Weston Road Cemetery, St Mary's Churchyard

Why is Green Space Important?

Green open space is a vital component in creating and maintaining a balanced urban environment and is increasingly recognised as an essential 'quality of life' resource.



Green space provides a number of functions and benefits within the urban fabric of our towns and cities. It is also fundamental to delivering both local priorities and the shared priorities established between central government and local government, including:

- Promoting healthier communities and reducing health inequalities
- Enabling children and young people to develop social skills, test their boundaries, explore and learn about nature and wildlife
- Improving the life chances of people living the more deprived areas
- Creating safer and stronger communities
- Improving the image of Stevenage and pride in the town
- Creating cleaner and greener communities
- Enhancing biodiversity
- Mitigating and adapting to climate change
- Recognising the value of the historic environment
- Avoiding, managing and reducing flood risk.

Good quality green spaces have a big impact on local communities in terms of providing the green setting for good quality neighbourhoods. They can support and improve the local quality of life for residents and visitors by

providing social, recreational, environmental, educational and economic opportunities.

Social

Green spaces can be used to provide safe places that are available to all – to meet for play, sport and recreation.

They have the potential to engender a sense of community ownership and pride, and create social cohesion. They are useful places to hold community events, voluntary activities and charitable fundraising. They can also be used to organise and allow people to participate in healthy outdoor activities.



Recreational

Green spaces are available to provide accessible recreation areas and activities as an alternative to other more chargeable leisure pursuits.

They provide places for play, sport and recreation, and somewhere to meet or somewhere to enjoy the peace, reflect, and revive our spirits.

Environmental

Green spaces and green corridors can provide a rich range of habits for wildlife and local biodiversity. They are useful components in stabilising urban temperatures and humidity, and can be used at a neighbourhood level as locally accessible facilities which help to reduce and mitigate the use, and over reliance on, vehicle transport.

Educational

Green spaces can aid the promotion and understanding of the natural and the green environment and can be used to demonstrate the virtues of sustainable development and health awareness.



They offer young people a first hand experience of the natural world and can be used to stimulate and enhance child development through play.

Economic

Green spaces, and in particular high quality green space, can add value to surrounding property, both commercial and residential.

They are often vital components of urban regeneration projects and, in new developments, complementary green space and landscape features can further enhance value and encourage employment and inward investment.

Quality green spaces also play a vital role in attracting visitors and tourists to the town.

Clearly green space plays a major part in the health and well being of towns and has a significant contribution to make to the 'quality of life' of the residents of Stevenage.

Cultural

Green infrastructure can form an important part of the historic built environment. Green spaces may form an important part of a Conservation Area or provide the setting to a listed building.

Hydrological

Water is an important part of green infrastructure. Open and running water can be used for leisure and recreation, or increase the amenity of an area. It also provides important habitat for wildlife. Some areas may be deliberately designed to absorb water that runs off from developed areas or flood in times of storm to help regulate the discharge of water.

Why Is a Green Space Strategy Required?

As Britain's first new town, Stevenage was designed with a great deal of emphasis on green space and its importance in helping to create a thriving community. Existing features such as hedgerows and lanes, ponds, woodlands and veteran trees were retained and used to create open space, wildlife corridors and an immediate sense of place and many of these features still exist today.

Stevenage Borough Council recognises the importance of green space and the green infrastructure within Stevenage and the contribution that it makes to the health, wellbeing, image and identity of the town. The Council will protect the quality and quantity of green space, and, where appropriate, enhance it.

This Green Space Strategy 2010-2020 contains a shared vision and objectives from a range of agencies and partners. It sets out objectives for the way in which green spaces in Stevenage are maintained, and improved, to ensure that they are safe, accessible and sustainable and continue to perform a range of functions that benefit the whole community.

These actions will only be possible if delivered in partnership, as no single organisation manages, or has the resources to deliver, the Green Space Strategy alone.

The principal aims and objectives of the Green Space Strategy are:

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- To establish and communicate a clear vision for green space.
 - To provide clear objectives, and priorities, for the provision and management of green space.
 - To protect and enhance green space in Stevenage
 - To ensure the towns green spaces meet the needs of the whole community.
 - To ensure green space enhances the quality of the local environment for residents, visitors and wildlife.
 - To involve the community in future maintenance and development.

Strategic Context

The new town pioneers of Stevenage had a clear vision of a town that would offer a better quality of life to people moving out of a London ravaged by war. Stevenage is regarded as one of the most outstanding achievements in town planning and development in the 20th century.

Stevenage is a predominantly urban town located in Hertfordshire with excellent strategic positioning. Situated 30 miles north of London, off the A1(M), with an East Coast mainline railway, and well connected to three major airports, it's transport links make it an excellent place to do business.

It is a medium sized town of around 80,000 people set in a wealthy, semi-rural county. However, unlike most other Hertfordshire districts Stevenage has the kind of needs and problems usually associated with large, urban areas – hiding several small pockets of considerable deprivation. The population of Stevenage is expected to grow, with additional dwellings to be provided at new neighbourhoods west and north of the town.”

Stevenage has the first pedestrian only town centre in the country. It was originally designed around six similarly sized neighbourhoods. These neighbourhoods were designed to be relatively self contained - each with its own schools, health facilities, local shops, community centres, places of worship and parks.

The neighbourhood centres, community facilities and green spaces are all linked by wide roads and a network of pedestrian and cycle routes.



National Policies and Initiatives

The importance of green space has been highlighted by the Urban Green Spaces Task Force Report 2002 as a critical element in creating sustainable communities. The report was drafted in response to the Government's concern about the loss of open spaces, sport and recreational facilities.

There are a wide range of agencies and national documents that provide the strategic context to green space across the country and as such influence the provision of facilities in Stevenage.

Living Spaces: Cleaner, Safer, Greener was produced by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM – now Communities and Local Government) in 2002 and led to the creation of CABI Space, a national government agency which has the overall aim ‘to bring excellence to the design, management and maintenance of parks and public space in towns and cities’.

Through various task forces and initiatives the Government, together with CABI Space and other organisations such as Sport England, Encams, GreenSpace and Natural England have produced a wealth of guidance, research and best practice information about the importance of green space and its role in the regeneration of our town and cities.

Regional Policies and Initiatives

Hertfordshire Local Area Agreement

The Hertfordshire Local Area Agreement (LAA) contains a range of targets, agreed with the government, aimed at improving the performance of public services over three years.

All ten Hertfordshire district councils and Hertfordshire County Council have signed up to the agreement. The countywide LSP, 'Hertfordshire Forward' will coordinate the LAA, but district councils, district LSP's, police, health and a number of voluntary and community organisations will also be involved.

The funding made available via the Hertfordshire LAA assisted in Stevenage achieving a Green Flag Award for Fairlands Valley Park in 2009.

Links to Local Strategies

Community Strategy – Stevenage 2021 – Our Town , Our Future.

With particular regard to the environment the strategy sets out an aim to:

'create cleaner and greener communities, develop a sustainable transport network and meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'

Corporate Plan 2008 to 2013

Stevenage Borough Council: Making a Difference sets out the Council's approach to meeting the needs of the community and is the Council's main strategic planning document.

- The Council's Vision:

'A town we can be proud of, a place people want to be.'

The vision reflects the council's commitment to working with **SOstevenage** to create a better quality of life for the people of Stevenage, and to working with the community

to make sure that everyone feels valued and is proud of the contribution they make to the town.

- The Council's Values:

The Council has adopted a framework of values to ensure that it continues to provide high quality services, and to show its commitment to working in partnership with the community.

- ✓ ***Putting people first,***
- ✓ ***Delivering value for money*** services, and
- ✓ ***Working together*** both as one organisation and in partnership with other agencies as appropriate.

The Local Development Framework (LDF)

The LDF is a set of local planning documents which will eventually replace the existing District Plan. The main document within the LDF is the Core Strategy. It sets out the vision for the future of Stevenage. It gives spatial expression to the objectives of the sustainable community strategy. This document will outline the commitment to protect, enhance and restore the natural environment within the urban area and within new neighbourhoods.

The planning system plays a large part in the provision of new green spaces, whether by allocating sites, ensuring provision is made within new developments or calculating contribution payments.

Other Strategic Documents

The Council and its partners have adopted a number of other key documents, strategies and plans. Those plans which are relevant to this strategy are:

- Stevenage Children and Young People's Plan 2007 – 2008
- Stevenage Play Strategy
- Play Rights Initiative
- Hertfordshire Children and Young People Plan 2006 / 2009
- The Sport Stevenage Action Plan

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- Stevenage Community Safety Strategy
 - Stevenage Biodiversity Action Plan
 - Hertfordshire Waste Management Strategy
 - Climate Change Strategy 2009
 - Sports Facilities Strategy 2008 – 2018
 - County Sports Facility Strategy 2007 - 2012
 - Allotment Strategy 'Growing Awareness'
 - Stevenage Cycling Strategy
 - County Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan

Historical Context

Stevenage was designated as England's first New Town in 1946. At this time Stevenage had a population of around 6,000. Most people lived in what is now called the Old Town.

Providing and maintaining green spaces has always been the responsibility of the Borough Council. However, from 1946 until 1980, the planning and growth of Stevenage was overseen by a Development Corporation.

The Development Corporation Years

Most of the town has been designed and built in the last sixty years. This provided the chance to make sure that open spaces, woodlands, and other key sites ~ what is now called green infrastructure ~ were planned in to the design of the town from the outset.

Work on the design of the new town began in 1946, with the first Master Plan for Stevenage being produced in 1949. The aim was that open spaces would form a continuous system rather than a series of isolated grounds and parks. This would allow residents to walk from one part of the town to another using gardens, commons, parks and other semi-natural spaces.

These green spaces were provided jointly by the Corporation and the District Council. Shephalbury Park and Peartree Park were provided to serve the new

houses, in those areas, in the 1950's. Hampson Park and the Town Centre Gardens followed in the 1960's. Public open spaces at St Nicholas and Canterbury Way were delivered in the 1970's. These areas provided opportunities for informal recreation alongside football and cricket pitches.

Fairlands Valley was initially reserved for agricultural use. When a new Master Plan was prepared in 1966, it was decided that the valley should become the principal area of open space in the town, and it was opened to the public in 1972. The 1966 Master Plan also made provision for the municipal golf course at Bragbury End, which was brought into use in 1980.

Allotments were provided throughout the town. They became more important as housing densities were raised and more space was needed for parking and garages. These factors resulted in smaller gardens being provided in some of the later neighbourhoods.

This proactive approach was not just limited to providing open spaces for members of the public. Between 1946 and 1966, the amount of woodland in Stevenage increased by more than one-third.

A system of balancing meadows were also provided. These were spaces that, for the most part, could be used by the public. However, in times of storm are capable of holding water, in the form of lakes, which enables the discharge of water to be regulated. By 1960 five water meadows had been provided, but this figure eventually rose to ten.

Provision and Protection Since 1980

The vision of the Development Corporation has been maintained since 1980.

Fairlands Valley remains the most important open space in the town. It is recognised by residents as one of the town's best features, and in December 2008, following a public consultation, was announced as one of five areas of local significance to be recognised in the Borough Council's Blue Plaque Scheme.

Significant areas of woodland remain throughout the town. More than 30 areas have been designated as wildlife sites.

The Borough Council is still responsible for the management and maintenance of most of the town's green space. It has also continued to protect the most important spaces from development.

The District Council's first local plan was adopted in 1983. It was later updated in 1987, 1990 and 2004. The early plans protected Fairlands Valley Park and other open spaces which provided opportunities for sport, recreation and amenity. These designations have been maintained and extended to the present day.

The current District Plan identifies a series of Principal Open Spaces, wildlife sites and green links ~ the collections of open spaces and green areas that connect neighbourhoods and provide links with the surrounding countryside ~ to be protected against development. The water meadows (or Flood Storage Reservoirs) are also protected along with other leisure routes and landscape features. An example is the network of Ancient Lanes and hedgerows which pre-date the New Town.

This history illustrates that, in terms of green infrastructure, Stevenage has consistently been 'ahead of its time'. Green spaces have been built in to the design of the town over the last sixty years. This Green Space Strategy sets out how the Borough Council will ensure that the town continues this tradition in future years.

Demographic Structure

A demographic profile for Stevenage has been taken from the Office of National Statistics, relating to information from the 2001 census:

Population Size: 79,664

Age:

The average age of the population was lower than the national average indicating above average numbers of young people:

Under 20 years old	28%
20 – 40 years old	30%
40 – 60 years old	24%
60+ years old	18%

Ethnic Minority Population

91.5% of the population are white British and the most significant minority groups being:

White: Irish	1.7%
White: Other	1.5%
Asian: Indian	1.1%

Population Affluence

At the time of the census 48.5% of the Stevenage population were in full-time employment, with 1.5% being un-employed.

63.2% owned their own home. 23% of households had no car whilst 32% of households had two cars.

Current Provision

Audit of Open Space

The PPG17 Audit, undertaken in 2005/06, assessed the provision of 532 open space sites against three criteria:

- **Accessibility:** how easy it is for people to get to the open space. This criteria relates to how far people will travel to a site, and can be effected by age, cost of travel, nature of the site and any physical barriers to access such as busy roads, for example.
- **Quantity:** the amount of provision of each type of green space within a defined area.
- **Quality:** how good is the open space? This is a subjective assessment based largely on whether an open space is fit for purpose.

A summary of the quantitative audit can be seen in Table 2.

The study concluded that, across the town, the amount of open space was about right. However, there are local areas where people do not have access to the right type or amount of open space. It suggests that many of these deficiencies could be met by changing the role and function of certain open spaces.

Table 2: A Summary of the Quantitative Audit

	Parks & Gardens	Natural & Semi Natural	Amenity Greenspace	Provision for Children & Young People	Outdoor Sport Provision	Allotments	Cemeteries & Churchyards
Standard for Stevenage	0.73ha / 1000 pop.	1.78ha / 1000 pop.	1.10ha / 1000 pop.	0.8ha / 1000 pop.	2.2ha / 1000 pop.	0.09ha / 1000 pop.	Not suitable
St Nicholas	0.00	0.74	1.04	0.81	0.43	0.07	0.00
Old Stevenage	0.04	1.46	1.40	1.93	2.81	0.18	0.41
Chells	1.14	1.97	0.93	0.48	1.74	0.04	0.00
Bedwell	2.80	2.21	1.16	1.36	2.97	0.23	0.00
Shephall	0.65	2.11	0.87	1.52	3.10	0.09	0.02
Broadwater	0.00	2.32	1.07	1.83	1.90	0.16	0.00
Overall	0.73	1.78	1.09	1.35	2.92	0.13	0.90

Methodology

Background Information

This strategy has been written following a review of a wide range of desk top information, including the relevant local and national strategies, policies and action plans. The largest single document used for the Stevenage Green Space Strategy was an audit of open spaces in accordance with the Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation.

PPG17 Study, Consultation and Visioning

Stevenage Borough Council appointed consultants to undertake a town wide Open Space, Recreation and Sport Study (hereafter referred to as 'the study'). The study included an audit of all open space provision, greater than 100m², across the town and has provided a robust baseline of data to:

- support the development of this Green Space Strategy,
- inform the development of the Local Development Framework planning policies, and
- assist in decision making around the disposal of open space assets.

This local assessment of open space enables the Council and its partners to plan effectively and to achieve some desirable key outcomes, in line with PPG17 guidance, such as:

- Setting locally derived provision standards for each type of open space
- Provision of networks of accessible, high quality open space for sport and recreation that meet the needs of residents and visitors
- Provision of open spaces that are 'fit for purpose' – the right type in the right place and of the right size
- Provision of open spaces that are economically and environmentally sustainable
- Provision of an appropriate balance between new open space and enhancement of existing provision

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- Provision of clarity and reasonable certainty for developers and land owners.

Involving Communities in the Study

A series of consultations were carried out as part of the local needs assessment to establish views on open space provision amongst both users and non-users.

The key consultations included:

- Household survey – surveys were distributed to 5,000 residents across the Borough, with an equal number being sent to each of the six analysis areas. There were 966 returned surveys providing a substantial statistical evidence base.
- Internet survey with schools across the Borough
- Drop in sessions – four drop in sessions were held across the Borough. Residents and those visiting the Borough were encouraged to informally discuss their issues regarding open space, sport and recreation
- Internal consultations with key Council officers
- Consultations with external agencies.

The information gained from these consultations was been used to inform the study, and is further used to inform this Strategy.

Visioning

Following the completion of the PPG17 study the Scrutiny Overview Committee members participated in the development of this Green Space Strategy through visioning sessions.

The first step in the process of establishing the strategy was to identify a series of vision statements for each type of green space. Utilising the findings of the open space study, clear and unambiguous quality vision statements have been agreed for each of the eight types of green space. Collectively, these form the long term quality vision for green space in Stevenage.

A Vision for Parks and Gardens

A welcoming, clean, safe and well-maintained open space providing a wide and varied range of organised and informal leisure, recreational and enriched play opportunities and events for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy.

A Vision for Natural and Semi Natural Open Space

A pleasant, litter free, safe and well-managed site utilising both natural and semi natural features to encourage conservation, introduce and sustain biodiversity and promote education. Establish a town wide hierarchy of sites to provide a balance between access to and protection of a diverse range of habitats and species.

A Vision for Amenity Greenspace

A safe, clean, well-maintained and accessible space with landscape features designed to enhance the appearance of the local environment, create a spacious outlook, encourage safe informal play and through good design mitigate the effects of such play on those living nearby.

A Vision for the Provision for Children and Young People

Accessible sites providing children and young people with play or other diversionary opportunities within a safe, clean and well-maintained environment. The site must also cater for parents and guardians needs and through good design mitigate the negative effects of such play on those living nearby.

A Vision for Outdoor Sports Facilities in Stevenage

Good quality managed facilities set out on safe, clean, well-maintained and accessible sites offering healthy lifestyle opportunities. Sports playing surfaces should be level, well drained and managed in accordance with national and regional standards. Ancillary facilities where supplied including changing facilities, toilets and car parking should be fit for purpose and where possible made available for wider community use. Opportunities for managing such facilities in partnership with local clubs should be encouraged.

A Vision for Allotments and Community Gardens

To create a future role for allotments wherein they make a positive and significant contribution to the physical, mental, social and environmental well-being of the people of Stevenage. In doing so they will prove attractive to the widest possible spectrum of the community, irrespective of age, income, creed and ability.

A Vision for Cemeteries and Churchyards

Pleasant, clean, safe, accessible and well-maintained sites offering opportunities for quiet contemplation and reflection. Open burial grounds should have the capacity to incorporate green burials within wider long term burial requirements and should offer a range of memorial opportunities including plaques, seating and planting.

A Vision for Green Corridors

Safe, litter free, and well maintained routes in natural and semi natural settings with formal pathways, accessible to walkers, linking major open spaces. Accessible routes should provide stopping / resting places for walkers.

Or, inaccessible routes with vegetative cover to encourage the movement of wildlife between major open spaces.

Consultation

Presentations

A series of presentations outlining the Green Space Strategy, with emphasis on specific elements, were prepared for a number of organisations/interest groups. For example:

- Sport Stevenage - outdoor sports facilities
- Stevenage Gardens & Allotments Association – allotments
- Action for the Environment – natural and semi-natural
- Stevenage Play Action Network – children and young people
- Faith Groups and Funeral Directors – cemeteries and churchyards.

However, as many of the land use types are inter-related groups/organisations were provided with a full copy of the Strategy for comment. Comments were captured through managed discussion groups with most feedback being received through a standard consultation feedback form.

Web Based Consultation

A web based consultation provided an opportunity for residents to comment on the Green Space Strategy using a brief on-line questionnaire.

This form of consultation was promoted through the Spring 2009 edition of Chronicle.

Interest Groups & Stakeholders

A number of local, regional and national organisations were consulted, and invited to provide feedback on generic, or specific, elements of the Strategy. Consultees included:

- So Stevenage Partnership members
- Hertfordshire County Council
- Groundwork Hertfordshire
- National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners

The Council has also considered responses made to other relevant consultation events. This includes consultations on draft Local Development Framework documents which have included policies on green spaces and green infrastructure.

Green Infrastructure Study

The growth of Stevenage is set out in the Core Strategy as part of the LDF. This document plans for the new neighbourhoods to be provided around the existing town, much of which would take place in North Hertfordshire District.

A Green Infrastructure Study (GIS) has been completed. This draws on the findings of a range of evidence studies to identify key routes and assets. As part of our work with North Hertfordshire, a Green Infrastructure Study (GIS) had been completed for areas to the north and west of Stevenage. This draws on the findings of a range of evidence studies to identify key routes and assets. It identifies open spaces and other key green infrastructure along with key projects for the area

The GIS recommended that new strategic open space provision is made to the north of the town to meet an identified deficit in provision.

Conservation Area Appraisals

Conservation areas are areas of particular architectural or historic interest. Local councils must ensure that these areas are preserved and enhanced.

There are seven Conservation Areas in Stevenage, and these cover areas such as Shephall Green, Symonds Green and Rectory Lane.

Conservation area appraisals have been completed for all of these areas. The appraisals identify, among other issues, the open spaces, trees and views that are of particular importance.

Water Cycle Strategy

The Water Cycle Strategy (WCS) examined the water and wastewater networks serving Stevenage.

The WCS concludes that new infrastructure is needed to ensure that future development targets can be met. The study also found that water quality is generally compliant with quality objectives though nutrient levels are high and flows are low. It recommends that any solutions should attempt to address these issues.

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) examined the impact of the Stevenage and Aston End Brooks on the town, along with main surface water sewers.

The significant majority of the Borough lies outside of flood risk areas, though there are areas of risk particularly towards the south east of the town. The SFRA also identified a series of flood storage reservoirs, areas deliberately designed to flood in times of storm that should be protected. It advises a presumption in favour of providing Sustainable Urban Drainage systems (SUDs) on all new developments.

Landscape Sensitivity Studies

Two studies have been conducted to assess the quality and sensitivity of the landscapes around Stevenage.

The capacity of the landscape to accommodate development was defined as high, medium or low, based on visual and sensitivity assessment of condition; natural, cultural and aesthetic factors; visibility; and mitigation potential. It is important to note that the findings of the study largely relate to areas to the north and west of the town, which have already been subject to a Green Infrastructure Study.

Other Data Sets

In addition to the commissioned studies detailed above, this strategy has also considered a number of other surveys and data sets. These include:

- The definitive rights of way statement and map
- Air quality management areas
- Listed buildings
- Tree Preservation Orders
- Local wildlife sites
- Environment Agency flood maps

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- 2001 Census
 - Best Value user survey
 - Index of multiple deprivation.

Key Issues

The consultations and studies undertaken during the past five years have established a series of key issues for green spaces and green infrastructure in Stevenage, including:

- Concern about protecting our green spaces from development.
- Provision of safe, clean, attractive green spaces.
- A desire for a warden/ranger service in our parks and open spaces.
- Consultation and involvement in decision making
- The need for Friends groups, and other volunteering opportunities.
- A need for improved provision for children and young people.
- Shortfall in levels of provision for some sports.
- Poor standards of sport provision, including pavilions.
- Meeting demand for allotments.
- Future burial provision
- Meeting the demands for green infrastructure created by new development
- A need to improve leisure routes within the town, and between town and country
- Promotion of healthy lifestyles to help tackle deprivation
- A need to preserve, and enhance, open spaces that contribute to areas of historic importance
- Reducing flood risk from all sources of flooding.

These issues have formed the basis of this strategy.

Strategic Objectives

Maintenance & Management

We strive to develop and deliver good quality green spaces – spaces that are welcoming, clean, safe and well maintained – for use by the whole community.

Our green spaces are an asset that is valued by our local community: the Stevenage Place Survey 2008/09 identified that satisfaction levels for our parks & open spaces was 73%. We must seek to protect our green spaces, and to regularly review the way in which we deliver them to ensure that we continue to meet the demands of all green space users – people and wildlife alike.



Through the promotion of our green spaces, and the facilities and opportunities that they provide, we can encourage greater usage. In turn this will lead to safer spaces, which can support stronger and healthier communities.

Attaining external accreditation, such as a Green Flag Award, provides a clear demonstration to the community of the improved provision in a green space. It also helps to raise the profile of the town, promotes civic pride, and can act as a lever for obtaining external funding through improvement grants. Securing external funding will help to support the delivery of capital and revenue improvements, which will subsequently benefit the users of our green spaces.

Objective 1: Maintenance & Management

- 1.1 Review maintenance regimes to ensure high standards are achieved at all times.
- 1.2 The Council will seek to secure external funding to enable capital and revenue improvements to our green spaces.
- 1.3 The Council will continue to develop environmentally sustainable practices.
- 1.4 The Council will protect green space from inappropriate development.
- 1.5 The Council will consider the current designation of green space typologies, in order to try and address deficiencies in some areas.
- 1.6 Produce site management plans for all key green spaces by 2012.
- 1.7 Review all management plans on an annual basis to ensure that they remain useful working documents.
- 1.8 The Council will endeavour to retain a Green Flag Award for Fairlands Valley Park.
- 1.9 The Council will seek to achieve, and retain, a Green Flag Award at two further sites by 2012.
- 1.10 The Council will continue to consult users to determine satisfaction levels, and develop the service to achieve high ratings.
- 1.11 The Council will develop and monitor local performance indicators to reflect those elements of the service that are particularly important to local people.
- 1.12 The Council will continue to develop and promote a range of facilities and activities within our green spaces.

1.13 The Council will seek to develop partnership arrangements to extend

the range of facilities available, increase capacity, share resources and secure external funding.

1.14 The Council will seek to ensure that all of our green spaces are accessible to the whole community.

1.15 The Council will provide local people with the opportunity to maintain areas of amenity green space, immediately adjacent to their property, through a simple licensing process.

1.16 The Council will secure new green spaces to meet the needs of the growing population

1.17 The Council will provide green spaces in accordance with the standards in Appendix A.

Community Safety

Perception of personal safety, when using some of our green spaces, is a common theme with local residents. Often the perception is worse than real life, but if we want to encourage residents to use and benefit from our green spaces we must work to reduce the fear, and real incidents, of crime and anti-social behaviour.

Through consultation we have determined that there is a growing desire amongst the community to see a ranger/warden service return to the parks and open spaces of Stevenage. Park rangers can help to provide an increased sense of security for parks users, help to keep green spaces clean through education and enforcement, and can support volunteer and Friends groups.

The design of our green spaces is another element for consideration in our endeavours to reduce the impact of crime and anti-social behaviour. The design and maintenance of vegetation must balance the need to maintain the natural beauty and biodiversity of our spaces, whilst also improving sight lines and removing discrete hiding places. The use of lighting, CCTV, fencing, and other security measures,

require very careful consideration if we are to deliver safe and welcoming green spaces.

Objective 2: Community Safety

- 2.1 The Council will record and analyse all incidents to inform future initiatives to reduce the impact on local residents and users of green space.
- 2.2 The Council will work with the police and the community safety partnership in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour, to ensure that our parks and green spaces remain safe for the whole community.
- 2.3 The Council will seek opportunities to deliver a mobile ranger service to tackle vandalism, crime and anti-social behaviour within green spaces.
- 2.4 The Council will undertake a full and comprehensive assessment to determine the effectiveness of existing and new CCTV installations to green spaces as part of the forthcoming CCTV review.

Community Engagement

Stevenage Borough Council has an excellent history of community engagement.

Through community consultation we can seek to understand how our green spaces are used, why they are not used, and how we can make them more interesting, inviting and accessible to the whole community.

Friends groups provide an opportunity for regular involvement, and consultation, with communities in the management and development of their local green spaces. These groups require, and deserve, a continued and consistent level of support in order that they may have a meaningful role in the decision making process, and link to the implementation of strategy. There are already a number of Friends groups in Stevenage, associated with green spaces, which receive support from the Council.

Community involvement in our green spaces can generate a sense of ownership for local residents in their local environment. It can also engender a sense of pride in ourselves, each other and our town.



Objective 3: Community Engagement

- 3.1 The Council will consult with local stakeholders on any significant developments and changes to our green spaces
- 3.2 The Council will continue to measure customer satisfaction.
- 3.3 The Council will support and encourage the development of volunteer activities associated with our key green spaces.
- 3.4 The Council will develop a programme of volunteering opportunities relating to the maintenance of our green spaces.
- 3.5 The Council will develop a range of events and activities across our green spaces, ensuring that we make provision for the whole community.
- 3.6 The Council will continue to support community events through the provision of venues.

Wildlife Conservation

There are 72 areas of natural and semi-natural open space spread throughout the town. Stevenage has two countryside heritage sites, one regionally important geological site and 37 other designated wildlife sites.

The original master plan for Stevenage sought to retain significant areas of woodland, trees and other important environments. Such features provide habitats for wildlife, create a green and pleasant environment, offer recreation and informal play opportunities and absorb greenhouse gases.

The Government have recently introduced a new National Indicator (NI197) to measure the performance of local authorities for biodiversity by assessing the implementation of active conservation management of Local Sites.



Objective 4: Wildlife Conservation

- 4.1 The Council will protect sites important to wildlife.
- 4.2 The Council will seek to improve access to wildlife sites whilst affording protection to a diverse range of habitats and species.
- 4.3 The Council will seek opportunities to create new wildlife areas to increase the range of biodiversity.

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- 4.4 The Council will deliver the actions identified in the Biodiversity Action Plan, having particular regard to the requirements of National Indicator 197.

Provision for Children & Young People

This type of open space relates to those areas specifically set aside and provided with play equipment, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters, where the primary purpose is to provide opportunities for play and social interaction involving children and young people.



It is recognised, however, that open spaces with no equipment also make an important contribution to play, and all open spaces provide an opportunity for young people to interact at a social level. Children, like adults, have a right to access these open spaces for use on their own terms, and playing out can be enriched by providing a range of equipped and non-equipped play spaces.

Key headlines from the household survey and drop in sessions revealed that 54% of respondents felt that there is not enough provision, and there was concern that there is a lack of the right type of provision to engage young people.

Objective 5: Provision for Children and Young People

- 5.1 The Council will improve the quality of outdoor play opportunities in line with the requirements set out in the Stevenage Play Strategy.
- 5.2 The Council will develop a Play Policy to review its provision of unsupervised outdoor play opportunities, to take account of natural play, and to encourage informal imaginative play.

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- 5.3 The Council will seek to deliver a high quality play area within each of our main parks and playing fields, making provision for toddlers, juniors and teenagers.
- 5.4 The Council will continue to involve children in the design of future new play areas, and regeneration of existing play areas.
- 5.5 The Council will ensure that all regeneration of play areas makes provision for children with disabilities.

Outdoor Sports

Outdoor sports facilities is a wide ranging type of open space and includes natural or artificial surfaces either publicly or privately owned which are used for sport and recreation. Examples included playing pitches, bowling greens and tennis courts.



Consultation with Sport Stevenage identified a number of key concerns:

- Increasing pressure on football pitches, particularly for junior sides.
- Facilities are considered expensive and low value for money.
- Pavilions suffer badly from vandalism, and changing facilities and toilets need improving where capital funding allows.
- Access is good at most sites but car parking can be problematic.

Public opinion indicates a real need for more provision and consultation suggests that pitches are at capacity, are being over played at some sites and that poor drainage affects the carrying capacity of existing provision.

Objective 6: Outdoor Sports Provision

- 6.1 The Council will work with partners to resolve deficiencies in the provision of rugby pitches, tennis courts and multi-use games areas.
- 6.2 The Council will review the options for existing pitch provision in order to try and address the undersupply of mini and junior football.
- 6.3 The Council will seek to implement a programme of improvements to increase the standard of all sport provision, and specifically the playing capacity of football pitches.
- 6.4 The Council will consider options for sports clubs and partner organisations to lease and maintain sports facilities.
- 6.5 The Council will seek to improve the quality of existing tennis courts, and consider opportunities for introducing mini-tennis facilities.

Allotments

There are fifteen allotment sites across the town.

At the time of adopting the Allotment Strategy, in 2002, the plot occupancy rates were low, with only 63% take up of available plots across all sites.

However, in recent years there has been a resurgence in the popularity of allotment gardening. In 2010, 100% occupancy has been achieved across all available plots and sites, and there is currently a waiting list of some 300 people.



Objective 7: Allotments

- 7.1 The Council will protect land designated as allotment gardens from inappropriate development.
- 7.2 The Council will complete the capital programme outlined within the allotment strategy by 2015.
- 7.3 The Council will review the allotment strategy by 2011.
- 7.4 The Council will consider opportunities to provide sufficient allotment space to meet demand.
- 7.5 The Council will promote self management of allotments in Stevenage.

Cemeteries

There are four churchyards and cemeteries in Stevenage which relate to green space provision in Stevenage and these are:

- Weston Rd Cemetery
- Almonds Lane Cemetery - closed to new burials

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- St Mary's Churchyard - closed to all burials
 - St Nicholas Churchyard - closed to all burials



Objective 8: Cemeteries

- 8.1 The Council will secure, and develop, land adjacent to Weston Road cemetery to address burial needs to 2025.
- 8.2 The Council will develop policies and proposals for provision of burial space after 2025.
- 8.3 The Council will continue payment of grants to St Mary's Church and St Nicholas Church to enable them to manage and maintain their grounds.

Green Corridors

Although Stevenage is a highly urbanised area with major traffic routes running through the town there are substantial grass verges and an excellent, and well laid out, cycle network associated with these routes.

In addition the town was designed to retain and make use of rural lanes and hedgerows to aid travel and movement around the town.

Objective 9: Green Corridors

- 9.1 The Council will undertake further research to understand the nature, quality, extent, usage and future management of our green corridors.
- 9.2 The Council will ensure that the future management of lane hedgerows balances the needs of local residents living adjacent, safe route issues, and the needs of wildlife.
- 9.3 The Council will preserve existing, and provide new, green corridors for pedestrians, cyclists and other users.

Water

The Stevenage and Aston End Brooks are important water courses in Stevenage. They are also areas of land which help to reduce the risk of flooding.

Objective 10: Water

- 10.1 The Council will work with partners to investigate measures which can increase water flow and quality in the River Beane and its tributaries.
- 10.2 The Council will protect flood storage reservoirs from inappropriate development.
- 10.3 The Council will require new flood storage reservoirs and other measures that can help reduce the risk of flooding in new developments.

Promotion

The Council recognises that effective promotion of our parks and open spaces is vital if we are to raise awareness of the facilities available, and the benefits of using these green spaces.

It will be important to use a range of communication, including web sites, signage, posters, and leaflets, if we are to ensure that the whole community has access to the information about our green spaces.

All publicity will meet the Council's corporate accessibility standard for publications.

Objective 11 Promotion

11.1 The Council will seek to increase formal and informal use of our green spaces through the delivery of a range of events and activities.

11.2 The Council will raise awareness of the range and location of our green spaces through a range of suitable media.

11.3 The Council will produce high quality, professional promotional material which meets the Councils accessibility standards.

Health & Safety

Stevenage Borough Council is committed to providing safe and secure green spaces for our employees and contractors to work in, and for individuals, clubs, organisations, partners and businesses to enjoy.

Objective 12: Health & Safety

12.1 The Council will ensure that our green spaces are safe places.

12.2 The Council will ensure that working practices are regularly updated to comply with new legislation and industry guidelines.

12.3 The Council will ensure that anyone providing activities or services in our green spaces meet current health and safety guidelines.

Trees

The Council will produce a Tree Management Policy in 2010.

Funding Statement

Revenue

Stevenage Borough Council provides a significant level of revenue funding for green spaces, which is currently £ 3,188,000 per annum, net of income.

The revenue budgets in 2010/11 are allocated as follows:

Parks, Gardens & Outdoor Sports Provision	£ 2,777,000
Cemeteries	£ 138,000
Allotments	£ 25,000
Play	£ 111,000
Woodlands	£ 137,000
Total:	£ 3,188,000

Capital

In recent years the Council has delivered a significant capital investment programme to green spaces within Stevenage, including:

- Play area improvements
- Parks furniture
- Relining and landscaping of the lakes at Fairlands Valley Park
- Refurbishment of the Sailing Centre at Fairlands Valley Park
- Match funding for the regeneration of the Town Centre Gardens
- Allotment improvements

External Funding: Developments

When preparing a Section 106 agreement the Council now requires a majority of Section 106 funds to be allocated in priority areas across the whole town, rather than specifically in the immediate proximity of a particular development. This allows

greater flexibility, and enables areas with limited development potential to receive funding for improvements.

External Funding: Improvement Grants

There are funding streams which invite applications for a range of capital improvements to green space including sports provision, nature conservation, natural play and parks regeneration.

Not all funding streams will accept applications from statutory bodies, but will often welcome applications from community groups supported by organisations such as local authorities.

The Council has already been successful in receiving external funding, including:

- £1.77 million from Heritage Lottery Fund to support the regeneration of the Town Centre Gardens
- £100,000 from Play Builder to support natural play improvements to two play areas.



Seeking and securing further external funding will support the Council, and its partners, in improving our green spaces.

External Funding: Sponsorship

The Council is already successful in securing sponsorship from local businesses to enable the environmental enhancement of the highway roundabouts in the town.

Opportunities to extend and expand the sponsorship opportunities are being considered.


Action Plan

Maintenance & Management

Target	Task	How	Who	By When
Provide quality green spaces	Ensure high standards of maintenance	Review current maintenance regimes	SBC	Ongoing
	Deliver improvements	Seek funding from appropriate sources	SBC	Ongoing
	Strategic Planning	Produce site management plans for all key sites, and review on annual basis	SBC Partners	April 2012
	Protect green space from inappropriate development	Designate and protect important (collections of) spaces through the Local Development Framework	SBC	Ongoing
	Address deficiencies in some typologies	Review current designation of green space typologies	SBC	Ongoing
	New strategic green space to serve the north of Stevenage	Identify site through Local Development Framework and work with developers & land-owners to secure agreement	SBC, Developers, Partners	2021
	Secure green space in new developments	Apply standards in Appendix A through Local Development Framework and negotiations with developers	SBC, Developers, Partners	Ongoing
Measure performance	Develop & monitor local performance indicators		SBC	Ongoing
	Retain a Green Flag Award for Fairlands Valley Park		SBC Partners	2010 – ongoing
	Attain, and retain, Green Flag Awards at additional sites.		SBC Partners	2011 – ongoing

Target	Task	How	Who	By When
Increase levels of community involvement	Provide local residents with opportunity to maintain green space	Review the Licensing process	SBC	Ongoing
	Determine user satisfaction levels	Undertake consultation and surveys	SBC	Ongoing
	Develop and promote use of green spaces	Deliver a range of facilities and activities within green spaces	SBC SOstevenage Partners	Ongoing
	Extend range of facilities and increase capacity	Develop partnerships arrangements.	SBC Partners	Ongoing

Community Safety

Target	Task	How	Who	By When
Provide safe green spaces for the community to enjoy	Establish current levels of crime within our green spaces	Record and analyse all incidents of vandalism and anti-social behaviour	SBC Police	September 2010
	Seek to reduce crime levels	Work in partnership with Police and Community Safety Partnership (CSP)	SBC Police CSP	Ongoing
	Determine effectiveness of CCTV in green spaces	Undertake a full and comprehensive assessment to determine effectiveness of existing and future proposed CCTV	SBC Police	Ongoing
	Increase public confidence as green spaces being safe places to visit	Seek opportunities to deliver a mobile ranger service	SBC Police CSP	September 2010
		Deliver a greater range of community events and activities	SBC  Partners	Ongoing

Community Engagement

Target	Task	How	Who	By When
Measure performance	Determine user satisfaction levels	Undertake consultation and surveys	SBC	Ongoing
Increase levels of community involvement	Develop opportunities for stakeholder decision making	Consult local stakeholders on significant developments and changes to green spaces	SBC	As appropriate
	Develop pride and ownership of green spaces	Support and encourage the development of volunteer activities associated with key green spaces	SBC	Ongoing
	Provide educational and personal development opportunities for local residents	Develop a programme of volunteer opportunities associated with green spaces	SBC SoStevenage	Ongoing
	Develop and promote use of green spaces	Deliver a range of events and activities within green spaces	SBC SoStevenage	Ongoing

Wildlife Conservation

Target	Task	How	Who	By When
Protect wildlife	Protect sites important to wildlife	Identify sites on the Wildlife Sites register in the Local Development Framework	SBC Partners	Ongoing
Improve access to nature	Improve access to wildlife sites whilst still affording protection		SBC Partners	Ongoing
	Provide nature education opportunities	Develop a programme of nature walks	SBC Partners	Ongoing
		Develop a programme of conservation volunteer opportunities	SBC Partners	Ongoing
Increase Biodiversity in Stevenage	Seek opportunities to create new wildlife areas		SBC Partners	Ongoing
	Deliver actions identified in the Biodiversity Action Plan		SBC Partners	2010 – Ongoing
	Report achievements	Reference to National Indicator 197	SBC HCC with	Annually from 2010

Provision for Children and Young People

Target	Task	How	Who	By When
Provide quality outdoor, unsupervised play spaces	Review provision of play spaces	Undertake a quantitative and qualitative assessment of current play provision	SBC	2011
		Develop a policy for outdoor, unsupervised play spaces, taking account of current best practice	SBC SoStevenage	2011
	Improve quality of play provision in line with the Play Strategy	Seek appropriate funding.	SBC	Ongoing
	Deliver high quality play provision within the main parks	Make suitable provision for toddlers, juniors and teenagers.	SBC	Ongoing
	Continue to deliver decision making opportunities, related to green spaces, for children and young people	Consult children and young people on significant developments and changes to their local green spaces	SBC	As appropriate
	Ensure that play spaces provide equal opportunities for the whole community	Regeneration of play spaces to make provision for able bodied and disabled children	SBC	Ongoing

Outdoor Sport

Target	Task	How	Who	By When
Improve standard of sports provision	Implement a programme of improvements to existing provision	Develop a programme of improvements to existing sports pitches.	SBC Sport Stevenage	2011
		Deliver a programme of regeneration to sports buildings to ensure adequate provision of ancillary facilities	SBC Partners	2012
	Seek to resolve deficiencies in provision of rugby, tennis and MUGA's.	Consider opportunities within parks management plans, BSF and future development	SBC Partners	
		Seek appropriate funding	SBC	Ongoing
	Address undersupply of mini and junior football pitches	Review options for existing pitch provision	SBC Partners	2011
	Improve tennis provision	Consider opportunities for mini-tennis	SBC Partners	2010
Resolve future governance opportunities	Consider options for sports clubs and partner organisations to lease and maintain sports facilities.		SBC	2011

Allotments

Target	Task	How	Who	By When
Develop community involvement in allotment gardening	Meet current and future demands for allotments	Protect allotment land from inappropriate development	SBC	Ongoing
		Review current designation of green space typologies to identify opportunities for provision of additional allotment land.	SBC	2010
	Promote self management of Stevenage allotments	Continue support to Stevenage Gardens & Allotments Association.	SBC SGAA	2010 - Ongoing
	Make new allotment provision at Edmonds Drive	Identify site through Local Development Framework, and work with developers and landowners to secure agreement	SBC, Developers, Partners	2014
Improve the quality of allotment provision	Strategic planning	Review the Allotment Strategy	SBC with SGAA	2011
	Complete programme of capital improvements	Continue liaison with SGAA to identify priorities	SBC with SGAA	2015

Cemeteries

Target	Task	How	Who	By When
Ensure adequate provision of land to meet burial needs	Deliver extension to existing cemetery at Weston Road to address burial needs to 2025	Secure and develop land identified within Stevenage District Plan	SBC	2011
	Consider burial space requirements beyond 2025	Develop policies and proposals for provision of burial space	SBC	2011
	Ensure consideration of additional provision within any future, sizeable developments.	Identify likely levels increased demand which may result from the West of Stevenage development.	SBC NHDC Developers	
Manage and maintain closed churchyards	Continue to support local churches to enable them to undertake self management of their grounds	Continue grant payments.	SBC	Ongoing



Green Corridors

Target	Task	How	Who	By When
Identify green corridors in Stevenage	Undertake research to understand the nature, quality, extent and usage of green corridors	Undertake site surveys	SBC	2012
Strategic planning	Ensure that future maintenance of lane hedgerows balances the needs of local residents, safer routes issues and the needs of wildlife	Prepare and consult on management plans for lane hedgerows.	SBC	2011
	Safeguard, improve and promote the 'Green Way' leisure route around the town	Identify route in Local Development Framework and deliver small-scale improvements.	SBC, North Herts Group of Ramblers Association	Ongoing
	Provide the 'missing link' in the Horse & Pony route near Aston End	Identify route in the Local Development Framework. Work with developers and landowners to secure agreements / contributions	SBC, Developers, Partners	2014
	Promote links between the Green Way, the Stevenage Outer Orbital Path (STOOP) and the town centre, and other access points	Routes follow public right of way network – no specific measures identified		Ongoing
	Improve pedestrian and cycle links between the town centre, Gunnels Wood, and the Old Town	Identify main improvements in the Local Development Framework. Work with developers and landowners to secure agreements / contributions	SBC, Developers, Partners	After 2016

Water

Target	Task	How	Who	By When
	Investigate options for improving water flows, and quality, in the River Beane and its tributaries	Complete second phase of Water Cycle Strategy; Work with partners to identify schemes	SBC, Environment Agency, water companies, partners	To be determined
	Protect flood storage reservoirs (FSRs) from inappropriate development	Designate and protect FSRs in the Local Development Framework	SBC	2012
	Secure new FSRs, and other measures, to reduce flood risk in new development	Identify schemes and requirements through the Local Development Framework	SBC, developers	Ongoing

Promotion

Target	Task	How	Who	By When
Promote the range and availability of Stevenage green space	Increase the formal and informal use of green spaces	Delivery of a range of community events and activities	SBC 	Ongoing
	Increase local awareness of the range and location of green space	Produce a range of suitable media accessible to the whole community	SBC	2010
	Seek to promote Stevenage green space facilities to potential visitors to the town		SBC with HCC 	Ongoing

Health and Safety

Target	Task	How	Who	By When
Promote the range and availability of Stevenage green space	Increase the formal and informal use of green spaces	Delivery of a range of community events and activities	SBC Sostevenage	Ongoing
	Increase local awareness of the range and location of green space	Produce a range of suitable media accessible to the whole community	SBC	2010
	Seek to promote Stevenage green space facilities to potential visitors to the town		SBC with HCC Sostevenage	Ongoing

Trees

Target	Task	How	Who	By When
Improve the quality of amenity tree management	Strategic planning	Deliver an Amenity Tree Management Policy	SBC	2010

Appendices

Appendix A: Setting Standards

Parks & Gardens in Stevenage

The setting of local standards for Parks and Gardens in Stevenage takes account of current provision, site assessments and consultation on local needs.

Quantity Standard for Parks and Gardens

0.73ha per 1000 population

Accessibility Standard for Parks and Gardens

15 minute drive (6km) to Fairlands Valley Park as a strategic town wide open space resource.

10 minute walk (0.8km) for all remaining parks and gardens

Natural & Semi-Natural Space in Stevenage

The setting of local standards for Natural & Semi-Natural open spaces takes account of the urban nature of the town, public opinion on the existing provision and the significant contribution that existing woodland makes.

Quantity Standard for Natural and Semi Natural Open Space

1.78ha per 1000 population.

Accessibility Standard for Natural and Semi Natural Open Space

5 minute walk (0.8km)

Amenity Green Space

The setting of standards for Amenity Green Space takes account of consultation on local needs and deficiencies in parts of the town.

Quantity Standard for Amenity Green Space

1.1 ha per 1000 population

Accessibility Standard for Amenity Green Space

5 minute walk (0.4km)

Provision for Children & Young People

The setting of standards for Children & Young People takes account of the need to reduce clustering, and allow resources to be concentrated on the remaining sites and those areas where minor deficiency occurs.

Quantity Standard for the Provision for Children and Young People

0.8 play areas per 1000 population (64 play areas)

Accessibility Standard for the Provision for Children and Young People

5 minute walk (0.4km) to play areas

Outdoor Sports Facilities

Quantity Standard for Outdoor Sports Facility Open Space

2.2 hectares per 1000 population (excluding the golf course)

Quantity Standard for land within Outdoor Sports Facility Open Space set aside specifically for Playing Pitches.

1.45 hectares per 1000 population

Accessibility Standard for Outdoor Sports Facilities

10 minute drive for Bowling, Hockey, Cricket, Football and Rugby

10 minute walk (0.8km) for Multi Use Games Areas and Tennis

Allotments & Community Gardens

Legislation plays an important part in determining the provision of allotments, placing an obligation on allotment authorities to meet the demands of local residents wishing to cultivate allotments, and to make provision for the acquisition, management and control of allotment sites. The following local quantity standard is therefore recommended:

Quantity Standard for Allotments and Community Gardens

0.25ha per 1000 population

Accessibility Standard for Allotments and Community Gardens

15 minute walk (1.2km)