

Report of The Chief Officer of Parks and Countryside

Report to North West Outer Area Committee

Date: 4th February 2013

Subject: Annual Report – for the Parks and Countryside Service

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. The report provides an area profile of key assets, information on park usage and a customer based perspective of the quality of the assets and services provided.
2. It highlights the current progress towards Leeds Quality Park (LQP) status for community parks in the area. It provides the costs of achieving and retaining LQP status in community parks up to the year 2020.
3. The report details capital improvements in community parks, sport pitches and fixed play in the area for the last 12 months and planned improvements to be delivered in the next 12 months.
4. It gives a detailed breakdown of events and volunteering in the area.
5. It gives an overview of the Streetscene Grounds Maintenance contract considering performance for grass cutting in 2012. It sets out the specification and how this is developing alongside suggesting increased engagement in performance monitoring.

Recommendations

6. The Area Committee is requested to note the content of the report and to communicate priorities for investment in community parks, playing pitches and fixed play facilities in light of the issues raised.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report seeks to further develop the relationship between the Parks and Countryside service and the North West Outer Area Committee, as agreed at Executive Board.
- 1.2 It provides an overview of the service and sets out some of the challenges faced along with key performance management initiatives. In addition it seeks to provide a positive way forward for delivering the extended role of the Area Committee.
- 1.3 In particular it sets out at an area level progress made in attaining Leeds Quality Park standard. It also sets out investment needs to attain LQP standards and to retain them.

2 Background information

Service Description

- 2.1 Leeds City Council has one of the largest fully inclusive local authority Parks and Countryside services, managing almost 4,000 hectares of parks and green space. This includes 7 major parks, 62 community parks and 95 recreation grounds and 391 local green spaces, which include 144 playgrounds and 500 sports facilities ranging from skateboard parks to golf courses, and which play host to 600 events annually. The service also manages a nursery which produces over 4 million bedding plants each year, 97 allotment sites, over 800km of Public Right of Way (PROW), and 156 nature conservation sites, as well as 22 cemeteries and three crematoria.
- 2.2 The 2009 Parks and Countryside residents survey showed that the service attracts almost 68 million visits each year from Leeds' residents alone, and that approximately 96% of these are regular park users. These range from anybody using a park for informal recreation (e.g. walking, observing nature) to people who take part in formal activities (e.g. football clubs, conservation volunteers or to attend events). The user surveys also evidenced that 10m visits are made to our green space by Young People (12-19) compared to 3.6m by Children (5-11).

Description of Priority Advisory Function

- 2.3 The priority advisory function for Area Committees relates to community parks provision that have a wide range of facilities, including general recreation, sports pitches, play and formal and informal horticultural facilities.
- 2.4 Where developments are less significant or only impact on one site then ward members and community groups will be informed and consulted using established procedures. It is important to note that good levels of engagement with ward members exist and this function seeks to enhance this engagement.

3 Main issues

Area Profile of the Service

- 3.1 The following table summarises community green space assets managed by Parks and Countryside in the North West Outer Area Committee:

Asset	Quantity
Community parks	8
Playing Pitches:	
Cricket	4
Football	28
Rugby Union	3
Rugby League	1
Bowling greens	8
Playgrounds	19
Multi-use games areas	1
Skate parks	4

Community Parks

- 3.2 The service undertook a residents survey using the Citizen's Panel methodology during the summer of 2012. Unfortunately this has provided insufficient information to allow the service to update the 2009 survey data with statistical confidence. Options to undertake additional surveys during 2013 are currently being examined to provide an updated dataset for usage and satisfaction.
- 3.3 Analysis from the 2009 residents survey was carried out relevant to the 8 community parks in the area which are;

Site Name	Annual Number of Visits	Total Annual Visits to North West Outer Community Parks is 7.4m approx.
Grove Hill Park, Otley	301,969	
Holt Park	146,051	
Horsforth Hall Park	2,179,069	
Kirk Lane Park	106,685	
Micklefield Park	787,808	
Nunroyd Park	574,244	
Tarnfield Park	1,489,725	
Wharfemeadows Park	1,785,794	

- 3.4 The residents survey provides significant insight into the users of community parks, demographics of users, how they get there and what they do. A detailed insight of each community park is given in appendix 1. The key analysis points are;
- Approximately 75% of visitors are adults with 25% children.
 - There are a wide range of reasons for visiting each individual park but nearly all visitors at some point go for relaxation and exercise. Other popular reasons are for play, enjoying the surroundings, family outings and to see wildlife.

- 66% of visitors travel to the park on foot of which 55% take less than 10 minutes to travel there.
- Of the 32% who visit by car 68% take less than 10 minutes to get there.
- 34% of visitors go to community parks either every day or on most days, whilst 72% go at least once a week.

3.5 Parks and Countryside provide annual pitch hire for sports teams in the area. The table below shows the number of teams with current bookings playing on pitches in the area; *(note this excludes clubs who have a long term lease in place)*

Age Group	No of Teams
Open Age	19
Juniors	42

Volunteering in the Parks and Countryside Service

3.6 The Service continues to focus on increasing the number of volunteers and groups working in the area. There has been a significant increase in the value of activities which take place particularly in the area of corporate volunteering. Our emphasis for the next 12 months will be to :

- Seek to increase corporate volunteering working in partnership with Leeds Ahead.
- Continue to improve involvement with the many “in bloom” groups in Leeds.
- It is an ambition to have a volunteer group for every community park where there is a site based gardener.

3.7 It is estimated that volunteers across all groups contribute nearly 2,300 days of voluntary work in the North West Outer area over a 12 month period. The tables below give details of works undertaken in North West Outer since November 2011 and the active groups in the area Committee;

Table 1 - Work undertaken by volunteers working with the Rangers;

Site	Organisation	Task	No. of Vol Days
Breary Marsh	Leeds Wildlife Volunteers	Drystone Walling	8.6
		Himalayan Balsam pulling	7.7
Golden Acre Park	Ralph Thoresby High School	Removing weed trees from the arboretum	28.3
Hawsworth Wood	Leeds Wildlife Volunteers	Installing and repairing benches	5.7
	Friends of Hawsworth Wood	Birch bashing, litter pick.	4.7
		Clearing entrance, removing graffiti from signs	2.1
		Step clearance / removing birch / meeting	3.5
Hunger Hills	Friends of Hunger Hills	Putting up nest boxes	5.7
		Recreating a view and installing owl sculpture	6.0

Site	Organisation	Task	No. of Vol Days
Lawnswood Cemetery & Crematorium	Friends of Lawnswood Cemetery	Bulb planting	15.0
		Clearing footpath and other features	15.7
		Clearing footpath, bridge, steps and other features	12.9
		Cut back, litter pick, footpath scrape in victorian section	11.4
		footpath edging and veg cutback	59.3
		Path Edging, Weeding Graves	19.3
		Tidying graves and other areas of the cemetery	6.4
		Vegetation Clearance	11.6
	Leeds Parks Volunteers	Maintaining path edges	5.0
Little Hawksworth Wood	Cragghill and Woodside Residents Group	Clearing litter and rubbish from the woodland	18.0
Micklefield Park	Leeds Parks Volunteers	Weeding	1.6
Nunroyd Park	Leeds Parks Volunteers	Pond clearance	4.7
Otley Chevin Country Park	Chevin Volunteers	Pruning apple trees in the orchard	9.4
		Bracken bashing	7.7
		Brashing	4.3
		Excavating Keeper's Cottage	2.9
		Himalayan Balsam pulling	4.3
		Removing birch from heath land	4.0
		Scrub Bashing	0.0
		Scrub bashing and dead hedging	4.3
		Sign installation	7.1
		Leeds Wildlife Volunteers	Brashing
		Removing birch from heath land	4.0
Total			306.9

Table 2 - Corporate volunteer actions;

Site	Organisation	Task	No. of Vol Days
Breary Marsh	Lloyds	Footpath construction	11.0
	Halifax & LWV	Removing unsuitable boardwalk, laying new path	12.1
	Lloyds	Footpath construction	47.1
Lawnswood Cemetery & Crematorium	Yorkshire Bank	Big Clean Up	15.7
Otley Chevin Country Park	Lloyds	Removing birch from heath land	7.9
Total			23.6

Table 3 - Educational work within the North West Outer area:

Site	School	Activity	No Of Children
Hunger Hills	Westfield Primary	Mini beasts and habitats	32
Otley Chevin Country Park	Springbank Primary	Mini beasts and habitats and ponds	60
Otley Chevin Country Park	Springbank Primary	Mini beasts and habitats and ponds	56

Table 4 - Summary of the groups who are active in the North West Outer area :

Group Name	Number of Volunteers	Estimated Volunteer Days
Chevin Watch group	2	0
Cragg Hill and Woodside	5	10
Friends of Chevin Forest Park	30	180
Friends of Engine Fields	10	72
Friends of Hawksworth Wood	5	15
Friends of Horsforth Hall park	10	0
Friends of Hunger Hills Wood	12	20
Friends of Kirklane Park	2	0
Friends of Yeadon Banks	5	10
Friends of Yeadon Tarn	5	10
Leeds Parks Volunteers	4	78
Leeds Voluntary Footpath Rangers	6	130
Leeds Wildlife Volunteers	12	216
Total		741

Table 5 - Existing in bloom groups within the North West Outer area;

In Bloom Group	Number of Volunteers	Award Won (Yorkshire in Bloom)	Estimated Volunteer Days
Bramhope	9	Urban Community – Silver Gilt	160
Guiseley	20		400
Horsforth	22	Town – Silver Gilt	440
Otley	14	Town – Silver	280
Total			1280

Events

- 3.8 The bookings and licensing team has introduced improvements to the application process for events that occur on parks. They are providing greater assistance in helping community groups organise events with particular emphasise on ensuring legal and safety requirements are met but do not deter groups and organisations from organising activities. The table below shows a list of events held in the outer North West area in 2012:

Site Name	Month	Event	Total
Engine Fields	May	Dragons running club	1
Golden Acre Park	January	Filming (Emmerdale)	1
		RSPB event	2
	February	PECO Abbey Runners X Country	1
		Bryan Williamson - Dog Microchipping	1
		St Gemma's Sponsored Walk	1
	April	PHG Egg Hunt	1
		RSPB event	1
		Scouts & Guide Sponsored Walk	1
	June	Bark in the Park	1
		Fusia society	1
Summer Bands		2	
July		Abbey runners	1

Site Name	Month	Event	Total
		Bliss Buggy Push	1
		RSPB event	1
		Summer Bands	2
		YCC sponsored walk	1
	August	Summer Bands	2
	October	Airienteers	1
		Bright Horizons	1
December	Ben Hepworth - Filming	1	
Harper Terrace	May	Yeadon Constitutional Club Funday	1
Hawksworth Wood	May	Airienteers	1
Holt Park	January	Carparking (Emmerdale)	1
	October	Airienteers	1
Horsforth Hall Park	April	Scarlett Stewart Student Photoshoot	1
		St George's Day Parade	1
	May	(30th - 8th) Funfair (Pullen)	1
		ITV Studio's - Emmerdale	1
	June	(27th May - 8th) Horsforth Jubilee Event	1
		Horsforth Gala	1
		Summer Bands	1
	July	Summer Bands	2
	August	LCC Sports Day (Chris Gott)	1
		Summer Bands	1
	September	Horsforth Churches Together Funday	1
		Summer Bands	1
	December	Horsforth Carols in the Park	1
Micklefield Park	August	Leeds Youth Service	1
Nunroyd Park, Guiseley	January	Airienteers	1
	May	(20th - 28th) Funfair (Atha)	1
	August	(13th - 20th) Funfair (Pullen)	1
	October	Airienteers	1
		Schools X country	1
	November	X country	1
Otley Chevin Country Park	February	Rombalds Stride	1
	March	PECO Danefeild X Country	1
	May	Airienteers	1
		Ben Hepworth - Filming	1
		STV Productions Filming	1
	June	Chevin Fell Race	1
		Diamond Jubilee Beacon Lighting	1
	July	Horsforth Fellandale Danefield Relay	1
	September	Airienteers	1
		Orienteering - Westgate Primary	1
December	Chevin Chase	1	
Tarnfield Park, Yeadon	June	Summer Bands	1
	July	Summer Bands	1
		YAA Sponsored Walk	1
	September	Northern Ballet Activity Day	1
Wharfemeadows Park, Otley	June	Fake Festival	1
		Summer Bands	1
	July	Summer Bands	1
Total			68

Community Parks – Leeds Quality Park Status

3.9 The Parks and Green Space Strategy was approved at Executive Board in February 2009 and sets out the vision and priorities to 2020. One of the key proposals contained in the strategy is the aspiration for all community parks to meet the Green Flag standard for field based assessment by 2020. The Green Flag Award Scheme represents the national standard for parks and green spaces. It has been developed around eight key criteria as follows;

- **A welcoming place** - how to create a sense that people are positively welcomed in the park
- **Healthy, safe & secure** - how best to ensure that the park is a safe & healthy environment for all users
- **Clean & well maintained** - what people can expect in terms of cleanliness, facilities & maintenance
- **Sustainability** - how a park can be managed in environmentally sensitive ways
- **Conservation & heritage** - the value of conservation & care of historical heritage
- **Community involvement** - ways of encouraging community participation and acknowledging the community's role in a park's success
- **Marketing** - methods of promoting a park successfully
- **Management** - how to reflect all of the above in a coherent & accessible management plan or strategy and ensure it is implemented.

3.10 The Parks and Countryside service reports annual performance against two local indicators based upon the Green Flag Award scheme;

- *The percentage of Parks and Countryside sites assessed that meet the Green Flag standard.*
- *The percentage of Parks and Countryside community parks which meet the Green Flag standard.* Performance against these indicators is illustrated in section 3.31.

3.11 The indicator includes an assessment of each community park which has particular relevance to Area Committee engagement. The scheme is known as the Leeds Quality Park (LQP) standard. The following table provides a summary of these assessments for the North West Outer Area Committee.

Site	Year Assessed	Welcoming Place	Healthy, Safe, Secure	Clean, Well Maintained	Sustainability	Conservation / Heritage	Community Involvement	Marketing	Meets Standard?
Grove Hill Park, Otley	2012								No
Holt Park	2012								Yes
Horsforth Hall Park	2011								Yes
Kirk Lane Park	2011								No
Micklefield Park	2012								Yes
Nunroyd Park	2011								No
Tarnfield Park	2010								Yes
Wharfemeadows Park	2012								Yes

Key:

Meets Leeds Quality Park Standard on average for this key criteria	
Below Leeds Quality Park Standard on average for this key criteria	

3.12 From this table, there are 5 parks identified that meet the Leeds Quality Park Standard in the area, with 3 not reaching the standard. This is an increase of 2 (Horsforth Hall & Holt Park) to the previous Area Committee report.

3.13 The residents survey in 2009 enables an assessment of visitor numbers and satisfaction rating (scored out of 10) for a number of criteria for each park, set out in the following table:

Site	Design and Appearance	Cleanliness and Maintenance	Ease to Get Around	Range of Facilities	Horticultural Maintenance	Nature Conservation	Facilities for Families	Sports Facilities	Overall Impression
Grove Hill Park, Otley	7.4	7.1	9.1	6.6	8.3	8.0	6.0	6.0	7.1
Holt Park	7.2	6.8	8.0	5.3	7.2	7.3	6.0	6.0	5.6
Horsforth Hall Park	8.2	8.1	8.7	6.1	8.3	7.7	6.9	6.2	7.9
Kirk Lane Park	5.8	5.5	8.0	4.6	6.7	6.4	5.3	5.8	5.8
Micklefield Park	7.9	7.5	9.0	6.7	8.0	7.4	7.5	7.7	7.8
Nunroyd Park	7.1	7.2	8.1	5.4	6.9	6.6	5.3	6.0	6.8
Tarnfield Park	8.2	7.8	8.9	6.6	7.7	8.0	7.3	6.4	8.2
Wharfemeadows Park	8.7	7.5	9.1	6.3	8.5	7.9	6.9	6.2	7.7

Key:

Generally meets LQP expectations	7.0 - 10	
Generally below LQP expectations	0.0 – 6.9	

This table broadly correlates with the professional audit undertaken for the Leeds Quality Parks assessment set out in paragraph 3.11. In particular scores and visitor numbers are higher for the parks that meet the LQP standard. There are however issues identified with the range of facilities offered in many of the parks and sports facilities.

Playing Pitches

- 3.14 The residents survey in 2009 allowed respondents to rate sport facilities in parks. The results are shown in the table below;

Rating of Sports facilities	2009 (North West Outer)	2006 (North West Outer)
Fair to very good	74.6%	65.6%
Poor or very poor	25.4%	34.4%

The results show a large increase in those who felt sports facilities were of at least fair standard. This data is related to the table set out in paragraph 3.13.

Fixed Play

- 3.15 The residents survey in 2009 allowed respondents to rate facilities for children and their parents. The results are shown in the table below;

Rating facilities for children	2009 (North West Outer)	2006 (North West Outer)
Fair to very good	84.4%	80%
Poor or very poor	15.6%	20%

Results show an increase in those who rated facilities as fair or better.

- 3.16 The following play areas have been installed or refurbished during 2012;

- Springfield Park – play area (£55k).

- 3.17 The following table provides a perspective on the minimum level of investment required to achieve the LQP standard for the five remaining parks. It also includes the level of reinvestment required across all the community parks in order to sustain the LQP pass up to 2020;

Site Name	Cost to Achieve (excluding fixed play)	Reinvestment (excluding fixed play)
Grove Hill Park, Otley	£35,000	
Kirk Lane Park	£88,000	
Nunroyd Park	£50,500	
Total to achieve LQP	£173,500	
Average annual reinvestment		£21,511
Total reinvestment to 2020		£172,091
Overall Total Investment to 2020		£345,591

- 3.18 Reinvestment levels are estimated according to the expected lifespan of equipment and infrastructure as set out below;

Description	Timescale for Recurring Investment
Signage and interpretation	5 years
Fixed play (including MUGA's/skate parks)	10 years
Bins and benches	15 years
Paths and infrastructure	25 years
Landscaping	25 years

3.19 Planned improvements for the next 12 months are;

- Newall POS – Removal of old playground equipment, installation of teen zone and five-a-side, litter bins and seating.
- Holt Lane – Removal of fence, bins & benches.

3.20 In terms of fixed play, work has been undertaken to set out refurbishment requirements over a 10 year rolling programme in support of the outcomes of the Fixed Play Strategy. The average cost of a new playground is currently about £120k; Multi-use games areas and skateparks are slightly cheaper on average at about £90k each. The table below shows the capital investment required on an ongoing basis to fund the area committees existing fixed play sites;

Fixed Play Type	No.	Total Replacement Cost £'s	Required Average Annual Spend £'s
Play Areas	19	2,280,000	228,000
Multi Use games Areas	1	90,000	9,000
Skate Parks	4	360,000	36,000
Totals		2,730,000	273,000

Area Committee funding for additional on site gardeners

3.21 North West Outer Area Committee provide funding for additional gardeners within the North West Outer area. In 2012-13 funding totalling £23,534 was provided for increased onsite presence in Yeadon Cemetery and general additional presence at sites in Yeadon & Guiseley. Funding of £2,998 was provided for gardeners to work weekends during school summer holidays in Wharfemeadows Park and Tarnfield Park.

3.22 Since the introduction of site based gardeners, analysis shows that complaints to both Ward Councillors and the Parks and Countryside Service have declined on sites with increased daily presence. In addition, the service has observed an increase in the number of residents using parks and open spaces which is backed up by the residents survey data.

3.23 The site based gardeners increase working relationships with users, local residents and community groups. These site based staff further increase users satisfaction and support the aspiration to increase volunteer groups working within parks.

Streetscene Grounds Maintenance

3.24 Following a procurement exercise the streetscene grounds maintenance contract was awarded to Continental Landscapes Ltd (CLL) with effect from 1st January 2012. This contract covers sites that are located alongside the highway network or amongst residential streets managed by the council's Arms Length Management Organisations (ALMOs and BITMO). The specification requires the contractor to undertake litter removal from sites they maintain at each visit supporting the council's wider efforts to maintain clean streets. The table below shows the asset breakdown of contract items for the North West Outer area committee:

Asset Type	Annual Visits	Unit	Measure
Amenity Grass	13	M ²	650,430
Premium Grass	26	M ²	96,075
Rough Grass	3	M ²	56,076
Sight Line	3	M	31,970
Rough Linear	3	M	55,446
Primary Network	6	M ²	991
Shrub Beds	2	M ²	15,983
Hedges	3	M	1,393
Rose Beds	2	M ²	1,121
Total			909,485

3.25 Despite 2012 being one of the wettest summers ever recorded the contractor has completed grass cutting operations as required by the contract specification. During June the specification was revised to increase the mowing frequency on grass plots adjacent to sheltered housing and this has proven to be very successful in addressing issues of grass length and overspill of cuttings in these areas. Regular monitoring of the contractors work is undertaken with a target sample size of 10%. Analysis of city wide performance for the 2012 mowing season shows that the contractor achieved an average failure rate of less than 1%.

3.26 The Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board Working Group examined the contract during the summer and produced a number of recommendations that are currently being considered or have already been introduced. These include:

- Increasing frequencies to 16 grass cuts and 6 shrub/rose visits.
- That any proposed removal of shrub/rose beds are consulted on with ward members and parish/town councils prior to removal.
- That options to increase 'joined up working' with locality management are explored.
- To examine options to increase efficiencies by better utilisation of contractor resources during the winter.
- That parish and town councils are encouraged to engage in contract performance management.
- That an improved communications strategy is developed.
- That area committees are provided with performance information relevant to the area.

- That contract management efficiencies are sought alongside increased consistency of approach.
- Establishing funding to address problem sites until ownership can be established.

3.27 From 1st September 2012 management of the contract passed to Parks and Countryside and work has commenced to restructure the contract team to achieve increased coordination and efficiency from grounds maintenance and weed spraying contracts. It is proposed that officers attending the area committee environment sub groups will provide regular updates on performance and any proposed changes to the contract.

3.28 As a result of the ALMO review currently underway, arrangements regarding the provision of ALMO elements of the contract may change.

Coordinated Working with Environmental Services

3.29 The Parks & Countryside Service move to the Environments & Neighbourhoods Directorate has given opportunities to improve collaborative working. In particular improvements in horticultural land management, cleansing and more efficient use of resources in regard to;

- Co-ordination of weed spraying activities with the grounds maintenance contract with a consistent approach to monitoring.
- Traffic Management arrangements co-ordinated to minimise costs and disruption of the highway.
- Litter collection in the vicinity of community parks, and as part of normal operations site based gardeners undertake an initial litter pick of the park which is being expanded to include some areas outside the curtilage of the park. Conversely, street cleansing staff now assist with emptying litter bins in parks on a weekend when parks staff are not always present.
- Work is underway to map all maintainable ginnels and establish work requirements to draw up an annual co-ordinated work schedule. Work is already co-ordinated to undertake weed-spraying where the locality team have already cut back vegetation, and removed detritus from the surface of the path.
- Locality Managers have led on consultation and worked with Parks and Countryside on developing proposals around dog control orders in Leeds.
- The Parks and Countryside service has a number of welfare facilities and yard space available in most community parks distributed throughout the city which has provided an opportunity for the locality based teams to use these facilities for staff welfare provision and as operational bases.

3.30 Specific coordinated working relevant to the North West Outer Area Committee has occurred at;

- **Golden Acre Park** – Dog control orders in place to keep dogs on leads in ornamental gardens.

Parks & Countryside Key Performance Indicators

3.31 The following table highlights key performance indicators relevant to the service;

PI Code	Description	2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Actual	2012/13 Target	2013/14 Target
LKI-GFI / CP-PC50 / EM38	The percentage of parks and countryside sites assessed internally that meet the Green Flag criteria	23% (Target 23%)	26.2% (Target 26.2%)	29.4%	32.6%
LKI-PCP 22	Overall user satisfaction with Parks and Countryside (from the user survey)	N/A	N/A	7/10	N/A
New	The percentage of parks and countryside community parks which meet LQP status	33.9%	38.7% Target (40%)	47.5%	55%

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 Close liaison with community and ward members is already in existence, utilising a variety of mechanisms, for example through residents' surveys, multi-agency meetings and community forums. In addition volunteers, Friends of groups and local residents are regularly consulted on local projects with input on design and physical implementation of a wide range of site improvements.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 This report does not have an impact on equality and diversity. Further information is available on analysis of the residents survey 2009 specifically regarding equality issues on request.

4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

4.3.1 The contents of this report set out how the Executive Board requirements can be met by taking a more proactive approach to involve and engage Area Committees in matters relating to community parks.

4.3.2 The information within the report contributes significantly to the sustainable economy and culture city priority plan.

4.4 Resources and Value for Money

4.4.1 The central government's Comprehensive Spending Review has had significant impact on local government budgets and it is anticipated that the budget allocation for Parks and Countryside will continue to be very challenging.

4.4.2 The service undertakes to sustain and develop the services provided to the public and has traditionally used a number of sources of financial support to achieve developments. These include grants from bodies such as Green Leeds Ltd,

Sustrans, Natural England, National Lottery funding and developer contributions via section 106 (S106) funds.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 This report has no legal implications and is not subject to call in. There is no information which is confidential or exempt.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 There are no significant risk management issues contained within the report, its conclusions and recommendations.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 Community green space contributes in many ways to the delivery of the Corporate Priority Plan. They provide places for relaxation, escape, exercise and recreation. They bring communities together and make a positive contribution to the local economy, education, improve public health and well-being, and generally make a better place to live, work and visit.
- 5.2 Improvements to community parks, fixed play and playing pitches remain a priority, and there already has been investment made to deliver improvements along with further schemes identified. Issues are being addressed through the Parks and Green Space Strategy along with implementation of the Fixed Play Strategy and Playing Pitch Strategy.
- 5.3 Community engagement remains a key activity for the service with regular correspondence, attendance at meetings and briefings, along with more localised consultation where required. As described at 3.2 options to undertake additional surveys during 2013 are currently being examined to provide an updated dataset for usage and satisfaction.
- 5.4 A programme of activities is planned for which updates and reports can be provided to the Area Committee to help inform, consult and influence community green space management.

6 Recommendations

6.1 The Area Committee is requested to note the content of the report and to communicate priorities for investment in community parks, playing pitches and fixed play facilities in light of the issues raised.

7 Background documents

- 7.1 Area Committee Roles, Outer North West Area Committee, 4th July 2011.
- 7.2 Annual Report for Parks and Countryside Service in North West Outer Area Committee, Outer North West Area Committee, 7th November 2011.
- 7.3 Parks and Greenspace Strategy, Executive Board, February 2009.

Appendix 1: Detailed Residents Survey Information

1.1 Total Number of Annual Visits

	Community Parks	Other P&C Sites	Total
North West Outer	7,371,345	3,301,634	10,672,979

1.2 Reasons for Visiting – respondents select their five main reasons (The 24 choices have been grouped in this table)

Reason	Grove Hill Park %	Holt Park %	Horsforth Hall Park %	Kirk Lane Park %	Micklefield Park %	Nunroyd Park %	Tarnfield Park %	Wharfemeadows Park %	North West Outer Total %
Exercise	38	80	82	73	71	93	100	97	93
Play	50	0	72	73	65	37	53	50	60
Dog walking	38	40	21	18	22	23	19	28	22
Enjoy the surroundings	50	20	41	36	37	27	51	78	48
Family outings	38	20	55	45	55	23	36	32	44
Relaxation	100	80	86	100	80	90	100	96	91
See Wildlife	50	20	21	18	18	30	80	68	40
Sport related	13	20	26	18	39	53	4	13	23
Other	13	20	7	9	10	10	7	10	8
Events	0	0	17	0	2	7	1	1	8

1.3 Age Profile of Visitors

Site	Age 20 – 39	Age 40 – 59	Age 60+
Grove Hill Park, Otley	13%	50%	37%
Holt Park	20%	60%	20%
Horsforth Hall Park	26%	46%	28%
Kirk Lane Park	45%	55%	0%
Micklefield Park	48%	31%	21%
Nunroyd Park	29%	39%	32%
Tarnfield Park	27%	28%	45%
Wharfemeadows Park	17%	51%	32%
North West Outer Total	28%	41%	31%

How visitors get to the parks and how long it takes to get there

1.4 Visitors on Foot – Journey Time

Site	% of visitors on foot	Less than 10 mins	10–20 mins	20-30 mins	30+ mins
Grove Hill Park, Otley	86%	84%	16%	0%	0%
Holt Park	100%	80%	20%	0%	0%
Horsforth Hall Park	56%	46%	44%	10%	0%
Kirk Lane Park	91%	70%	30%	0%	0%
Micklefield Park	71%	54%	46%	0%	0%
Nunroyd Park	90%	59%	30%	11%	0%
Tarnfield Park	55%	66%	15%	20%	0%
Wharfemeadows Park	78%	51%	37%	9%	2%
North West Outer Total	66%	55%	36%	9%	0%

1.5 Visitors by Car - Journey Time

Site	% of visitors by car	Less than 10 mins	10–20 mins	20-30 mins
Grove Hill Park, Otley	14%	100%	0%	0%
Holt Park	0%	~	~	~
Horsforth Hall Park	42%	73%	25%	2%
Kirk Lane Park	0%	~	~	~
Micklefield Park	29%	86%	14%	0%
Nunroyd Park	10%	67%	33%	0%
Tarnfield Park	42%	52%	42%	6%
Wharfemeadows Park	21%	64%	21%	14%
North West Outer Total	32%	68%	28%	4%

1.6 How long do visitors stay. (Detailed information on each community park is available on request).

Time	Summer Stay		Winter Stay	
	Weekend	Weekday	Weekend	Weekday
Less than 30 Minutes	11%	15%	27%	33%
30 minutes to 1 hour	39%	47%	49%	49%
1 to 2 hours	35%	29%	16%	6%
2 to 4 hours	11%	4%	2%	1%
4 or more hours	1%	0%	0%	0%
Do not visit	3%	5%	6%	11%

1.7 How often do visitors go. (Detailed information on each community park is available on request).

	Summer	Winter
Every Day	10%	7%
Most Days	24%	15%
Once or Twice a week	38%	25%
Once every two weeks	15%	16%
Once a month	13%	26%
Seldom or never	1%	11%

1.8 Information taken from comments made in the survey.

Site	General satisfaction comments	What would make you stay longer or encourage more use	Any other comments
Grove Hill Park, Otley	Few comments, occasional minor maintenance and infrastructure issues.	Play area updating.	Some signage to know what tree species are growing.
Horsforth Hall Park	A number of comments about the overall quality of the park. Dog fouling issues.	Improved toilets. Café facilities. More seating and picnic benches in the main areas of the park.	Some calls to bring back tennis courts and pitch and putt.
Kirk Lane Park	Lack of bedding/shrubs.	Improved Infrastructure. Seating/Picnic tables.	Drainage issues near park entrance.

Site	General satisfaction comments	What would make you stay longer or encourage more use	Any other comments
	<p>Dog fouling.</p> <p>Poor quality of path network.</p>	<p>Particularly no seating in play area.</p>	
Micklefield Park	<p>Lack of toilet facilities.</p>	<p>No overall prominent requests, in general more facilities or improved facilities.</p>	<p>The park is increasingly becoming a target for youths to gather with resulting anti-social behaviour.</p>
Nunroyd Park	<p>Nunroyd House is falling into disrepair.</p>	<p>The park is lacking facilities, its just an open space with sports fields.</p> <p>More could be done to improve the horticultural aspects.</p>	<p>The cross country running events ruin the grassed areas.</p>
Tarnfield Park	<p>Dog fouling is an issue.</p> <p>Comments noted on continual improvements in the park.</p>	<p>Café.</p> <p>Modernised play area.</p>	<p>They have new toilets but they are never open.</p>
Wharfemeadows Park	<p>Play area is rundown and needs replacing.</p> <p>Lack of rubbish collection on weekends, leaves the park messy.</p> <p>Some good horticultural maintenance comments.</p>	<p>Much improved toilets.</p> <p>Improve café.</p>	<p>~</p>