

Report of The Chief Officer of Parks and Countryside

Report to North East Inner Area Committee

Date: 21st February 2013

Subject: Annual Report – for the Parks and Countryside Service

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):		
Chapel Allerton		
Moortown		
Roundhay		
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?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:		
Appendix number:		

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 East Inner 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 East Inner Area Committee:

Asset	Quantity
Community parks	4
Playing Pitches:	
Cricket	5
Football	26
Rugby League	1
Bowling greens	6
Playgrounds	10
Multi-use games areas	3
Skate parks	2

Community Parks

- 3.2 The service undertook a residents survey using the Citizen's Panel methodology during the summer of 2012. Whilst this has provided some city wide data, more work is required to provide sufficient data at an area committee level. 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 4 community parks in the area which are;

Site Name	Annual Number of Visits	Total Annual Visits to North East Inner Community Parks is 2.6m approx.
Chapel Allerton Park	440,089	
Meanwood Park	1,617,690	
Norma Hutchinson Park	91,693	
Potternewton Park	408,751	

- 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 71% of visitors are adults with 29% children and young people.
 - There are a wide range of reasons for visiting but nearly all visitors at some point go for relaxation or exercise. Enjoying the surroundings and for using play facilities are also very popular.
 - Nearly 80% of visitors travel to the park on foot of which 55% take less than 10 minutes to travel there.
 - Of the 20% who visit by car 78% take less than 10 minutes to get there.

- 32% of visitors go to community parks either every day or on most days, whilst 64% 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	16
Juniors	30

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 1,000 days of voluntary work in the North East Inner area over a 12 month period. The tables below give details of works undertaken in North East Inner 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
Gledhow Valley Wood	Friends of Gledhow Valley Woods	Path work	12.1
	Friends of Gledhow Valley Woods	Bath house clean up	7.1
		Beech Thinning	6.9
		Path repair, thinning, litter pick	13.1
		Pond	9.3
Highwood Grove Woods	Friends of Queenshills and Highwoods	Big Clean Up	10.3
	Friends of Queenshills and Highwoods	Planting and clearance work = Meeting	6.9
Meanwood Park	Leeds Parks Volunteers	Bulb planting, forking round tree and resiting litter bin	5.0
	Leeds Wildlife Volunteers	Drystone Walling	1.4
		Meadow management	5.1
	Meanwood Primary School	Balsam Bash	10.0
	Transition Meanwood	Balsam Bash	2.5
Roundhay	FORP	Weed shrubberies	5.7

Site	Organisation	Task	No. of Vol Days
Park	Leeds Parks Volunteers	Clearing footpath, bridge, steps and other features	3.6
		Removing weeds from dam	2.4
		Weeding	3.9
Sugarwell Hill Plantations	Sugerwell School	Snowdrop Planting, nestbox building, litterpick	25.1
Total			130.4

Table 2 - Corporate volunteer actions;

Site	Organisation	Task	No. of Vol Days
Meanwood Park	Lloyds	Balsam Bash and Mire Management	7.9
Roundhay Park	first direct	Sustainable garden weed	6.9
	Lloyds	Paint cricket pavillion, boat house, seats Cricket posts	34.3
	LCC HR services	Planting flower beds	12.9
Total			62

Table 3 - Educational work within the North East Inner area:

Site	School	Activity	No Of Children
Gledhow Valley Wood	Chapel Allerton Primary School	Minibeasts and habitats	24
Gledhow Valley Wood	Chapel Allerton Primary School	Minibeasts and habitats	28
Meanwood Park	Meanwood Primary	Balsam Bash	30
Roundhay Park	Kerr Mackie Primary	Seed gathering	32
Roundhay Park	Kerr Mackie Primary	Seed gathering	32
Roundhay Park	Immaculate Heart of Mary	Seed gathering	54

Table 4 - Summary of the groups who are active in the North East Inner area :

Group Name	Number of Volunteers	Estimated Volunteer Days
Friends of Gledhow Valley Woods	40	360
Friends of Highwoods and Queenshills	5	20
Friends of Potternewton Park	2	0
Friends of Roundhay Park	30	96
Meanwood Valley Action partnership	30	0
Leeds Parks Volunteers	4	78
Leeds Voluntary Footpath Rangers	6	130
Leeds Wildlife Volunteers	12	216
Total	129	900

Table 5 - Existing in bloom groups within the North East Inner area;

In Bloom Group	Number of Volunteers	Award Won (Yorkshire in Bloom)	Estimated Volunteer Days
Moortown	12		240
Total			240

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 emphasis 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 East area in 2012:

Site Name	Month	Event	Total
Allerton Grange Way	June	FoG VW Funday	1
Chapel Allerton Park	August	"Faceless" Arts & Play Workshops	1
	December	Carols in the Park	1
Highwood Grove Woods	September	Highwood Fun Day	1
Meanwood Park	April	Meanwood Valley Trail Race	1
	June	Jubilee Big Lunch	1
		Meanwood Valley Community Funday	1
	July	Airienteers	1
	November	Airienteers	1
	December	Meanwood Carols in the Park	1
Norma Hutchinson Park	August	Chapelton Race - West Indian Centre	1
Potternewton Park	June	BHI bike ride	1
	August	Family Fun Day	1
		Leeds Reggae Concert & Carnival	1
	October	Northern Ballet Activity Day	1
Potternewton Playing Fields	May	(14th - 21st) Funfair	1
	June	LSD Julie Lewis	1
Roundhay Park	January	Filming (Ben Hepworth)	1
	February	Airienteers	1
		Camera Course - Ed Rooms	2
		Greenwoods Photoshoot	1
	March	ADRA	1
		Camera Course - Ed Rooms	1
		Church adventure walk	1
		Stroke Association Fun Run	1
	April	Airienteers	1
		Camera Course - Ed Rooms	2
	May	Camera Course - Ed Rooms	1
		Grass Track	3
		Martin House DBR	1
		Yorkshire Cancer Centre	1
	June	Airienteers	1
		British Cycling	1
		Diabetes UK Sponsored Walk	1
		Funfair (Pullen)	1
		Grass Track	3
		Leeds Montessori Sports Day	1
Nando's - Pretty Green		1	
Roundhay Live		1	
Roundhay Schools Fun Run		1	

Site Name	Month	Event	Total
		RSPB event	2
		Summer Bands	2
	July	Adventure Walk	1
		Grass Track	5
		LCC Sports Day	1
		Medieval Event (Evans)	1
		National Grass Track Comp	1
		NHS Rounders	1
Pagan Federation Picnic	1		
		RSPB event	1
		Summer Bands	3
	August	(13th - 20th)Roundhay by the Sea (Int Funfairs)	1
		Barclays Buggy Push	1
		BBC - Who let the dogs out & about	1
		Big Fun run	1
		BMF Sports Day	1
		Breeze on Tour	1
		Chernobyl Children	1
		Grass Track	2
		Mela	1
		Summer Bands	1
		September	(13th - 17th) Recovery Festival
	BUPA Memory Walk		1
	Dragonfly TV Filming		1
	FPWR		1
	Mela		1
	Take Heart		1
	Teenage Cancer Trust		1
	October	Dragonfly TV Filming	1
		Viktor Northern Film School	1
	November	Kids Adventure Walk	1
		Roundhay Park Bonfire	1
	December	Tropical Christmas	1
Xmas Trees @ Oakwood		3	
Stonegate Recreation Ground	July	(23rd - 30th) Funfair	1
Total			92

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 3.30.*

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 East Inner Area Committee.

Site	Year Assessed	Welcoming Place	Healthy, Safe, Secure	Clean, Well Maintained	Sustainability	Conservation / Heritage	Community Involvement	Marketing	Meets Standard?
Chapel Allerton Park	2010								Yes
Meanwood Park	2011								Yes
Norma Hutchinson Park	2012								No
Potternewton Park	2010								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 3 parks identified that meet the Leeds Quality Park Standard in the area, with 1 not reaching the standard. Although this is identical to the previous Area Committee report. Meanwood Park has now passed with Norma Hutchinson failing.

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
Chapel Allerton Park	7.9	7.8	8.4	6.4	8.0	7.0	6.7	7.4	7.8
Meanwood Park	8.0	7.6	8.7	6.0	7.8	7.7	6.4	6.1	7.9
Norma Hutchinson Park	6.3	6.3	7.7	6.0	7.1	6.6	6.6	6.3	6.3
Potternewton Park	7.3	6.6	8.3	5.1	7.8	7.4	5.9	5.4	6.9

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 East Inner)	2006 (North East Inner)
Fair to very good	79.9%	77.2%
Poor or very poor	20.1%	22.8%

The results show a slight increase in those rating facilities of fair or higher 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 East Inner)	2006 (North East Inner)
Fair to very good	83.2%	85.5%
Poor or very poor	16.8%	14.5%

Results show a small reduction in those rating the facilities as fair or better .

3.16 Improvements to community parks during 2012 are as follows:

- Potternewton Park – Path resurfacing, new entrance gates, seating & litter bins. Removal of bowling green and tree planting (£20k).
- Meanwood Park – Improvements to tennis courts, car parks, tree planting and refurbishment of rangers hut.
- Meanwood Park – Refurbishment of Edward Oates memorial cross and opening of Captain Lawrence Oates memorial plaque and interpretation boards.

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)
Norma Hutchinson Park	£10,000	
Total to achieve LQP	£10,000	
Average annual reinvestment		£13,219
Total reinvestment to 2020		£105,752
Overall Total Investment to 2020		£115,752

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;

- Norma Hutchinson Park – Trim trail.

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	10	1,200,000	120,000
Multi Use games Areas	3	270,000	27,000
Skate Parks	2	180,000	18,000
Totals		1,650,000	165,000

Area Committee funding for additional on site gardeners

- 3.21 A number of area committees provide additional funding for gardeners to increase site based presence at parks in the area.
- 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 East Inner area committee:

Asset Type	Annual Visits	Unit	Measure
Amenity Grass	13	M ²	567,629
Premium Grass	26	M ²	6,234
Rough Grass	3	M ²	4,538
Primary Network	6	M ²	43,769
Shrub Beds	2	M ²	12,051
Hedges	3	M	2,210
Rose Beds	2	M ²	199
Total			636,630

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.

Parks & Countryside Key Performance Indicators

3.30 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 East Area Committee, 4th July 2011.
- 7.2 Annual Report for Parks and Countryside Service in North East Inner Area Committee, North East Inner Area Committee, 17th October 2011.
- 7.3 Parks and Greenspace Strategy, Executive Board, February 2009.
- 7.4 Fixed Play Strategy, Executive Board, September 2002.

Appendix 1: Detailed Residents Survey Information

1.1 Total Number of Annual Visits

	Community Parks	Other P&C Sites	Total
North East Inner	2,558,223	8,367,686	10,925,909

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

Reason	Chapel Allerton Park %	Norma Hutchinson Park %	Meanwood Park %	Potternewton Park %	North East Inner Total %
Exercise	76	100	98	88	94
Play	59	43	45	78	53
Dog walking	17	0	23	19	20
Enjoy the surroundings	59	0	70	44	60
Family outings	28	29	39	53	39
Relaxation	100	71	100	100	100
See Wildlife	17	0	37	25	30
Sport related	28	29	21	25	23
Other	10	14	3	6	5
Events	14	0	2	50	13

1.3 Age Profile of Visitors

Site	Age 20 – 39	Age 40 – 59	Age 60+
Chapel Allerton Park	31%	52%	17%
Norma Hutchinson Park	33%	33%	34%
Meanwood Park	50%	34%	16%
Potternewton Park	46%	33%	21%
North East Inner Total	45%	37%	18%

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
Chapel Allerton Park	85.7%	71%	29%	~	~
Norma Hutchinson Park	100%	86%	14%	~	~
Meanwood Park	73.5%	59%	27%	13%	1%
Potternewton Park	83.9%	73%	19%	4%	4%
North East Inner Total	78.7%	65%	25%	8%	2%

1.5 Visitors by Car - Journey Time

Site	% of visitors by car	Less than 10 mins	10–20 mins	20-30 mins
Chapel Allerton Park	14.3%	100%	~	~
Norma Hutchinson Park	0%	~	~	~
Meanwood Park	23.5%	77%	23%	~
Potternewton Park	16.1%	60%	40%	~
North East Inner Total	19.5%	78%	23%	~

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	9%	16%	19%	31%
30 minutes to 1 hour	30%	46%	47%	46%
1 to 2 hours	40%	28%	29%	4%
2 to 4 hours	19%	3%	0%	0%
4 or more hours	2%	1%	2%	2%
Do not visit	0%	6%	3%	17%

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

	Summer	Winter
Every Day	11%	6%
Most Days	21%	11%
Once or Twice a week	31%	22%
Once every two weeks	22%	20%
Once a month	16%	27%
Seldom or never	0%	14%