

Report of The Chief Officer of Parks and Countryside

Report to West Outer Area Committee

Date: 22nd March 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): Calverley & Farsley Farnley & Wortley Pudsey | | |
| 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 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 West Outer Area Committee:

| Asset | Quantity |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Community parks | 10 |
| Playing Pitches: | |
| Cricket | 7 |
| Football | 27 |
| Rugby League | 4 |
| Rugby Union | 1 |
| Bowling greens | 9 |
| Playgrounds | 15 |
| Multi-use games areas | 2 |
| 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 10 community parks in the area which are;

| Site Name | Annual Number of Visits | Total Annual Visits to West Outer Community Parks is 7m approx. |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Brookfield Rec Ground | 2,515 | |
| Calverley Park | 1,267,553 | |
| Farnley Hall Park | 1,426,855 | |
| Hainsworth Park | 207,180 | |
| New Farnley Park | 60,355 | |
| New Wortley Rec Ground | 350,717 | |
| Pudsey Park | 2,426,679 | |
| Tyersal Park | 90,533 | |
| Western Flatts Park | 616,898 | |
| Westroyd Park | 561,863 | |

- 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 68% of visitors are adults with 32% children or young people.
 - There are a wide range of reasons for visiting but nearly all visitors at some point go for relaxation, exercise or play.

- Nearly 70% of visitors travel to the park on foot of which 66% take less than 10 minutes to travel there.
- Of the 28% who visit by car 58% take less than 10 minutes to get there.
- 35% of visitors go to community parks either every day or on most days, whilst 71% 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 | 20 |
| Juniors | 14 |

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 900 days of voluntary work in the West Outer area over a 12 month period. The tables below give details of works undertaken in 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 |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Post Hill Woods, Pudsey | Friends of Post Hill | Planting Tansy | 0.6 |
| | Leeds Parks Volunteers | Bench installation x 3 and woodland management | 2.4 |
| | | Woodland Management - tree thinning | 0.8 |
| Pudsey Park | Pudsey Park Volunteers | Painting the visitor centre | 2.4 |
| | Youth Probation Service | Cut back, litter pick, footpath scrape | 7.4 |
| Upper Moor, Pudsey | Youth Probation Service | Step Creation | 11.4 |
| | | Step Creation and Bench Preparation | 5.7 |
| Total | | | 30.7 |

Table 2 - Corporate volunteer actions;

| Site | Organisation | Task | No. of Vol Days |
|--------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Upper Moor, Pudsey | Baker Tilley | Step Creation | 12.9 |
| Total | | | 12.9 |

Table 3 - Summary of the groups who are active in the West Outer area :

| Group Name | Number of Volunteers | Estimated Volunteer Days |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Friends of Post Hill | 15 | 32 |
| Friends of Pudsey Park | 15 | 60 |
| Friends of Woodhall Lake | 10 | 24 |
| Leeds Parks Volunteers | 4 | 78 |
| Leeds Voluntary Footpath Rangers | 6 | 130 |
| Leeds Wildlife Volunteers | 12 | 216 |
| Total | 62 | 540 |

Table 4 - Existing in bloom groups within the West Outer area;

| In Bloom Group | Number of Volunteers | Award Won (Yorkshire in Bloom) | Estimated Volunteer Days |
|----------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Calverley | 15 | Urban Community – Gold | 280 |
| New Farnley | 5 | | 120 |
| Pudsey | 12 | Large Town - Silver | 240 |
| Total | | | 640 |

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 West area in 2012:

| Site Name | Month | Event | Total |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------|-------|
| Calverley Park (Victoria Park) | April | Airienteers | 1 |
| | May | Airienteers | 1 |
| | June | Diamond Jubilee Childrens Day | 1 |
| | | Jubilee Event | 1 |
| | | Summer Bands | 1 |
| | July | Calverley Parkside Summer Fair | 1 |
| | | Summer Bands | 2 |
| | August | Cricket tournament | 1 |
| | | Summer Bands | 1 |
| Farnley Hall Park | June | Summer Bands | 1 |
| | July | Community Day - WY Police | 1 |
| | | Summer Bands | 1 |
| Houghside | May | Stanningley Albion Fundraiser | 1 |
| New Farnley Recreation Ground | July | Summer Bands | 1 |
| | August | Summer Bands | 1 |

| Site Name | Month | Event | Total |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| New Wortley Recreation Ground | June | Summer Bands | 1 |
| | July | Summer Bands | 1 |
| Post Hill Woods, Pudsey | May | Pudsey Pacers | 1 |
| Pudsey Park | June | Pudsey Jubilee Party | 1 |
| | | Summer Bands | 2 |
| | July | Pudsey Pacers 10k Run | 1 |
| | | Summer Bands | 3 |
| | August | Dragonfly TV Filming | 1 |
| | | Summer Bands | 3 |
| | September | Summer Bands | 1 |
| October | Home Tweet Home | 1 | |
| Queens Park, Pudsey | May | Pudsey Carnival (19th - 23rd Funfair) | 1 |
| | July | Pudsey Jr's Football Gala | 1 |
| Swinnow Moor (Swinnow Lane) | June | Animal Welfare Charity Event | 1 |
| Western Flatts Cliff Park | June | Summer Bands | 1 |
| | August | Summer Bands | 1 |
| Westroyd Park | June | Summer Bands | 1 |
| | July | Summer Bands | 1 |
| | August | Summer Bands | 1 |
| Woodhall Lake | November | Weekly Forest Sessions | 1 |
| | December | Weekly Forest Sessions | 1 |
| Total | | | 42 |

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 3.32.

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 West Outer Area Committee.

| Site | Year Assessed | Welcoming Place | Healthy, Safe, Secure | Clean, Well Maintained | Sustainability | Conservation / Heritage | Community Involvement | Marketing | Meets Standard? |
|------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Brookfield Rec Ground | 2010 | | | | | | | | Yes |
| Calverley Park | 2010 | | | | | | | | Yes |
| Farnley Hall Park | 2012 | | | | | | | | Yes |
| Hainsworth Park | 2012 | | | | | | | | No |
| New Farnley Park | 2011 | | | | | | | | Yes |
| New Wortley Rec Ground | 2012 | | | | | | | | No |
| Pudsey Park | 2010 | | | | | | | | Yes |
| Tyersal Park | 2011 | | | | | | | | No |
| Western Flatts Park | 2012 | | | | | | | | Yes |
| Westroyd 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 7 parks identified that meet the Leeds Quality Park Standard in the area, with 3 not reaching the standard. This is an increase of 1 (New Farnley Park) since the previous 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 |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Calverley Park | 9.1 | 8.6 | 9.2 | 7.1 | 9.4 | 8.0 | 7.8 | 8.0 | 8.5 |
| Farnley Hall Park | 7.9 | 7.8 | 8.7 | 5.5 | 8.1 | 7.7 | 6.7 | 6.2 | 7.5 |
| Hainsworth Park | 6.9 | 7.3 | 8.7 | 5.5 | 6.5 | 5.8 | 6.9 | 6.0 | 7.1 |
| New Farnley Park | 7.6 | 7.2 | 8.0 | 5.2 | 7.6 | 6.4 | 6.5 | 6.0 | 7.2 |
| New Wortley Rec Ground | 7.3 | 6.6 | 8.5 | 5.4 | 7.8 | 7.1 | 4.9 | 6.1 | 6.6 |
| Pudsey Park | 8.7 | 8.2 | 8.9 | 7.0 | 9.0 | 8.3 | 7.7 | 6.2 | 8.3 |
| Tyersal Park | 5.6 | 7.6 | 8.8 | 5.2 | 6.8 | 6.8 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 6.4 |
| Western Flatts Park | 7.1 | 7.3 | 8.2 | 5.6 | 8.1 | 7.2 | 4.7 | 6.6 | 7.0 |
| Westroyd Park | 8.7 | 7.7 | 9.0 | 7.0 | 8.4 | 8.0 | 7.5 | 7.3 | 8.7 |

Note – Brookfield Recreation Ground had insufficient responses to be able to accurately produce satisfaction data

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 (West Outer) | 2006 (West Outer) |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Fair to very good | 80.3% | 73.8% |
| Poor or very poor | 19.7% | 26.2% |

The results show an increase in rating of the sports facilities from the 2006 survey. 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 (West Outer) | 2006 (West Outer) |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Fair to very good | 81.7% | 77.1% |
| Poor or very poor | 18.3% | 22.9% |

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

3.16 Improvements to community parks during 2012 are as follows:

- Farnley Hall Park – Resurfacing of car park at main entrance.

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) |
|---|---|--|
| Hainsworth Park | £5,000 | |
| New Wortley Rec Ground | £156,812 | |
| Tyersal Park | £124,500 | |
| Total to achieve LQP | £286,312 | |
| Average annual reinvestment | | £31,659 |
| Total reinvestment to 2020 | | £253,275 |
| Overall Total Investment to 2020 | | £539,587 |

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;

- Queens Park – New MUGA and playground refurbishment (£289k).
- New Wortley Recreation Ground – Improvements to park infrastructure, removal of bowling green and horticultural works (£60k).
- Western Flatts Park – MUGA fencing (£10k).
- Farnley Hall Park – Lawns Lane entrance, general improvements – work ongoing.
- Post Hill – Wildlife pond creation

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 | 15 | 1,800,000 | 180,000 |
| Multi Use games Areas | 2 | 180,000 | 18,000 |
| Skate Parks | 2 | 180,000 | 18,000 |
| Totals | | 2,160,000 | 216,000 |

Area Committee funding for additional on site gardeners

- 3.21 West Outer Area Committee provide additional funding for gardeners to increase site based presence at parks in the area. For 2012-13 this funding totalled £23,534 for site based presence at Tyersal Park and New Farnley 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 West Outer area committee:

| Asset Type | Annual Visits | Unit | Measure |
|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Amenity Grass | 13 | M ² | 697,649 |
| Premium Grass | 26 | M ² | 45,361 |
| Rough Grass | 3 | M ² | 58,129 |
| Sight Line | 3 | M | 1,455 |
| Rough Linear | 3 | M | 4,588 |
| Primary Network Class I | 6 | M ² | 16,969 |
| Primary Network Class II | 3 | M ² | 117,959 |
| Shrub Beds | 2 | M ² | 8,141 |
| Hedges | 3 | M | 1,661 |
| Rose Beds | 2 | M ² | 44 |
| Total | | | 951,956 |

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 West Outer Area Committee has occurred at;

- **Calverley Park** – A joint education day was held over the summer where dog fouling enforcement staff joined with Parks & Countryside Parks watch staff, PCSO's to engage with the public. Calverley Parkside Primary School children were also involved. Posters designed by the children were attached to lamp posts in and around the park. Leaflets were handed out to dog walkers.

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 West Area Committee, 4th July 2011.
- 7.2 Annual Report for Parks and Countryside Service in West Outer Area Committee, Outer West Area Committee, 14th 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 |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| West Outer | 7,011,149 | 1,812,302 | 8,823,451 |

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

| Reason | Calverley Park | Farnley Hall Park | Hainsworth Park | New Farnley Park | New Wortley Rec Ground | Pudsey Park | Tyersal Park | Western Flatts Park | Westroyd Park | West Outer Total % |
|------------------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Exercise | 98 | 68 | 78 | 60 | 100 | 63 | 60 | 86 | 83 | 74 |
| Play | 76 | 42 | 89 | 20 | 93 | 68 | 40 | 46 | 25 | 60 |
| Dog walking | 24 | 52 | 11 | 40 | 27 | 14 | 60 | 32 | 42 | 27 |
| Enjoy the surroundings | 42 | 49 | 22 | 40 | 33 | 70 | 60 | 41 | 54 | 55 |
| Family outings | 28 | 26 | 44 | 20 | 67 | 53 | 20 | 27 | 13 | 39 |
| Relaxation | 100 | 100 | 89 | 100 | 87 | 91 | 100 | 78 | 100 | 95 |
| See Wildlife | 2 | 32 | 11 | 0 | 13 | 37 | 40 | 11 | 33 | 26 |
| Sport related | 40 | 12 | 11 | 40 | 67 | 7 | 0 | 24 | 38 | 19 |
| Other | 20 | 0 | 22 | 20 | 0 | 14 | 0 | 14 | 17 | 12 |
| Events | 12 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 12 | 0 | 8 | 4 | 9 |

1.3 Age Profile of Visitors

| Site | Age 20 – 39 | Age 40 – 59 | Age 60+ |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------|
| Calverley Park | 39% | 39% | 22% |
| Farnley Hall Park | 22% | 47% | 31% |
| Hainsworth Park | 38% | 62% | 0% |
| New Farnley Park | 20% | 40% | 40% |
| New Wortley Rec Ground | 50% | 22% | 28% |
| Pudsey Park | 37% | 28% | 35% |
| Tyersal Park | 50% | 25% | 25% |
| Western Flatts Park | 27% | 43% | 30% |

| Site | Age 20 – 39 | Age 40 – 59 | Age 60+ |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Westroyd Park | 35% | 26% | 39% |
| West Outer Total | 33.9% | 34.4% | 31.7% |

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 |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| Calverley Park | 92% | 83% | 15% | 2% | 0% |
| Farnley Hall Park | 32% | 50% | 45% | 5% | 0% |
| Hainsworth Park | 100% | 89% | 11% | 0% | 0% |
| New Farnley Park | 60% | 67% | 33% | 0% | 0% |
| New Wortley Rec Ground | 94% | 86% | 13% | 0% | 0% |
| Pudsey Park | 63% | 50% | 37% | 10% | 3% |
| Tyersal Park | 100% | 80% | 20% | 0% | 0% |
| Western Flatts Park | 82% | 68% | 32% | 0% | 0% |
| Westroyd Park | 79% | 89% | 10% | 0% | 0% |
| West Outer Total | 67% | 66% | 28% | 5% | 1% |

1.5 Visitors by Car - Journey Time

| Site | % of visitors by car | Less than 10 mins | 10–20 mins | 20-30 mins |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------|------------|
| Calverley Park | 4% | 100% | 0% | 0% |
| Farnley Hall Park | 68% | 56% | 38% | 7% |
| Hainsworth Park | 0% | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| New Farnley Park | 40% | 50% | 50% | 0% |
| New Wortley Rec Ground | 0% | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| Pudsey Park | 29% | 58% | 38% | 4% |
| Tyersal Park | 100% | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| Western Flatts Park | 12% | 75% | 0% | 25% |
| Westroyd Park | 17% | 50% | 50% | 0% |
| West Outer Total | 28% | 58% | 37% | 5% |

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% | 20% | 23% | 30% |
| 30 minutes to 1 hour | 44% | 48% | 44% | 44% |
| 1 to 2 hours | 32% | 22% | 22% | 12% |
| 2 to 4 hours | 7% | 5% | 4% | 1% |
| 4 or more hours | 2% | 0% | 1% | 0% |
| Do not visit | 3% | 4% | 7% | 13% |

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

| | Summer | Winter |
|----------------------|--------|--------|
| Every Day | 11% | 9% |
| Most Days | 24% | 14% |
| Once or Twice a week | 36% | 27% |
| Once every two weeks | 20% | 16% |
| Once a month | 9% | 24% |
| Seldom or never | 0% | 10% |

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 |
|-------------------|---|--|---|
| Calverley Park | Enjoy the brass bands. Majority of comments positive on the quality of maintenance and park overall. | Dog control/less dog fouling. Better play equipment for younger children. Toilets. Small café facility. | Additional comments include continued concern over dogs roaming free. |
| Farnley Hall Park | Lots of positive comments on new play area. | Toilets. Café facility. Increased number of benches. | Some horse riders commented on good bridal path. Car park in poor condition. |

| Site | General satisfaction comments | What would make you stay longer or encourage more use | Any other comments |
|------------------------|---|--|---|
| Hainsworth Park | ~ | More benches/picnic tables. | Additional bins as when busy they fill up too quickly. |
| New Wortley Rec Ground | Damage, litter and graffiti to play area is a major concern. Dog fouling. | Better quality play area. Some people will not use at times due to anti-social behaviour. | ~ |
| Pudsey Park | Many positive comments regarding maintenance and facilities within the park. Only negative comments are on the quality of toilets. | Improved catering facility. More events. | Increased publicity about what's going on. Some visitors concerned about older children in the park causing trouble. |
| Tyersal Park | Improved play area required and less vandalism. | Improve the tennis courts. | Something for the older children. |
| Western Flatts Park | Some pathways need resurfacing. More facilities within the park. | The major point raised is the play area improving along with its location. | Rose garden often locked during day. More activities/events needed. |
| Westroyd Park | Dog fouling a concern of many. Improved drainage and path infrastructure. | Less broken glass from anti-social behaviour. Dog fouling reduced. | Some community events in the park would be good. |