

**Report of The Head of Parks and Countryside**

**Report to East Outer Area Committee**

**Date: 18<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

**Subject: Annual Report – for Parks and Countryside Service in East Outer Area Committee**

|                                                                                 |                                         |                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Are specific electoral Wards affected?                                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No            |
| If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):                                                |                                         |                                        |
| Cross Gates & Whinmoor                                                          |                                         |                                        |
| Garforth & Swillington                                                          |                                         |                                        |
| Kippax & Methley                                                                |                                         |                                        |
| Temple Newsam                                                                   |                                         |                                        |
| 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 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 expected improvements in the next 12 months.
4. It gives a detailed breakdown of events and volunteering in the area.
5. It provides a perspective on actions contained in the area delivery plan.

**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 East 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 ensuring that the benefits of the revised roles are secured.
- 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.
- 2.2 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, 96 allotment sites, over 800km of PROW, and 156 nature conservation sites, as well as 22 cemeteries and three crematoria.
- 2.3 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 Delegated Function/Enhanced role**

- 2.4 The enhanced role 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.
- 2.5 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 role 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 East Outer Area Committee:

| <b>Asset</b>          | <b>Quantity</b> |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Community parks       | 7               |
| Playing Pitches:      |                 |
| Football              | 55              |
| Rugby League          | 7               |
| Bowling greens        | 9               |
| Playgrounds           | 22              |
| Multi-use games areas | 3               |
| Skate parks           | 2               |

#### ***Community Parks***

- 3.2 Analysis from the 2009 residents survey was carried out relevant to the 10 community parks in the area which are;

| <b>Site Name</b>               | <b>Annual Number of Visits</b> | Total Annual Visits to East Outer Community Parks is 2.2m approx. |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Allerton Bywater Sports Ground | 130,963                        |                                                                   |
| Barley Hill Park               | 291,329                        |                                                                   |
| Glebelands Rec Ground          | 197,121                        |                                                                   |
| Grove Road Rec Ground          | 18,764                         |                                                                   |
| Halton Dene – Primrose Valley  | 362,711                        |                                                                   |
| Manston Park                   | 1,114,441                      |                                                                   |
| Whinmoor Park                  | 86,470                         |                                                                   |

- 3.3 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 and young people.
- There are a wide range of reasons for visiting but nearly all visitors at some point go for relaxation or exercise. Other common reasons for visiting are for play and to enjoy the surroundings.
- Nearly 80% of visitors travel to the park on foot of which 71% take less than 10 minutes to travel there.
- Of the 18% who visit by car 65% take less than 10 minutes to get there.
- 39% of visitors go to community parks either every day or on most days, whilst 76% go at least once a week.

- 3.4 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  | 18          |
| Juniors   | 40          |

### Volunteering in the Parks and Countryside Service

3.5 Since the last report to Area Committees the service has focused resources for a community outreach team to increase the number of volunteers and value of activities which take place with the following key actions;

- Seeking a large increase in corporate volunteering due to enhanced marketing and communication.
- Continued and improved involvement with the many “in bloom” groups in Leeds.
- It is an ambition is to have a volunteer group for every community park.

3.6 It is estimated that volunteers across all groups contribute 3,376 days of voluntary work in the east outer area over a 12 month period. The tables below give details of works undertaken in east outer since December 2010 and the active groups in the area committee;

#### Work undertaken by volunteers working with the Rangers;

| Site               | Group / Organisation           | Task                                                                                              |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Letchmire Pastures | Daniel Yorath House            | Scraping Footpath                                                                                 |
|                    | Brigshaw High School           | Footpath work                                                                                     |
|                    | Daniel Yorath House            | Litter Pick                                                                                       |
| Skelton Wood       | Skelton wood Environment Group | Hedgelaying                                                                                       |
|                    |                                | Footpath maintenance<br>Litter pick                                                               |
| Temple Newsam      | Turkish Community Group        | Tree Planting                                                                                     |
| Town Close Hills   | Daniel Yorath House            | Footpath work<br>Dead hedge creation<br>Litterpicking<br>Noticeboard maintenance<br>Scrub bashing |
|                    | Friends of Billy Wood          | Litterpick                                                                                        |
|                    | Prow volunteers                | Fencing and stile building plus noticeboard replacement                                           |

#### Corporate volunteer actions;

| Organisation     | Site             | Task                   | Number of Volunteers |
|------------------|------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| O2 Think Big     | Temple Newsam    | Bracken bashing        | 2                    |
| O2 Think Big     | Temple Newsam    | Farm site improvements | 20                   |
| Leeds Ahead – BT | Swarcliffe Woods | Footpath creation      | 25                   |

**Summary of the groups who are active in the east outer area committee or who carry out work within the area;**

| <b>Group Name</b>                      | <b>Number of Volunteers</b> | <b>Estimated Volunteer Days</b> |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Daniel Yoreth House Conservation group | 8                           | 8                               |
| Friends of Billy Wood                  | 8                           | 3                               |
| Friends of Temple Newsam               | 50                          | 1180                            |
| Skelton Woods Environment Group        | 8                           | 96                              |
| Friends of Primrose Valley             | 15                          | 40                              |
| Leeds Parks Volunteers                 | 4                           | 78                              |
| Leeds Voluntary Footpath Rangers       | 6                           | 130                             |
| Leeds Wildlife Volunteers              | 12                          | 216                             |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <b>111</b>                  | <b>1751</b>                     |

**Existing in bloom groups within the east outer area;**

| <b>In Bloom Group</b>  | <b>Number of Volunteers</b> | <b>Estimated Volunteer Days</b> |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Allerton Bywater       | 10                          | 200                             |
| Garforth               | 20                          | 400                             |
| Great & Little Preston | 18                          | 360                             |
| Kippax                 | 25                          | 480                             |
| Ledston                | 2                           | 40                              |
| Methley & Mickletown   | 12                          | 240                             |
| Micklefield            | 3                           | 80                              |
| Swillington            | 8                           | 160                             |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>98</b>                   | <b>1960</b>                     |

**Events**

- 3.7 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 area committee so far in 2011;

| <b>Site Name</b>          | <b>Month</b> | <b>Event</b>                 | <b>Total</b> |
|---------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| Kippax Rec                | August       | Funfair (Stewart Robinson)   | 1            |
| Neville Road Sports Field | May          | 10th - 17th Funfair (Tucker) | 1            |
| Temple Newsam             | January      | Orienteering                 | 1            |
|                           | February     | Airienteers                  | 1            |
|                           |              | Orienteering                 | 1            |
|                           | March        | Craft Fair                   | 1            |
|                           |              | Fire Brigade Training        | 1            |
|                           |              | Virgin Balloon Flights       | 1            |
|                           | April        | BMX                          | 2            |
|                           |              | Book worm club               | 1            |
|                           |              | Dawn Chorus                  | 1            |
|                           |              | Wedding                      | 1            |
|                           | May          | Book worm club               | 1            |
| City Slickers             |              | 1                            |              |
| Diabetes Walk             |              | 1                            |              |

| Site Name                                | Month                 | Event                                      | Total            |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------|
|                                          |                       | Phoenix crafts                             | 1                |
|                                          |                       | Plant fair                                 | 1                |
|                                          |                       | Steam Fair                                 | 1                |
|                                          |                       | Wedding                                    | 3                |
|                                          |                       | White Rose Horse show                      | 1                |
|                                          | June                  | Band Concert                               | 1                |
|                                          |                       | Barnardos Toddle                           | 1                |
|                                          |                       | Bat Walk                                   | 1                |
|                                          |                       | Farm open day                              | 1                |
|                                          |                       | Leeds Advocacy - Sponsored Walk            | 1                |
|                                          |                       | Mini Breeze Event                          | 1                |
|                                          |                       | Picnic in the Park - LCC/Adult Social Care | 1                |
|                                          |                       | Race for Life                              | 1                |
|                                          |                       | Wedding                                    | 2                |
|                                          |                       | July                                       | Band in the Park |
|                                          | Car Boot (FOTN)       |                                            | 1                |
|                                          | Cocoon                |                                            | 1                |
|                                          | Drive in movie        |                                            | 1                |
|                                          | Opera in the park     |                                            | 1                |
|                                          | Party in the park     |                                            | 1                |
|                                          | Play ground opening   |                                            | 1                |
|                                          | Silly Billy Goat Club |                                            | 1                |
|                                          | Wedding               |                                            | 1                |
|                                          | August                | (2nd - 4th) Breeze Event                   | 1                |
|                                          |                       | Airienteers                                | 1                |
|                                          |                       | Bat Walk                                   | 1                |
|                                          |                       | British Cycling                            | 2                |
|                                          |                       | Funfair (Pullen)                           | 1                |
|                                          |                       | Phoenix crafts                             | 1                |
|                                          |                       | Wedding                                    | 2                |
|                                          | September             | Farm open day                              | 1                |
|                                          |                       | Outback                                    | 1                |
|                                          |                       | Phoenix crafts                             | 1                |
|                                          |                       | Walk in their shoes                        | 1                |
|                                          |                       | Wedding                                    | 1                |
|                                          |                       | Wheatfields Midnight Walk                  | 1                |
|                                          | October               | City Slickers                              | 1                |
|                                          |                       | Dogs Trust                                 | 1                |
|                                          |                       | Fungal Foray                               | 1                |
|                                          |                       | Ghost walk                                 | 2                |
| Haloween                                 |                       | 1                                          |                  |
| Rothwell Lions Wild Boar Cycle Challenge |                       | 1                                          |                  |
| Glebelands Rec                           | May                   | Garforth Tigers Gala                       | 1                |
|                                          | July                  | Garforth Lions Gala                        | 1                |
|                                          | August                | LCC Youth Service                          | 2                |
| <b>Total</b>                             |                       |                                            | <b>68</b>        |

## Community Parks – Leeds Quality Park Status

3.8 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.

3.9 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 3.24.

3.10 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 East Outer Area Committee.

| Site                           | Year Assessed | Welcoming Place | Healthy, Safe, Secure | Clean, Well Maintained | Sustainability | Conservation / Heritage | Community Involvement | Marketing | Meets Standard? |
|--------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Allerton Bywater Sports Ground | 2008          |                 |                       |                        |                |                         |                       |           | No              |
| Barley Hill Park               | 2008          |                 |                       |                        |                |                         |                       |           | Yes             |
| Glebelands Rec Ground          | 2009          |                 |                       |                        |                |                         |                       |           | No              |
| Grove Road Rec Ground          | 2008          |                 |                       |                        |                |                         |                       |           | No              |
| Halton Dene – Primrose Valley  | 2009          |                 |                       |                        |                |                         |                       |           | No              |
| Manston Park                   | 2008          |                 |                       |                        |                |                         |                       |           | Yes             |
| Whinmoor Park                  | 2010          |                 |                       |                        |                |                         |                       |           | No              |

**Notes** – Assessments due in 2011 are currently taking place but have not yet been recorded in full so no data will be shown in this report.

**Key:**

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

3.11 From this table, there are 2 parks identified that meet the Leeds Quality Park Standard in the area, with 5 not reaching the standard. This is the same as the last Area Committee report.

3.12 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 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Barley Hill Park              | 6.7                   | 5.8                         | 8.0                | 5.1                 | 6.8                       | 5.8                 | 5.6                     | 5.8               | 6.4                |
| Glebelands Rec Ground         | 4.5                   | 4.8                         | 7.2                | 2.7                 | 5.7                       | 5.6                 | 3.0                     | 5.7               | 4.3                |
| Halton Dene – Primrose Valley | 6.3                   | 6.3                         | 8.6                | 6.3                 | 7.7                       | 7.1                 | 4.6                     | 7.1               | 6.6                |
| Manston Park                  | 7.9                   | 7.8                         | 8.8                | 6.2                 | 8.6                       | 7.5                 | 7.1                     | 6.9               | 7.8                |
| Whinmoor Park                 | 5.2                   | 6.4                         | 7.6                | 2.5                 | 7.2                       | 6.8                 | 2.8                     | 3.6               | 3.2                |

Note – Allerton Bywater Sports Ground and Grove Road Rec 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 |  |

With the exception of Glebelands Recreation Ground this table broadly correlates with the professional audit undertaken for the Leeds Quality Parks assessment set out in paragraph 3.10. There are however issues identified with the range of facilities and facilities for families offered in many of the parks.

**Playing Pitches**

- 3.13 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 (East Outer) | 2006 (East Outer) |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Fair to very good           | 80.2%             | 71.5%             |
| Poor or very poor           | 19.8%             | 28.5%             |

The results show an increase in those rating sports facilities as fair or higher. This data is related to the table set out in paragraph 3.12.

**Fixed Play**

- 3.14 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 (East Outer) | 2006 (East Outer) |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Fair to very good              | 80.1%             | 79.8%             |
| Poor or very poor              | 19.9%             | 20.2%             |

Results show a minimal increase in those who rated facilities as fair, good or very good.

- 3.15 Improvements to community parks during 2011 are as follows;

- Barley Hill Park – Improvements to area in and around bowling greens.

- 3.16 With regards to sports pitches In the last 12 months the following works have been undertaken in the area;

- Church Lane, Methley – Continued development of new pitches.

- 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) |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Allerton Bywater Sports Ground | £8,000                                 |                                     |
| Glebelands Rec Ground          | £10,000                                |                                     |
| Grove Road Rec Ground          | £27,000                                |                                     |

|                                         |                 |                 |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Halton Dene – Primrose Valley           | £324,050        |                 |
| Whinmoor Park                           | £118,725        |                 |
| <b>Total to achieve LQP</b>             | <b>£487,775</b> |                 |
| Average annual reinvestment             |                 | £22,720         |
| <b>Total reinvestment to 2020</b>       |                 | <b>£204,480</b> |
| <b>Overall Total Investment to 2020</b> |                 | <b>£692,255</b> |

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;

- Allerton Bywater Sports Ground – Working towards securing funding for a new skatepark.
- Barley Hill Park – Work is due to commence on tennis court fencing during this winter.
- Grove Road Recreation – New play area.
- Barley Hill Park – Improvements to drainage of sports pitches.

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            | 22  | 2,640,000                  | 264,000                           |
| Multi Use games Areas | 1   | 90,000                     | 9,000                             |
| Skate Parks           | 2   | 180,000                    | 18,000                            |
| <b>Totals</b>         |     | <b>2,910,000</b>           | <b>291,000</b>                    |

#### **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.

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.

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.

3.22 The following table summarises actions identified in the Area Delivery Plan (2008 – 2011) and a commentary from a service perspective;

| Ref. | Action                                                                          | Comments                                                                            |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| E7   | Working with various 'in bloom' groups to improve main village and town streets | The service continues to provide dedicated officer support to local in bloom groups |

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

| PI Code                  | Description                                                                                         | 2009/10 Actual      | 2010/11 Actual      | 2011/12 Target | 2012/13 Target |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
| LKI-GFI / CP-PC50 / EM38 | The percentage of parks and countryside sites assessed internally that meet the Green Flag criteria | 23%<br>(Target 21%) | 23%<br>(Target 23%) | 26.2%          | 29.4%          |
| LKI-PCP 22               | Overall user satisfaction with Parks and Countryside (from the user survey)                         | 7.37<br>(Target 7)  | N/A                 | N/A            | 7              |
| New                      | The percentage of parks and countryside community parks which meet LQP status                       | n/a                 | 33.9%               | 40%            | 47.5%          |

## 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. The principle consultation through the residents survey to 35,000 households is scheduled to take place again in 2012.

- 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 East Area Committee, 4<sup>th</sup> July 2011
- 7.2 Annual Report for Parks and Countryside Service in East Outer Area Committee, Outer East Area Committee, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2010
- 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     |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| East Outer | 2,201,799       | 3,257,819       | 5,459,618 |

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

| Reason                 | Barley Hill Park % | Glebelands Rec % | Halton Dene – Primrose Valley % | Manston Park % | Whinmoor Park % | East Outer Total % |
|------------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Exercise               | 45                 | 43               | 100                             | 85             | 100             | 76                 |
| Play                   | 64                 | 64               | 57                              | 54             | 20              | 53                 |
| Dog walking            | 27                 | 29               | 86                              | 22             | 0               | 28                 |
| Enjoy the surroundings | 18                 | 7                | 86                              | 56             | 20              | 45                 |
| Family outings         | 36                 | 36               | 43                              | 36             | 20              | 34                 |
| Relaxation             | 73                 | 50               | 71                              | 92             | 80              | 82                 |
| See Wildlife           | 18                 | 7                | 29                              | 8              | 20              | 12                 |
| Sport related          | 64                 | 36               | 0                               | 32             | 60              | 33                 |
| Other                  | 18                 | 0                | 0                               | 17             | 20              | 15                 |
| Events                 | 0                  | 43               | 0                               | 7              | 0               | 10                 |

### 1.3 Age Profile of Visitors

| Site                          | Age 20 – 39 | Age 40 – 59 | Age 60+    |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| Barley Hill Park              | 42%         | 58%         | 0%         |
| Glebelands Rec Ground         | 23%         | 46%         | 31%        |
| Halton Dene – Primrose Valley | 43%         | 29%         | 28%        |
| Manston Park                  | 26%         | 28%         | 46%        |
| Whinmoor Park                 | 50%         | 33%         | 17%        |
| <b>East Outer Total</b>       | <b>30%</b>  | <b>33%</b>  | <b>37%</b> |

## 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  |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| Barley Hill Park              | 64%                   | 71%               | 29%        | 0%         | 0%        |
| Glebelands Rec Ground         | 100%                  | 69%               | 23%        | 8%         | 0%        |
| Halton Dene – Primrose Valley | 86%                   | 100%              | 0%         | 0%         | 0%        |
| Manston Park                  | 76%                   | 66%               | 27%        | 6%         | 2%        |
| Whinmoor Park                 | 80%                   | 75%               | 25%        | 0%         | 0%        |
| <b>East Outer Total</b>       | <b>79%</b>            | <b>71%</b>        | <b>23%</b> | <b>5%</b>  | <b>1%</b> |

### 1.5 Visitors by Car - Journey Time

| Site                          | % of visitors by car | Less than 10 mins | 10–20 mins | 20-30 mins |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------|------------|
| Barley Hill Park              | 36%                  | 75%               | 0%         | 25%        |
| Glebelands Rec Ground         | 0%                   | ~                 | ~          | ~          |
| Halton Dene – Primrose Valley | 14%                  | 100%              | 0%         | 0%         |
| Manston Park                  | 21%                  | 60%               | 40%        | 0%         |
| Whinmoor Park                 | 0%                   | ~                 | ~          | ~          |
| <b>East Outer Total</b>       | <b>18%</b>           | <b>65%</b>        | <b>30%</b> | <b>5%</b>  |

### 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 | 16%         | 27%     | 39%         | 47%     |
| 30 minutes to 1 hour | 44%         | 46%     | 42%         | 42%     |
| 1 to 2 hours         | 27%         | 24%     | 13%         | 4%      |
| 2 to 4 hours         | 11%         | 1%      | 1%          | 0%      |
| 4 or more hours      | 1%          | 0%      | 0%          | 0%      |
| Do not visit         | 1%          | 1%      | 4%          | 7%      |

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

|                      | Summer | Winter |
|----------------------|--------|--------|
| Every Day            | 15%    | 12%    |
| Most Days            | 24%    | 14%    |
| Once or Twice a week | 37%    | 31%    |
| Once every two weeks | 11%    | 6%     |
| Once a month         | 13%    | 29%    |
| Seldom or never      | 0%     | 8%     |

**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                                                                        |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Barley Hill Park              | Broken glass on hard surfaces is only regular comment.                                                                                                     | More things to do.                                                                                                                   | Lighting and park wardens required to stop anti-social youths.                            |
| Glebelands Rec Ground         | Mainly concern over decline in play area (play area has been refurbished since survey).<br><br>Playing pitches well maintained but have drainage issues.   | Improve play area (carried out since survey).<br><br>More seating available.<br><br>Toilet facility.                                 | Would like the open spaces to be more visually attractive rather than just mown grass.    |
| Halton Dene – Primrose Valley | Anti-social behaviour needs sorting out.<br><br>Lack of dog bins/general littering issues.                                                                 | Play area.                                                                                                                           | Lack of feeling safe at times.                                                            |
| Manston Park                  | Tennis courts are not up to the high standard of the rest of the park.<br><br>Many positive comments about continued improvement.<br><br>Irresponsible dog | Refreshment facilities.<br><br>Toilets.<br><br>A more noticeable park warden presence within the park.<br><br>More seating and bins. | Growing concern over youth presence on an evening causing intimidation and making a mess. |



| Site          | General satisfaction comments                       | What would make you stay longer or encourage more use | Any other comments |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
|               | <p>owners.</p> <p>Play area is a little boring.</p> |                                                       |                    |
| Whinmoor Park | The park is okay but lacks a play area.             | A play area.                                          |                    |