

**Report of The Chief Officer of Parks and Countryside**

**Report to North West Inner Area Committee**

**Date: 5<sup>th</sup> 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):		
Headingley		
Hyde Park & Woodhouse		
Kirkstall		
Weetwood		
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 West 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 West Inner Area Committee:

Asset	Quantity
Community parks	7
Playing Pitches:	
Cricket	1
Football	17
Rugby League	1
Rugby Union	2
Bowling greens	6
Playgrounds	14
Multi-use games areas	4
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 7 community parks in the area which are;

Site Name	Annual Number of Visits	Total Annual Visits to North West Inner Community Parks is 3.95m approx.
Becketts Park	819,629	
Burley Park	376,929	
Hartley Avenue Park	10,059	
Lovell Park	30,178	
Tennant Hall POS	70,608	
The Hollies	349,266	
Woodhouse Moor	2,306,066	

- 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 76% of visitors are adults with 24% children.
  - There are a wide range of reasons for visiting but nearly all visitors at some point go for relaxation or exercise. Other popular reasons are for play, enjoying the surroundings and family outings.
  - 85% of visitors travel to the park on foot which is higher than most other areas of these 68% take less than 10 minutes to travel there.

- Of the 9% who visit by car 50% take less than 10 minutes to get there.
- 53% of visitors go to community parks either every day or on most days, whilst 82% 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	7
Juniors	3

### 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 1,400 days of voluntary work in the North West Inner area over a 12 month period. The tables below give details of works undertaken in North West 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
Kirkstall Abbey Estate	Leeds Parks Volunteers	Weeding Herb Garden	2.1
The Hollies	Leeds Parks Volunteers	Clearing brambles and weed tree seedlings from specimen trees and pathsides	2.9
Woodhouse Moor	Allotments group	Hedge cutting	3.9
	Leeds Parks Volunteers	Cleaning and painting benches	0.8
	Leeds University	Weeding rose beds and Painting bowling green surrounds	17.9
	Student Group	Tidying up the allotments	4.7
	Students Business Project	General Maintenance	6.3
Woodhouse Ridge	WRAG	Maintain entrance and hedge	6.9
		Bandstand clearance	7.7
		Clearance work	7.7
		cut hedge install 2 benches, footpath cutbacks	15.4

Site	Organisation	Task	No. of Vol Days
		General Maintenance	10.7
		Pathwork and steps	3.6
		Step Clearance and Tree Planting	11.4
		Woodland Management	21.7
<b>Total</b>			<b>123.7</b>

**Table 2 - Corporate volunteer actions;**

Site	Organisation	Task	No. of Vol Days
Woodhouse Moor	WY Pension Fund	General site maintenance	4.3
<b>Total</b>			<b>4.3</b>

**Table 3 - Educational work within the North West Inner area:**

Site	School	Activity	No Of Children
Woodhouse Ridge	City of Leeds	Seed gathering	8

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

Group Name	Number of Volunteers	Estimated Volunteer Days
Hawksworth Wood Community Association	1	0
Kirkstall Abbey Park User Forum	Unk	0
Leeds University	6	30
Meanwood Valley Action partnership	30	0
Woodhouse Ridge Action Group	30	240
Leeds Parks Volunteers	4	78
Leeds Voluntary Footpath Rangers	6	130
Leeds Wildlife Volunteers	12	216
<b>Total</b>		<b>694</b>

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

In Bloom Group	Number of Volunteers	Award Won (Yorkshire in Bloom)	Estimated Volunteer Days
Headingley	30		600
Kirkstall	25		380
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>		<b>980</b>

Highlighted groups are newly formed in bloom groups in 2012

## 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 North West Inner area in 2012:

Site Name	Month	Event	Total
Becketts Park	January	Airienteers	1
	February	Leeds Met Run	1
	June	Carnegie Fun Run	1
	July	Airienteers	1
		Customs and revenue	1
November	Airienteers	2	
Burley Lodge	May	ITV Studio's - Emmerdale	1
	June	Burley Lodge Centre - Jubilee Event	1
Burley Park	June	Summer Bands	1
Cragside Recreation Ground	September	Hawksworth Wood Community Ass	1
Dagmar Woods	July	Theatre of the Dales	2
Kirkstall Abbey Estate	March	(16th - 2nd) Funfair	2
		Deli Market	1
		Funfair (Atha)	1
	April	Deli Market	1
	May	Craft Market	1
		Deli Market	1
		Kirkstall Harriers	1
	June	Blessing @ Abbey	1
		Deli Market	1
		Filipino Barrio	1
		Wedding & Reception	1
	July	Craft Market	1
		Deli Market	1
		Holybush School Fun Day	1
		Kirkstall Festival	1
		Shakespeare in the park	1
	August	Amateur Film Event	1
		Breeze on Tour	1
		Deli Market	1
		Enviroment Day	1
		St Gemma's Sponsored Car Rally	1
		Studio Lambert Filming	1
		Swing Dance	1
		Wedding & Reception	1
	September	Alzhiemers memory walk	1
		Craft Market	1
		Deli Market	1
Fantasia		1	
Kirkstall Abbey 7		1	
Wedding & Reception		1	
October	Deli Market	1	
	Hollybush Sponsored Walk	1	
	November	Craft Market	1
		Deli Market	1
Oatland Drive POS	May	Leeds Play Network	1
	August	Leeds Play Network	1
The Arc	May	ITV Studio's - Emmerdale	1
Woodhouse Moor	January	University Parking	1
		Valentines ad truck	1

Site Name	Month	Event	Total
	February	Airienteers	1
		Great Russian Circus	1
		Help Holly Home' Run	1
		Unison Demo	1
		University Parking	5
	March	LMU Filming - Oliver Silva	1
		University Parking	3
	April	(14th - 30th) Funfair	1
		Barefoot in the park	1
		Extreme Stunt Show	1
		University Parking	1
	May	Circus Vegas (see 10th June)	1
		Road Safety	1
	June	Airienteers	1
		Circus Vegas (see 21st May)	1
		University Parking	1
	July	Hyde Park 5k Race	1
		Unity Day	1
		Unity Day Car Boot Sale	3
		University Parking	1
	August	Hyde Park Harriers Run	1
		Park Run 'Battle Bus'	1
	September	(2nd - 24th) Funfair	1
		(6th - 8th) Circus Starr	1
		Caring Together Stroll	1
	October	German Market Vehicles (29th - 5th )	1
		University Parking	1
	November	Airienteers	1
		German Market Vehicles ( 7th - 25th)	1
		Woodhouse Moor Bonfire	1
December	Angelina Northern Film School	1	
	German market vehicles pulled off	1	
	University Parking	1	
	University Parking	1	
<b>Total</b>			<b>95</b>

### 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 West Inner Area Committee.

Site	Year Assessed	Welcoming Place	Healthy, Safe, Secure	Clean, Well Maintained	Sustainability	Conservation / Heritage	Community Involvement	Marketing	Meets Standard?
Becketts Park	2011								No
Burley Park	2010								No
Hartley Avenue Park	2010								No
Lovell Park	2010								No
Tennant Hall POS	2010								No
The Hollies	2012								Yes
Woodhouse Moor	2010								No

**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 is 1 park identified that meet the Leeds Quality Park Standard in the area, with 6 not reaching the standard. This is identical to the previous Area Committee report.

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

Site	Design and Appearance	Cleanliness and Maintenance	Ease to Get Around	Range of Facilities	Horticultural Maintenance	Nature Conservation	Facilities for Families	Sports Facilities	Overall Impression
Becketts Park	6.0	6.0	8.3	4.1	5.9	6.3	3.4	5.5	5.6
Burley Park	6.3	6.8	8.3	5.8	7.3	6.1	6.2	6.5	6.5
The Hollies	9.1	8.8	8.9	6.9	9.1	9.4	6.4	7.6	9.1
Woodhouse Moor	7.7	6.9	8.7	5.4	7.8	6.4	6.3	6.0	7.5

Note – Hartley Avenue Park, Lovell Park and Tennant Hall 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 and facilities for families in many of the parks.

**Playing Pitches**

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

Rating of Sports facilities	2009 (North West Inner)	2006 (North West Inner)
Fair to very good	73.4%	67%
Poor or very poor	26.6%	33%

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

**Fixed Play**

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

Rating facilities for children	2009 (North West Inner)	2006 (North West Inner)
Fair to very good	71.4%	72.9%
Poor or very poor	28.6%	27.1%

Results show little change in those who rated facilities as fair or better.

- 3.16 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)
Becketts Park	£39,140	
Burley Park	£261,063	
Hartley Avenue Park	£123,000	
Lovell Park	£150,000	
Tennant Hall POS	£10,000	
Woodhouse Moor	£263,550	
<b>Total to achieve LQP</b>	<b>£846,753</b>	
Average annual reinvestment		£30,774
<b>Total reinvestment to 2020</b>		<b>£246,188</b>
<b>Overall Total Investment to 2020</b>		<b>£1,092,941</b>

- 3.17 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

- 3.18 Planned improvements for the next 12 months are;

- Woodhouse Moor – Fencing works to the corner of Clarendon Road & Moorland Road.
- Lovell Park – General park improvements (£50k).
- Burley Park – refurbishment of play equipment, new artificial cricket wicket, wildflower meadow, new bins, benches and picnic tables, entrance improvements, horticultural improvements and path resurfacing (£128k).

- 3.19 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;

<b>Fixed Play Type</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Total Replacement Cost £'s</b>	<b>Required Average Annual Spend £'s</b>
Play Areas	14	1,680,000	168,000
Multi Use games Areas	4	360,000	36,000
Skate Parks	2	180,000	18,000
<b>Totals</b>		<b>2,220,000</b>	<b>222,000</b>

### **Area Committee funding for additional on site gardeners**

- 3.20 North West Inner Area Committee provide additional funding for enforcement patrols at Woodhouse Moor from April to June 2012. The scheme funding was £11,650.
- 3.21 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.
- 3.22 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**

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

<b>Asset Type</b>	<b>Annual Visits</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Measure</b>
Amenity Grass	13	M <sup>2</sup>	700,605
Premium Grass	26	M <sup>2</sup>	21,041
Rough Grass	3	M <sup>2</sup>	12,975
Sight Line	3	M	570
Rough Linear	3	M	549
Primary Network	6	M <sup>2</sup>	40,649
Shrub Beds	2	M <sup>2</sup>	14,794
Hedges	3	M	2,574
Rose Beds	2	M <sup>2</sup>	476
<b>Total</b>			<b>794,233</b>

- 3.24 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%.

3.25 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.

3.26 From 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

3.27 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**

3.28 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.

3.29 Specific coordinated working relevant to the North West Inner Area Committee has occurred at;

- **Woodhouse Moor** – The site has particular challenges over the summer. Services have worked together to remove litter and empty bins on busy days.

### **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, North West Inner Area Committee, 4<sup>th</sup> July 2011.
- 7.2 Annual Report for Parks and Countryside Service in North West Inner Area Committee, North West Inner Area Committee, 27<sup>th</sup> 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 West Inner	3,962,735	1,823,419	5,786,154

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

Reason	Becketts Park %	Burley Park %	The Hollies %	Woodhouse Moor %	North West Inner Total %
Exercise	90%	70%	100%	77%	85%
Play	33%	48%	24%	60%	52%
Dog walking	57%	0%	18%	5%	13%
Enjoy the surroundings	29%	61%	100%	36%	49%
Family outings	33%	35%	24%	83%	62%
Relaxation	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
See Wildlife	19%	9%	24%	7%	12%
Sport related	29%	35%	0%	25%	25%
Other	14%	43%	0%	29%	27%
Events	0%	9%	0%	22%	15%

### 1.3 Age Profile of Visitors

Site	Age 20 – 39	Age 40 – 59	Age 60+
Becketts Park	43%	33%	24%
Burley Park	52%	38%	10%
The Hollies	24%	29%	47%
Woodhouse Moor	83%	13%	4%
<b>North West Inner Total</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>12%</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
Becketts Park	86%	78%	17%	5%	0%
Burley Park	90%	89%	11%	0%	0%
The Hollies	81%	61%	23%	8%	8%
Woodhouse Moor	84%	60%	33%	6%	1%
<b>North West Inner Total</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>26%</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
Becketts Park	10%	100%	0%	0%
Burley Park	10%	100%	0%	0%
The Hollies	19%	33%	67%	0%
Woodhouse Moor	7%	29%	71%	0%
<b>North West Inner Total</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>0%</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	8%	16%	34%	50%
30 minutes to 1 hour	30%	43%	34%	33%
1 to 2 hours	26%	29%	10%	7%
2 to 4 hours	22%	7%	6%	0%
4 or more hours	10%	2%	0%	0%
Do not visit	5%	3%	15%	11%

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

	Summer	Winter
Every Day	21%	14%
Most Days	32%	16%
Once or Twice a week	29%	25%
Once every two weeks	9%	14%
Once a month	9%	20%
Seldom or never	0%	12%

**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
Becketts Park	Concern over play area continually damaged.  Many people felt more features would improve the park.	New and improved play area. (Carried out since survey).	Feeling that the park is not up to the standard of other parks.
Burley Park	The park has several facilities but they need improving.  Rubbish is sometimes an issue.	Many facilities want improving.	Issues of teenagers driving mopeds and motorcycles around the park.
The Hollies	Many positive comments about the site.  There are some negative comments about Meanwood park mixed in perhaps members of the public see them as part of the same park.	Direction signs in the woods.  Open the toilet facilities.	Tennis courts excellent.  Perhaps some heritage information could be provided.
Woodhouse Moor	Poor quality toilets.  Tennis courts need improving.  In busy periods there is a lot of littering. Bins not emptied quick enough.	BBQ area/picnic area.  Refreshments.  More live music events.  No BBQ's.	A suitable community park.