

# GLASGOW'S OPEN SPACE STRATEGY





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# 1 Introduction

1.1 With industrialisation, Glasgow's population grew from 23,500 in 1755, to 147,000 in 1821 and to over 760,000 in 1901. This rapid urbanisation led to a range of social, environmental and public health issues that the City attempted to address by delivering a range of municipal services and facilities. These included a public water supply and the construction of public parks on an unprecedented scale. This legacy of, principally Victorian, public parks still serves large parts of the City well. Continued population growth in the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century peaked at 1.1m resulting in an expansion of the City's area which continued, even as the population declined, with the municipal house building of the 1920s and 30s and decentralisation of population to peripheral estates in the 1950s and '60s. These newer areas of the City also incorporated open space but of a more informal type, often as residential amenity space or natural space, and sometimes on land that was less easily developed.

1.2 The population of the City continued to decline throughout the 20th century and the resultant, geographically-irregular, changes in population meant that some of these open spaces became less frequently used and less valued. However, in the new century, the City's population has started to rise again and is expected to grow to 640,000 by 2039. In addition to catering for a growing population, new demands are also being made of the City's open spaces. These include the role of open space in:

- helping the City adapt to climate change, eg by dealing with surface water flooding, especially during and immediately after heavy rainfall events;

- providing habitats for nature, helping enhance biodiversity;
- providing opportunities for delivering better, more coherent and connected walking and cycling networks;
- providing convenient opportunities for outdoor recreation, sport, food growing and general relaxation, helping promote health and well-being and social cohesion;
- mitigating climate change, the urban heat island effect and poor air quality; and
- contributing to a sense of place and a more attractive urban environment.

1.3 Meeting these demands is going to be important in ensuring that Glasgow is well-equipped to deal with the challenges of the 21st century and to enhance the attractiveness of the City as a place in which to live and invest.

1.4 An Open Space Strategy (OSS) for the City will help address this changing context and the changing role of open space. This Strategy sets out an approach for considering the different ways in which the people, flora and fauna of Glasgow will need to make use of open space, now and in the future, if the City is to successfully meet the demands set out above. It marks the start of a process for establishing and meeting the City's open space needs which will have to be sustained for many years to come, which will be taken forward in the evolution of this OSS through future updates and which will inform future corporate strategies. This process is being facilitated by the EU's Horizon 2020 [Connecting Nature programme](#). This will help identify "nature based solutions" to some of the challenges facing Glasgow whilst delivering associated benefits for the City.

## GLASGOW IN CONTEXT

Glasgow  
**population**  
**615,000**, 1.7  
million in wider  
metropolitan area

In last 10 years,  
**obesity rates**  
in Greater Glasgow  
have risen by  
**66%**,  
BMI 25+

Over **6000**  
**species**  
recorded in Glasgow

**112**  
**trees** per  
hectare

**5,239**  
hectares of  
open space  
protected by City  
Development Plan

mortality rate  
**15%**  
**higher** than  
other UK cities

**6%**  
of Glaswegians  
regularly travel to  
work by bike

More than  
**900**  
hectares of land  
for **outdoor sports**

**8.52**  
hectares of  
protected open  
space per 1000  
people

**>99,000**  
**properties**  
at risk of  
flooding across  
wider Clyde & Loch  
Lomond area

**91**  
**public parks**  
- over 1000 has

**60%**  
of residents live  
within 500m of  
derelict land/  
*opportunity for open  
space*

1.5 There is also a recognition that the Strategy will have to be delivered in a challenging financial climate that is delivering fewer resources to create new open spaces, or to enhance and maintain existing ones. It sets out an overarching approach to the City’s open spaces, providing strategic direction that will guide the work, policy-making and investment decisions of all Council services and other members of the Council family, to deliver an effective and fully-functioning network of green, blue and grey open spaces that will continue to allow Glasgow to flourish in future.

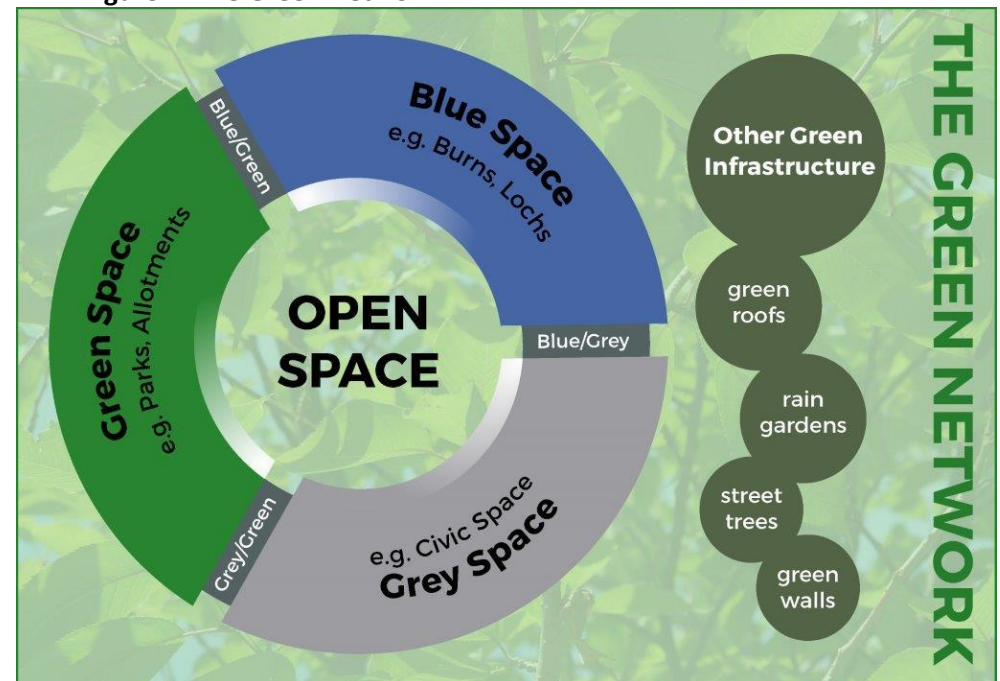
**What is Open Space?**

1.6 The Scottish Government’s [Planning Advice Note 65](#) (PAN 65): Planning and Open Space defines open space as “greenspace consisting of any vegetated land or structure, water, path or geological feature within and on the edges of settlements, and civic space consisting of squares, market places and other paved or hard landscaped areas with a civic function”. This definition includes water as a subset of green space, but it can be easier to think of open space as consisting of:

- green space - parks, playing fields, allotments/growing space, natural/semi-natural areas, etc;
- grey (or civic) space – squares, areas of urban realm, etc;
- blue space – burns, rivers, lochs, bogs etc; or
- various combinations of the above – eg civic space that includes green open space or green infrastructure (eg George Square)

1.7 These elements of open space, together with other green or grey/green infrastructure (eg individual street trees, green roofs, raingardens, green screens, etc) not located in open space, form the wider green network, with the open space elements generally being its most multi-functional parts (Fig 1). All elements of the green network can play a role in helping the City meet the challenges of the present and future. Whilst this OSS deals primarily with open space, it complements the City Development Plan which promotes the incorporation of green infrastructure into new development. Further work will be required to consider how best to plan for other green infrastructure in existing parts of the City.

**Figure 1: The Green Network**



- 1.8 The Council owns or controls many areas of open space in the City, notably the major parks, but the Open Space Strategy is also relevant to many other spaces, including those in institutions such as hospitals. PAN 65 notes that “all spaces, regardless of ownership and accessibility (i.e. public and private spaces) contribute to the amenity and character of an area and can be taken into account by councils when undertaking their open space audits and strategies”. The OSS does not deal with private residential gardens, although it is recognised that these can constitute valuable local green infrastructure and form part of the wider Green Network.
- 1.9 The Council will identify indicators that can be used to monitor implementation of the OSS. The Glasgow Open Space Map (see Fig 3) can be used to monitor changes in the amount, distribution and type of open space over time. In conjunction with other indicators, such as the open space standards set out later in this document, the degree to which key aspects of the strategy are being delivered can be assessed over time. As we gain a better understanding of the potential of our open spaces it will become easier to measure progress against other ambitions - eg the degree to which demand for space for food growing or outdoor sports is being met.

**Action 1** *We will identify key indicators against which implementation of this strategy can be assessed and will report on progress against them on a biennial basis.*

### What is an Open Space Strategy?

- 1.10 PAN 65 states that “an open space strategy provides an effective means of co-ordinating the policies of the different Council services [Fig 2] with responsibilities for open space, and of focusing liaison and partnership working with relevant public, private and

community interests”. **This Open Space Strategy is, therefore, a corporate document that is informed by, and will help deliver, other strategies and plans of the Council and its partners.** These include the [City Development Plan](#) (CDP) and associated Supplementary Guidance, the Core Paths Plan, the Community Plan and the [Local Biodiversity Action Plan](#).

- 1.11 On 16th May 2019, the Council declared a climate and ecological emergency for the City, recognising the unprecedented nature of the challenge which climate change poses to both people and nature. A Climate Emergency Working Group, set up to look again at the City’s current targets for reducing carbon emissions and to see if they could be brought forward, has now reported back. Its recommendations include utilising the City’s open spaces and vacant and derelict land to help deliver carbon savings.
- 1.12 A short-life process is also being put into place to establish whether additional recommendations are required to address the ecological aspects of the climate emergency. Open spaces will have a key role in helping deliver the recommendations and the ambitions of [Glasgow’s Pollinator Plan](#).
- 1.13 The OSS will influence decisions that affect all of these areas of Council work, and will ensure a strategic, multifunctional approach to spending and investment that will deliver best value for the Council and its partners and deliver the optimum outcomes for the City’s people, environment and economy. In doing so, the OSS will help deliver the aims and objectives of the [Central Scotland Green Network](#) (a national priority identified in National Planning Framework 3) and the [Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership](#) (GCVGN), a key component of the [Strategic Development Plan’s](#) (SDP) strategy for the regeneration of Glasgow and its conurbation.

**Figure 2: Key Open Space Responsibilities**





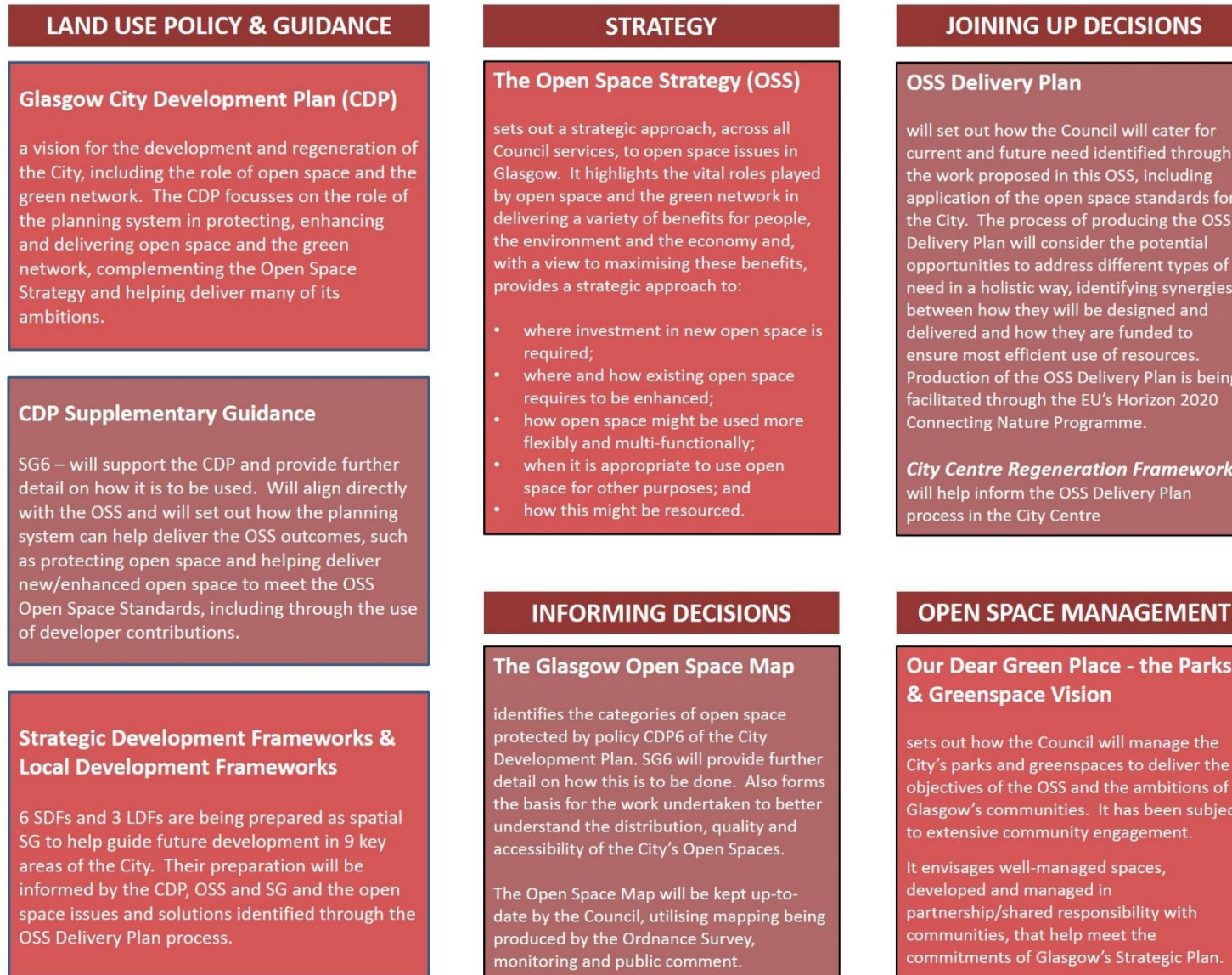
- 1.14 In bringing forward this Open Space Strategy, the Council has taken account of the advice provided in PAN 65. The OSS is underpinned by an **audit** of the open spaces within the City boundary, available in the form of the Glasgow [Open Space Map](#) (see para 2.4) The audit, and assessments of the quality of the most publicly usable categories of open space (public parks & gardens and amenity residential space >0.3 ha), have provided the basis for the development of *Open Space Standards*, part of a process that will inform **current and future open space needs**. These requirements have been considered in conjunction with other plans and strategies produced by the Council and its partners, and with other factors including the prevailing financial climate, to produce a first OSS for the City.
- 1.15 This first OSS sets out the work we are proposing to undertake to:
- better understand current and future open space requirements; and
  - identify how the City’s open spaces can help meet these requirements, including reconciling potentially competing demands, though the production of an Open Space Strategy Delivery Plan (**OSS Delivery Plan**) for the City.
- 1.16 Once this work has been completed, and an OSS Delivery Plan agreed, this OSS will be reviewed to provide an updated Strategy that sets out more specific actions aimed at implementing the OSS Delivery Plan.
- 1.17 The OSS has been produced for use as part of a suite of documents that set out the Council’s strategic approach to open space issues across the City. The OSS and the CDP are the two “principal” documents in this respect. The relationship between the different documents is set out in Figure 3.

- 1.18 The CDP and associated Supplementary Guidance (SG) protect open spaces shown on the Open Space Map. The Council will revise the draft SG6 (see Figure 3), published for public consultation in April 2017, to ensure consistency with the OSS and will publish it for a further period of public consultation in 2020.

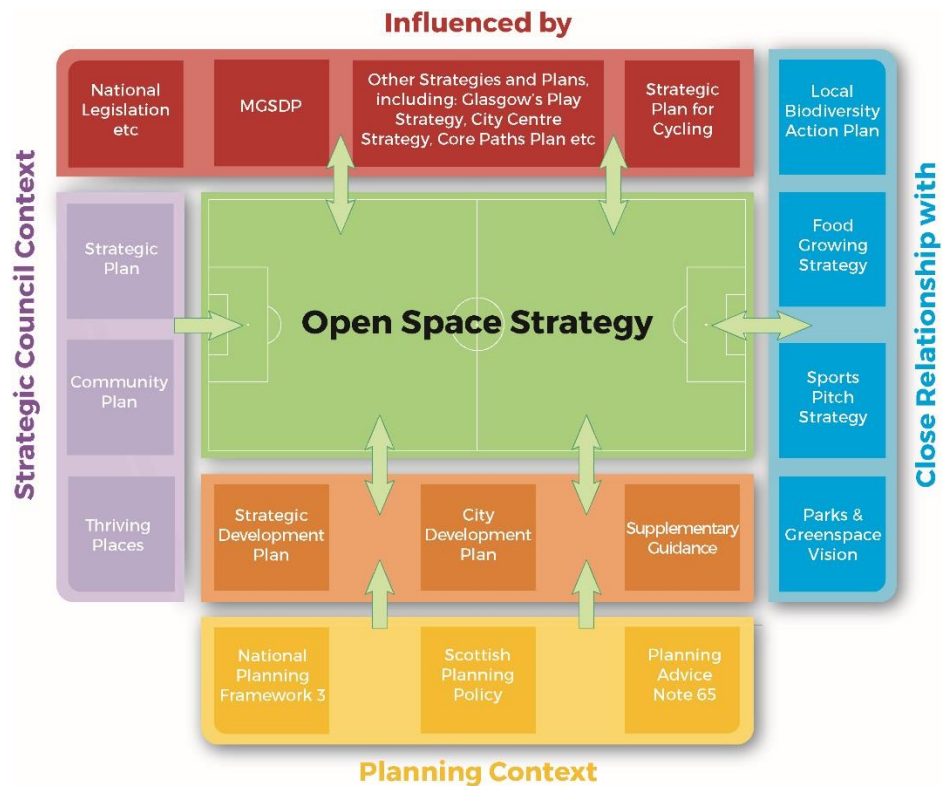
## Strategic Context

- 1.19 The Open Space Strategy has been prepared in response to the requirements set out in Scottish Planning Policy ([SPP](#)) (2014), the National Planning Framework ([NPF](#)) 3 (2014) and the guidance set out in Planning Advice Note 65 ([PAN 65](#)): Planning and Open Space (2008). NPF3 identifies the [Central Scotland Green Network](#) (CSGN) as a national priority, aimed at transforming Central Scotland into a place where the environment adds value to the economy and where people’s lives are enriched by its quality. This OSS can play a significant role in delivering the aims of the CSGN in Glasgow.
- 1.20 In responding to these requirements, this Strategy reflects the specific circumstances of Glasgow. Documents such as the [Council’s Strategic Plan 2017-2022](#) and the [Glasgow Community Plan](#) set out the key aspirations of the Council and its partners in relation to a wide variety of matters that the Open Space Strategy can help to address, including enhancing health and wellbeing. The declaration of a Climate/Ecological Emergency places further emphasis on using our open spaces effectively to reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts of a changing climate. Other influences have been taken into account, including legislation such as the [Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#). Figure 4 illustrates the range of influences on the preparation of this Open Space Strategy.

Figure 3: Suite of Open Space Documents



**Figure 4: Relationship with Other Plans and Strategies**



climate change adaptation and mitigation and international commitments such as the [Aichi biodiversity targets](#) of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

1.22 Well managed, designed and located open space can help enhance:

- the **health and wellbeing** of Glasgow’s inhabitants;
- the **liveability** of the City, increasing its attractiveness for people and investment; and
- the **resilience** of the City, its people and biodiversity, to threats such as existing flood risk and climate change.

1.23 This strategy recognises the wider benefits that open space can bring to the City and its inhabitants. A new perspective on how it is funded and maintained is required to ensure these benefits are realised.

1.21 Critically, this Strategy recognises that the wider ambitions set out in international, national, regional and local policies and strategies need to be considered in the context of shrinking public finances. Whilst this can have a direct impact on the Council’s ability to fund the upkeep and delivery of open space, it shouldn’t limit the City’s ambitions for securing as wide a range of public benefits as possible from our open spaces. These include the statutory requirements, set out in the [Climate Change \(Scotland\) Act 2009](#), to help deliver

## 2 A Vision for Glasgow's Open Space

- 2.1 The Open Space Strategy sets out a vision for Glasgow's open space that has been shaped by the prevailing policy context at the international, national, regional and local levels as well as other factors, such as the reduction in Council budgets. It sets out a number of existing and proposed actions for the Council and its partners that will help deliver the vision, and these are set out in the OSS and in the associated action plan.
- 2.2 This Strategy sets out how the Council intends to deliver Glasgow's Vision for Open Space. Under the key outcomes of **A Liveable Glasgow**, **A Healthy Glasgow** and **A Resilient Glasgow**, it sets out:
- **15 key factors** considered important in **establishing current and future need for open space** in the City (see Part 3);
  - how we will develop a better understanding of these factors and what open space requirements they might give rise to – each factor is considered under one of the three outcomes but many will contribute to the delivery of all of them;
  - how we will cater for identified need through the production of an OSS Delivery Plan for Glasgow. The process of producing the OSS Delivery Plan will consider the potential opportunities to address different types of need in a holistic way, identifying synergies between design, implementation and funding to ensure most efficient use of resources;
  - options for resourcing the implementation of the OSS Delivery Plan to help meet all of the City's open space needs; and
  - what this might mean for individual open spaces in the City – whether they should be retained, enhanced, used for other open space purposes or, where they are considered to have no role to play in meeting the City's open space needs, whether they might

be released for development, freeing up resources that could, in appropriate circumstances, help deliver the OSS Delivery Plan.

### Glasgow's Vision for Open Space:

By 2050, there will be a network of good quality, well-distributed, multi-functional open spaces, and connecting infrastructure, that contributes positively to :

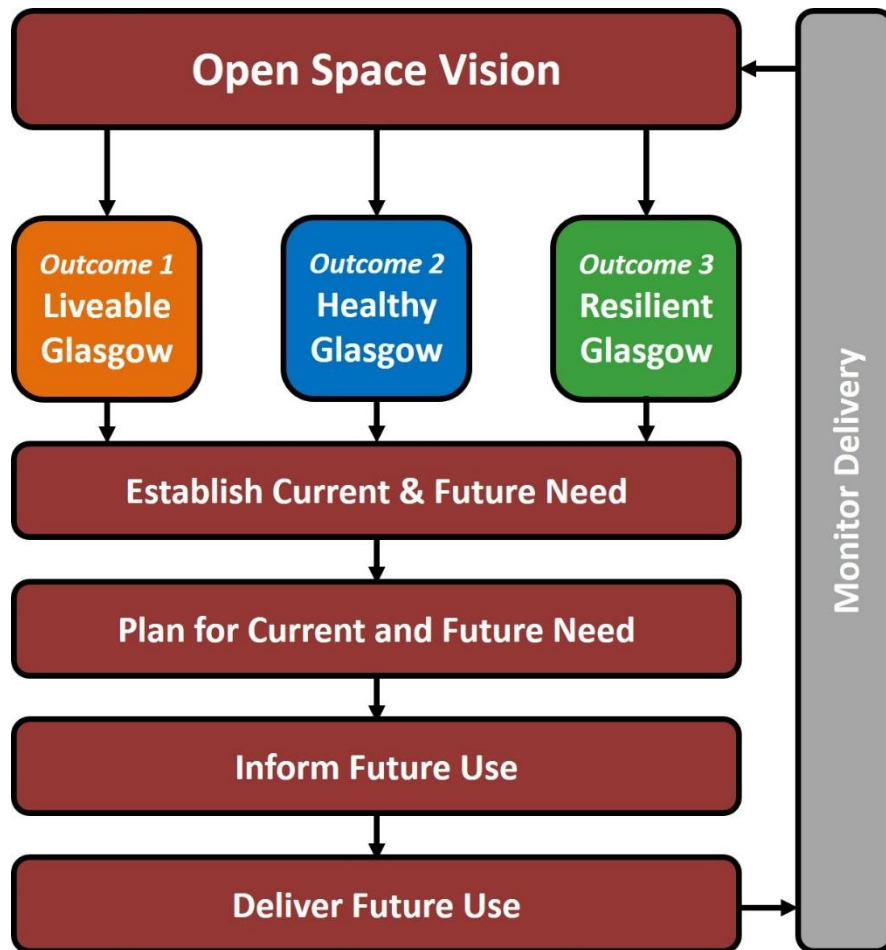
- *Outcome 1:* the City's **LIVEABILITY**, increasing its attractiveness as a place in which to live, work, move around, study and invest;
- *Outcome 2:* the **HEALTH AND WELLBEING** of the City's human population and of its flora and fauna, enhancing as well as protecting, biodiversity; and
- *Outcome 3:* the long term **RESILIENCE** of the City in relation to the threats, and potential opportunities, arising from climate change and other external factors such as reducing budgets.

Communities will have access to good quality, multi-functional open spaces, that are used by all sectors of society, within a short walk of the home and to a wider, better integrated, network of green, blue (water) and grey (civic) spaces that provide multiple benefits for people and the environment.

The value of Glasgow's Open Spaces in helping address many of the critical issues facing the City will be widely understood and integral to the decisions made by the Council and its partners.

2.3 Figure 5 sets out how this Open Space Strategy is structured to help deliver the Vision.

**Figure 5: Delivering the Vision**



## Glasgow's Open Spaces

2.4 The Council undertook an audit of the open spaces within Glasgow between 2007 and 2010. The audit is available in the form of the Glasgow [Open Space Map](#), and illustrates the extent, type and spatial distribution of the City's open spaces, based on the open space typology set out in Annex 1 of PAN 65 – from public parks and gardens down to amenity space associated with transport infrastructure. It is the baseline information that has informed this OSS.

2.5 The audit categorises each of c 50,000 open spaces in the City on the basis of its principal characteristics. As such, an open space along a river bank might be categorised as "Public Park and Garden" rather than "Green Corridor", though either would be accurate.

2.6 An up-to-date Open Space Map is important as the Council depends upon it to identify those open spaces which are protected by planning policy. Policy CDP6 of the City Development Plan protects the following categories of open space as shown on the Map:

- 1 *Public parks and gardens* - areas of land normally enclosed, designed, constructed, managed and maintained as a public park or garden;
- 2 *Communal private gardens* - gardens in multiple private ownership;
- 3 *Amenity space* - landscaped areas providing visual amenity or separating different buildings or land uses for environmental, visual or safety reasons. Character and function will vary with amenity space type – eg residential amenity space, transport amenity space, etc;
- 4 *Playspace for children and teenagers* - areas providing safe and accessible opportunities for play, usually linked to housing areas.

- 5 *Green corridors* - routes including canals, river corridors and old railway lines, linking different parts of the City with each other and with the surrounding countryside, as part of a network;
- 6 *Natural/Semi-natural greenspace* - areas of undeveloped or previously developed land with residual natural habitats or which have been planted or colonised by vegetation and wildlife, including woodland and wetland areas;
- 7 *Civic space* - squares, streets and waterfront promenades, predominantly of hard landscaping that provide a focus for pedestrian activity and can make connections for people and for wildlife;
- 8 *Sports areas* - Large and generally flat areas of grassland or specially designed surfaces, used primarily for designated sports (including playing fields, golf courses, tennis courts and bowling greens) and which are generally bookable;
- 9 *Allotments & community gardens* - areas of land for growing fruit, vegetables etc, either in individual allotments or as a community activity.
- 10 *Other functional greenspaces* - including churchyards and cemeteries.

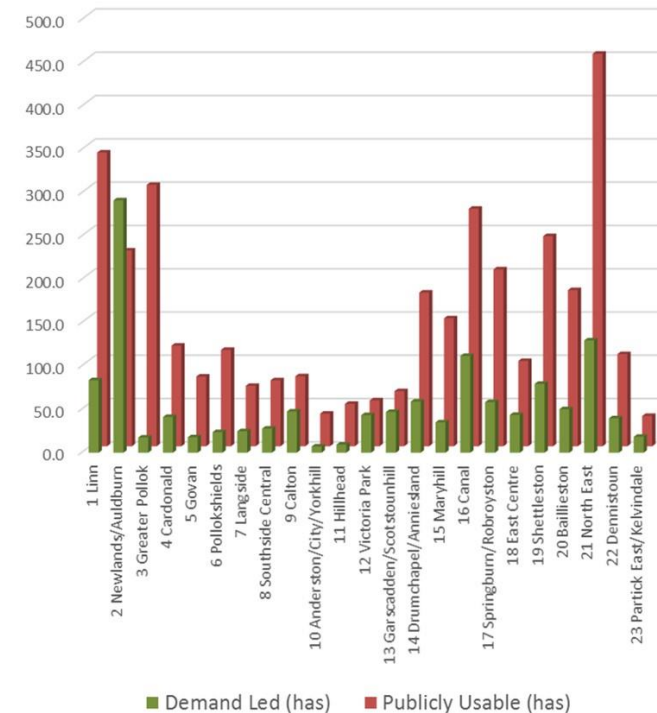
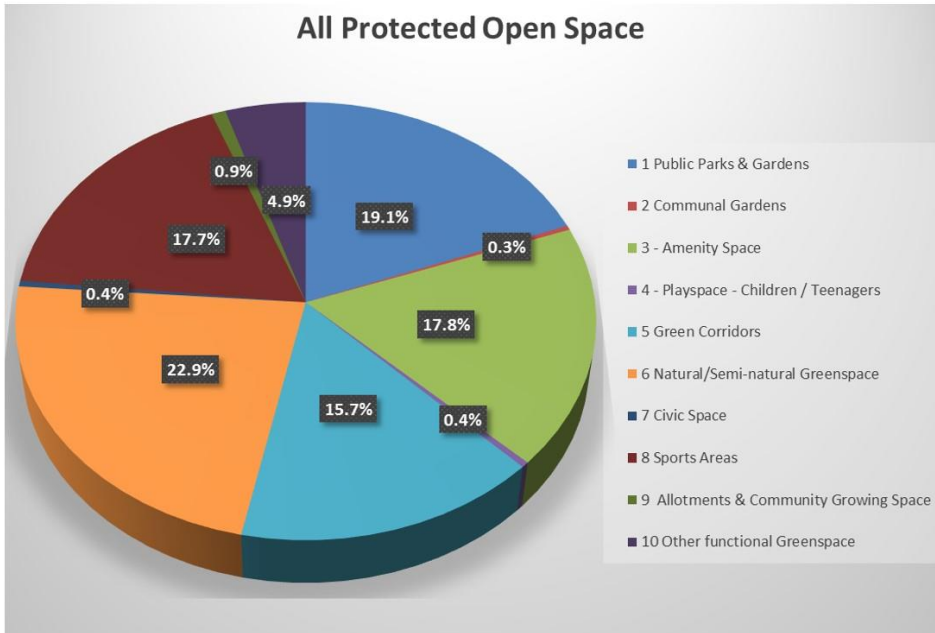
2.7 To aid understanding of how these spaces are used and how they should be planned for, the Council differentiates between “demand-led” categories of protected open space (those types of open space for which a quantifiable demand can be established – categories 8-10 above) and the remaining “publicly usable” categories of protected open space (categories 1-7). This reflects the advice provided in PAN 65.

2.8 To remain useful, the Open Space Map requires to be updated on a regular basis as new areas of open space are created and as existing ones are utilised for alternative purposes. The Scottish Government has entered into an agreement with the Ordnance Survey to produce

a greenspace map for Scotland. The Council is considering how it might use this map, together with local knowledge, to inform the accuracy and development of the Open Space Map. In doing so, it will consider whether it should include publicly usable and accessible green roofs and will draw on the expertise of users and the general public on an on-going basis.

2.9 In the medium-longer term, and as it develops, the OSS Delivery Plan, which will set out how open space and other land can be used to deliver open space benefits for the City in the future, will have a key role to play in informing, and helping update, the Open Space Map and the CDP. This may result in changes to the current categorisation used in the Open Space Map - any such changes will require to be reflected in the development plan, helping ensure that open spaces identified as having a role in meeting the City’s needs will be protected for that purpose through the planning system.

## The Existing Open Space Resource



**35.7%**  
of the urban area  
is protected open  
space (excludes  
gardens)

**Distribution:**  
**1%** City Centre,  
**17%** Inner  
Urban Area (IUA),  
**82%** Outer  
Urban Area (OUA)

Publicly Usable  
open space per  
1000 people:  
**2.2 ha** (IUA)  
**8.2 ha** (OUA)

## Open Space Quality

- 2.10 The *Open Space Standards* (see part 4) produced for this OSS relate to *Accessibility* to open space, the *Quality* of the accessible space and the *Quantity* of open space available. A Quality Assessment of some of the City's open spaces was undertaken between 2012 and 2014. It concentrated on assessing the quality of over a thousand spaces considered to be "most usable" by the public, including public parks and gardens; residential amenity open space ( $\geq 0.3\text{ha}$ ); children's play facilities; and Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs).
- 2.11 The Quality Assessment focussed, to a large degree, on existing function and maintenance levels and was used to provide an overall understanding of the relative quality of these spaces across the City. This OSS is being informed by a *new* assessment of the quality of some key open spaces in the City referred to as Community Spaces - the ones required to meet the *Accessibility Standard*.
- 2.12 A better understanding of the quality of other categories of open space will also be useful in establishing the benefits they currently deliver, or could deliver in future. The Council will work with the [Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership](#) to assess the current and potential value of these other spaces (including natural and semi-natural spaces, woodland, outdoor sports facilities and cemeteries, as well as the smaller amenity open spaces under 0.3ha). We will also work with the University of Glasgow to identify methods to assess the current and potential value of blue spaces. This will help inform our understanding of current and future open space need.

- 2.13 The Council will engage with local communities, through the OSS Delivery Plan process, to gather local perspectives on open space quality.

**Action 2** We will engage with local communities in preparing the OSS Delivery Plan to ensure the City's open spaces provide for their needs.

## Local Variations

- 2.14 To understand how individual parts of the City are served by open space, analysis was undertaken for the draft OSS through production of 15 "Local Context" Analyses (LCA) - one for the City Centre, 4 for the higher density "Inner Urban Area"; and 10 for the lower density "Outer Urban Area".
- 2.15 These analyses were made available for public comment during the OSS consultation and the feedback on them will be taken into account during the OSS Delivery Plan process.
- 2.16 Public comment on the OSS highlighted concerns over the boundaries of these areas and a preference for the *Quantity Standard* to be assessed against Council wards instead. This feedback has been taken into account and a new assessment of open space provision against the Quantity Standard has been undertaken that will inform the planning process (see Figure 10). This assessment continues to build in differing standards for the inner and outer urban areas, reflecting the differing residential densities in each. Should it prove useful, the LCA documents could be re-produced, in a ward format, on completion of the OSS Delivery Plan.



- 2.17 The OSS Delivery Plan process will draw on the work and budgets of services across the Council, and of Council partners, to ensure a coherent approach to investment and to try to ensure it delivers on as many of the City’s open space and community ambitions as possible. The process is being funded through, and supported by, the [EU Horizon 2020 Connecting Nature](#) project.
- 2.18 Three cities from across Europe (Glasgow, Poznan and Genk) are Connecting Nature ‘Front Runner’ cities, each leading on a large scale nature based solution (NBS) project and sharing learning with one another and with 8 other ‘fast follower’ cities. The front runner cities are being supported in the development and implementation of their NBS project by funding, by shared learning, by academic partners from across Europe and by Small-Medium Enterprises (SMEs) with a range of expertise.
- 2.19 NBS are actions inspired by, supported by or copied from nature that aim to help societies address a variety of environmental, social and economic challenges in sustainable ways. NBS do not have a single objective but aim to produce multiple co-benefits, including environmental services (such as carbon sequestration and clean water), ecological services (such as increased biodiversity and habitat connectivity) and social services (such as improved health and well-being and cohesive communities). Glasgow’s NBS project is the delivery and development of the Open Space Strategy and associated OSS Delivery Plan – the mapping that will set a “blueprint” for the use of the City’s open spaces in future. In this way, nature based solutions will be embedded within Council decision-making. This ‘policy-based’ approach differs from the ‘on-the-ground’ NBS projects being pursued in Genk and Poznan.

### 3 Establishing Current/Future Need

- 3.1 Planning Advice Note 65 states that an open space strategy should include “an assessment of current and future requirements” for open space. Establishing current and future need will be based on a better understanding of the City’s Open Spaces and the functions they deliver, or could deliver in future, with a view to meeting the Open Space Vision. This understanding will be informed by a number of considerations, including:

#### Outcome 1: A Liveable Glasgow

- 1** *Open Space Access & Quality* – this Strategy sets out standards for *access* to publicly usable open space and for the *quality* of these accessible spaces. Ensuring these standards are met, wherever possible, will be a key consideration in meeting current and future need.

This Strategy gives further consideration to accessibility to the City’s larger public parks and open spaces. Addressing gaps in accessibility to these larger open spaces will also help meet current/future need.

- 2** *Open Space Quantity* – the OSS also sets out standards for ensuring a sufficient *quantity* of open space within each ward in the City. This is expressed as a quantity of open space per 1000 population, and there are different standards for the relatively densely populated inner urban area and the less densely populated outer urban area of the City. Whether a ward is deficient in open space, or has a potential surplus, will help inform current/future need.

3.2 The accessibility, quality and quantity standards set a framework for delivering access to a minimum amount of good quality, well-located open space for people in Glasgow. However, the standards don't reflect the full range of contributions which we expect open space to make to the health and vitality of our City. To ensure these other functions are taken into account, the following considerations will also help inform current and future need:

**3** *Setting and Amenity* – open spaces can help improve the quality of our places where they have a complementary relationship with surrounding uses and buildings, enhancing the aesthetic and functional attractiveness of both buildings and place. A number of open spaces in the City are currently identified as important for their landscape value but are being reviewed as part of a wider consideration of landscape issues. Work to identify other elements of the City's historic landscapes is also proposed and will inform our understanding of the need to protect such open spaces

**4** *Views of the Public* – PAN 65 states that, in bringing forward an Open Space Strategy, the open space needs and desires of the local community must be established. The production of Local Context Analyses was intended to facilitate engagement with the public on the key open space issues that they consider important for their community and to provide further understanding of the open spaces they value most, and least, and why. The Council will use this, and additional targeted public consultation, to better understand current and future need across the City. Public engagement will take place during the OSS Delivery Plan process and on the proposed final OSS Delivery Plan.

**5** *City Centre/Grey Open Space* – the Council is producing 9 District Regeneration Frameworks for different areas of the City Centre that will provide an understanding of where new or enhanced open spaces might be required to cater for a variety of open space needs. Civic or grey space is most commonly found in the City Centre but can have a role elsewhere, especially as public realm in town centres and along the river. Work to develop regeneration frameworks can help inform an understanding of need for new civic spaces. Opportunities for greening grey infrastructure and grey space also require to be identified and the Connecting Nature project can help in this process.

## Outcome 2: A Healthy Glasgow

**6** *Play & Education* - Sir Harry Burns, former Chief Medical Officer for Scotland, has stated that “investing in children’s play is one of the most important things we can do to improve children’s health and well-being in Scotland.” Ensuring good quality Community Spaces through use of the open space standards will help deliver access to play facilities, but there will be other opportunities to encourage play that should be taken into account in establishing need. The role of open space in facilitating environmental education and outdoor learning and the potential for the education estate to contribute towards open space objectives also need to be assessed.

**7** *Outdoor Sports* – the OSS proposes a “demand-led” approach to the consideration of outdoor sports ie has the City enough open space to meet the demand for different types of formal outdoor sports and is it of an appropriate quality? A study into these matters is being progressed and will inform the development of an outdoor sports strategy that will consider the best options for meeting any unmet demand. Outdoor sports

pitches can provide for other functions (eg amenity (3) or sustainable drainage (11)), and their value in doing so will be considered under other headings.

**8** **Growing Spaces** – as with outdoor sports, a demand-led approach is proposed to assess the need for growing spaces in the City. The Council’s Food Growing Strategy is examining demand and supply and options for meeting unmet demand, in line with the requirements of the Community Empowerment Act. Its outcomes will require to be taken into account in understanding current/future need.

**9** **Walking & Cycling** – the Council has produced a Strategic Plan for Cycling that aspires to deliver a network of dedicated routes linking key places. An audit has been undertaken and existing and potential routes reviewed, including opportunities through parks, along former railway lines, through development sites and in other regeneration areas. Work is also underway on a Strategic Access Network to identify options for better off-road walking and cycling links to serve key destinations, using the green network. This will help identify a network of walking and cycling routes for delivery by the Council and other partners, important in informing current and future need.

**10** **Air Quality, Pollution & Heat** - The Council monitors air quality in the City for concentrations of key air pollutants. A number of areas of Glasgow do not achieve European air quality objectives in relation to these key pollutants. Trees and other plants can act as natural filters, helping remove these pollutants from the air. Options for managing open space and increasing the provision of trees and other plants to help address poor air quality, and concentrations of other pollutants, will require to be taken into account in understanding current/future need.

## Outcome 3: A Resilient Glasgow

**11** **Flooding** – the Council is aiming to address issues associated with increased flood events through partnership working under the Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Partnership. Major investment will be required over the next 50 years to reduce the risks/impacts of flooding, and ensure that Glasgow’s drainage networks are more resilient in the face of a changing climate. Delivery of flood management measures identified through Surface Water Management Plans and other interventions will both utilise existing open spaces and lead to the creation of new open spaces/green infrastructure. Such spaces will address current and future flood management issues in addition to providing associated benefits, such as enhanced biodiversity. Work with Climate Ready Clyde and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) will inform how new and existing open spaces might help address the issues arising from a rise in sea levels.

**12** **Enhancing Biodiversity** – a number of the open spaces in the City are already identified as being of importance for nature conservation, but some are being reviewed to reassess their nature conservation value and potential for accommodating protected species. Other spaces have the potential to deliver enhanced biodiversity and additional spaces are protected for their geodiversity value, based on a geodiversity audit undertaken in 2013. All will need to be taken into account in determining current and future need.

**13** **Connecting Habitats** – the Council is under a duty to further the conservation of biodiversity and expanding, and delivering greater connectivity between, the City’s habitats is an important way of doing do. The Council is working with partners to identify a “Strategic Habitat Network” for the

City, helping identify opportunities for expanding habitats and the enhancing physical and functional connections between them. Our understanding of these opportunities will be important in helping inform current and future need for open space.

14

**Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change** - the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 places a duty on the Council to help deliver reductions in emissions of climate change gases. The City's open spaces can be used to do so and options require to be taken into account in determining current and future open space needs. The Act also requires the Council to act to help the City *adapt* to climate change. The City's open spaces can help do so by, for example, enhancing habitat connectivity (13), helping mitigate flooding and sea level rise (11) and reducing the urban heat island effect (10).

15

**Blue Space** – the City's burns, rivers, ponds, lochs and other water bodies can play an important in addressing a number of the objectives of this Strategy, including helping with surface water management and other flooding issues, providing for biodiversity and habitat connections and providing for recreation. A better understanding of the characteristics of these water bodies and their scope to provide open space functions, including the potential for active travel, is required to inform current and future need.

3.3 In addition, there will be other open spaces, eg private amenity space in residential areas or amenity space in car parks, that will continue to play a valuable green infrastructure role. These smaller spaces, generally less “usable” by the general public, will continue to be safeguarded by planning policy, but it may be possible to do so without including them on the Open Space Map. Removing these smaller spaces from the map, whilst continuing to protect them,

could help make it easier to keep the map up-to-date. Further consideration will be given to this in producing Supplementary Guidance SG6.

3.4 **Parts 4, 5 and 6 of this strategy set out a number of actions that will better inform our understanding of these aspects of current and future need, in addition to other measures intended to maximise the benefits of Glasgow's open spaces for people and nature. This enhanced understanding will inform the production of an OSS Delivery Plan for the City. The process for producing the OSS Delivery Plan will consider potential synergies between all of the aspects of open space need, including opportunities to make the best use of funding sources to deliver the maximum open space benefit. The OSS Delivery Plan will set out how the City's open spaces should be developed and maintained to address all aspects of open space need in the longer term. It will require to be kept under review as our understanding of our open spaces develops.**

3.5 The OSS Delivery Plan process will clarify the future role of the City's open spaces. In particular, it is likely to mean:

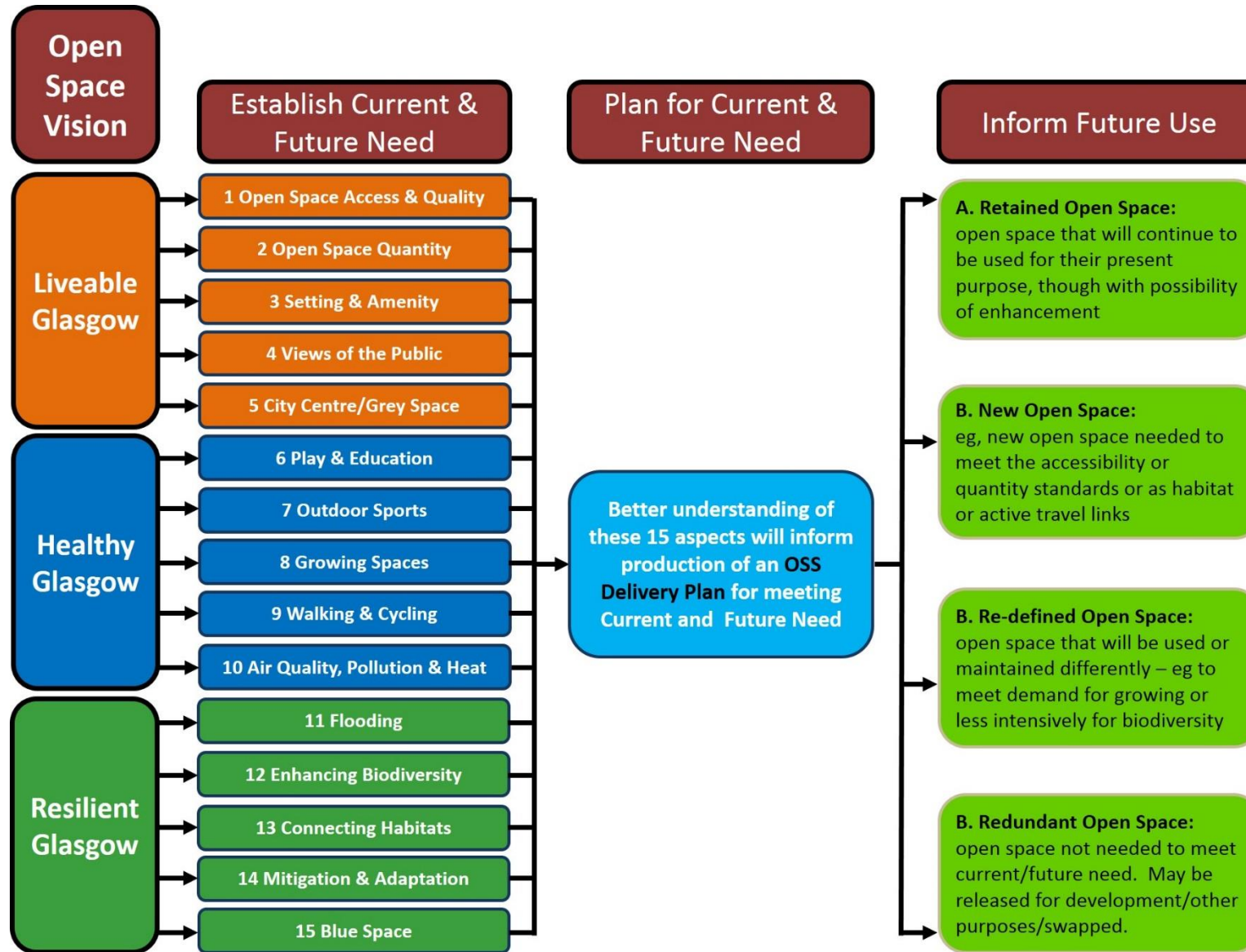
A. **the retention of many open spaces for their existing purpose** – it is anticipated that many existing open spaces will continue to be used and managed primarily for their existing purpose – eg as public park, football pitch or natural/semi-natural greenspace, although it may be possible to make all of these spaces more multifunctional to some degree. Some other spaces, needed to meet the accessibility standard, will retain the existing public open space function but may require an enhancement in their quality - eg additional planting to deliver enhanced biodiversity;

- B. **the creation of new open spaces** – new open spaces are likely to be necessary to meet the Accessibility and Quantity Standards and to ensure that other open space needs are addressed most effectively – eg for growing or outdoor sport, to create new habitat links or active travel links or to manage flood risk. Appropriately located areas of vacant and derelict land will provide opportunities for new open spaces that meet such needs;
- C. **the use of some open spaces for a different open space purpose** – some open spaces may require to be used differently to meet current and future needs. Examples could be where a former playing pitch is no longer required for outdoor sport but is well-located to meet the accessibility standard or where an area of amenity grassland could be planted, or left to naturalise, to provide enhanced habitat connectivity and/or carbon sequestration; and
- D. **the use of some open spaces for a non-open space purpose** – should the OSS Delivery Plan process identify some spaces that will not have a role in meeting current or future need, including cumulatively with other spaces, then it may be possible to release them for development (although we should be cautious of losing their open space potential). Nevertheless, capital receipts for the sale of such sites (if they are Council-owned), compensation for the loss of open space (in line with SG) and reduced maintenance burdens will free up resources. In appropriate circumstances, some of these can be invested in the City’s remaining open spaces. They also offer the possibility of “land-swaps” – using a development site to fill a gap in accessibility, for example, by swapping it with a poorly located open space that has little open space value. This process will require to align with work being undertaken to inform the

planning process, and will form part of a wider analysis of strategic land use issues through mechanisms such as Strategic Development Frameworks.

- 3.6 **This process is set out in Figure 6.** Until this work is completed, the Council’s [planning guidance](#) sets out an approach that will help determine whether an existing open space fulfils, or could fulfil, a valuable role for the City.

Figure 6: OSS Process



## 4 A Liveable Glasgow

4.1 Good quality, well-designed and well-located open spaces can make the City a more attractive and pleasant place for people who currently live, work or invest in Glasgow and for people from elsewhere who are considering doing so, generating economic, environmental and societal benefits.

### 1 Open Space Access and Quality

4.2 The Council considers that an important component of successful places is local access to good quality open space that a variety of people want to use. Accessibility and Quality Standards have been developed to help achieve this.

#### Accessibility Standard

##### Accessibility Standard

*Homes (including purpose-built student accommodation), outwith the City Centre, should be within a 400m actual walking distance of a good quality, publicly usable open space of 0.3 ha or more.*

4.3 The Accessibility Standard is aimed at delivering access to open space in peoples' immediate environment and will be used in both the land use planning process, to ensure good accessibility for new developments, and in the Council's own management and maintenance roles, to ensure resources are focused on those open spaces that are best located to meet the standard. The spaces that will be used to meet the Accessibility Standard are referred to as "**Community Spaces**". It is likely that all public parks will be Community Spaces.

4.4 The Council is currently undertaking a detailed analysis of exactly which open spaces have the potential to be used as a Community Space (ie can meet the requirements of the Quality Standard). When completed, this will be published in the form of an online map, helping inform the delivery of the standards through the land use planning process. Significant residential areas are, potentially, more than a 400m walk from an existing public park or amenity space that has the potential to be used as a Community Space. A number of options for filling the potential gaps are being examined, including:

- making use of other types of open space (ie not public parks and gardens or amenity space) that have the potential to meet the Quality Standard;
- enhancing means of access to existing open spaces, eg shortening actual walking distances through infrastructure interventions or by creating new points of access;
- utilising open spaces that currently function separately but could meet the size and multi-functionality required by the quality standard if combined; and
- making use of the potential offered for delivering new spaces on vacant and/or derelict land or as an integral part of new housing developments to help address deficiencies.

4.5 The existing urban form means that it is unlikely to be possible to deliver access to a Community Space within a 400m walking distance of *all* homes in the City. In such circumstances, alternative solutions will be pursued, such as enhancing the attractiveness/environment of the walk to the nearest Community Space. The OSS Delivery Plan process will help determine the best course of action in such situations. In the meantime, the Council's planning guidance will provide further direction on acceptable alternatives.

4.6 Where it becomes necessary to prioritise Council investment in enhancing Community Spaces, or delivering new ones, consideration will be taken of a variety of factors, including the condition of the space, the nearest alternative space and the importance of good quality open space in addressing inequalities. Community Spaces will be protected through inclusion on the Open Space Map.

**Action 3** We will work to identify, improve and create Community Spaces that can provide for local access to good quality open space for communities throughout the City.

### Quality Standard

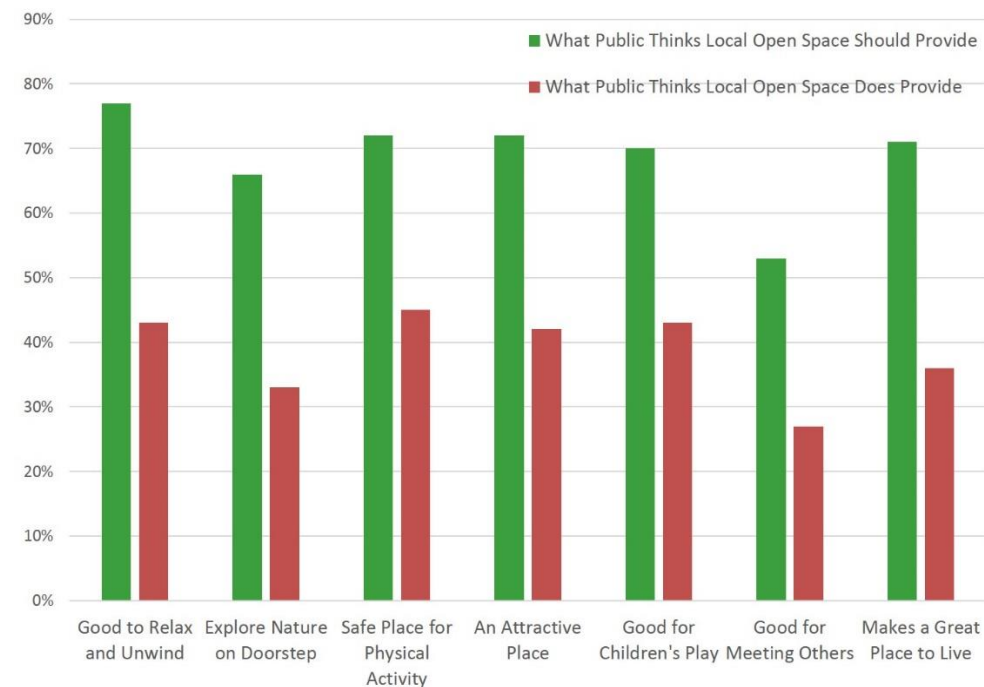
4.7 The Quality Standard is being used with the Accessibility Standard to help provide access to an open space of good quality in close proximity to peoples’ homes. It only applies to Community Spaces – we will develop other assessment methodologies to assess the quality of other types of spaces.

4.8 The Quality Standard reflects aspects such as the quality of access to the Community Space, its size and the degree to which it benefits from passive surveillance, as well as the variety of uses which the space accommodates, eg flat grassland for informal sport/recreation and good environments for natural children’s play. It is intended to make the space attractive to everyone in the community by ensuring that some of the public’s key expectations about open space can be delivered locally. Greenspace Scotland’s [Third State of Scotland’s Greenspace Report](#) identifies the substantial gap between people’s expectations of what their local open space should provide and what they consider it does provide (Figure 7).

4.9 Application of the Quality Standard, through a Quality Assessment Matrix (QAM), will help close this gap and deliver these key public expectations.

Quality Standard  
Community Spaces, whether existing or proposed, should, when considered against the Quality Assessment Matrix, achieve a minimum overall score of 75% of the total possible score of the applicable criteria and the minimum required score specified in the matrix for each of the applicable criteria.

**Figure 7: Public Expectations of Open Space**





## Creating a Community Space – Barrowfield Community Park

Barrowfield Community Park is a good example of a Community Space. It was developed in 2015 on an area of tarmac used as a bus park for coaches visiting Celtic Park. A partnership between the local community, the Council, Forestry Commission Scotland, West of Scotland Housing Association and erz Landscape Architects has delivered a new open space for all sectors of the community. It provides opportunities for recreation and play, has created new habitats, provides space to sit and relax and delivers sustainable drainage infrastructure.

The Park is well surveyed from surrounding homes and provides easy access for all users.

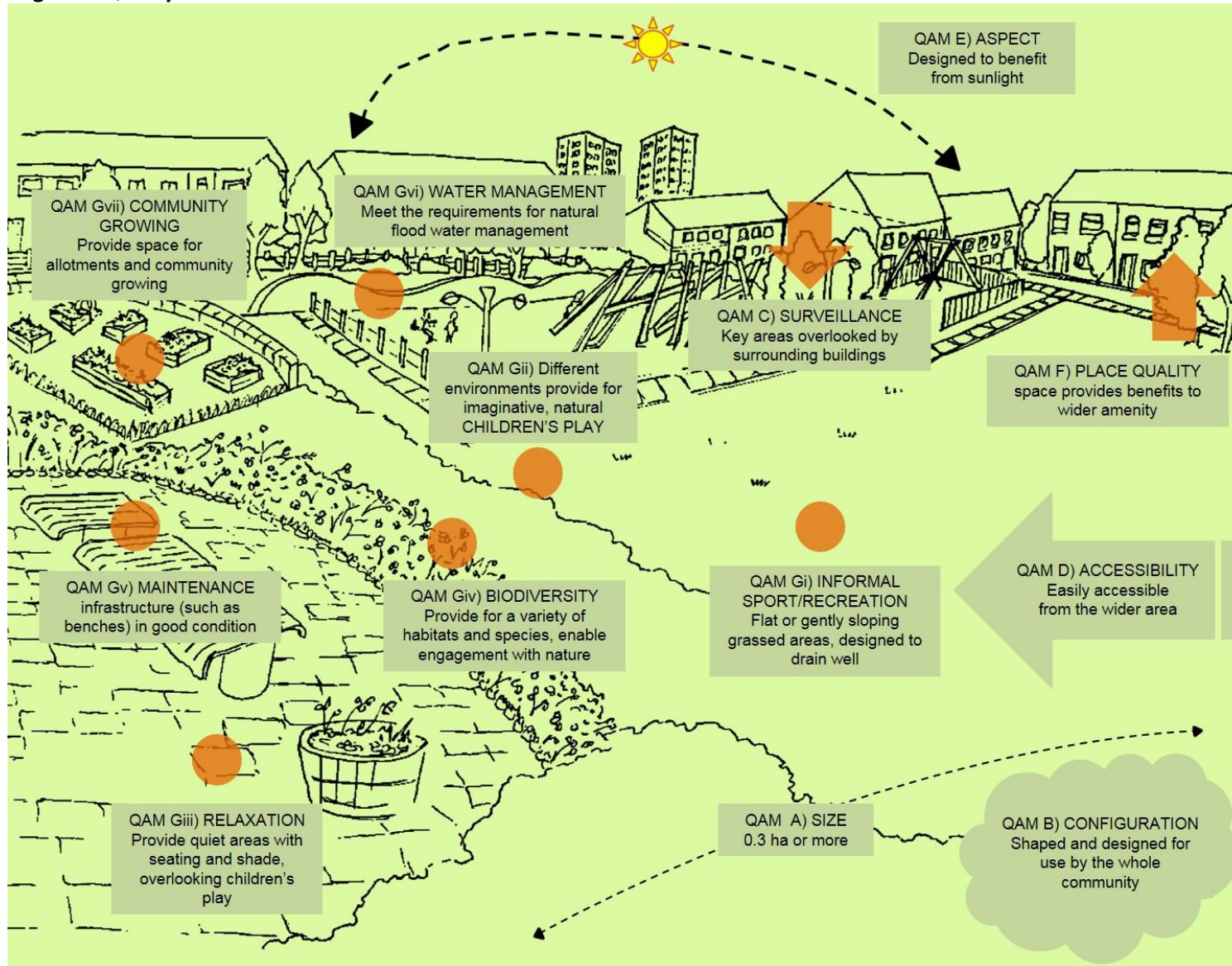


- 4.10 The Quality Assessment Matrix is intended to ensure that the Community Space in question meets a minimum standard in each of a number of aspects, as part of a wider placemaking approach. It is set out in Annex 1 of this OSS (see also Figure 8).
- 4.11 Analysis of the quality of those open spaces that have the potential to meet the Quality Standard and can, therefore, be used as Community Spaces, is currently underway. Its outputs, including the quality assessment score, will be mapped and made available on-line.

**Action 4** We will assess the quality of Community Spaces on an on-going basis.

- 4.12 The Quality and Accessibility Standards will be used to help deliver better access to good quality open space by informing:
- 1 the Council’s decisions on investment in open space, including:
    - a) where to invest in enhancing the quality of existing open spaces;
    - b) where to invest in the provision of new open spaces of good quality or in enhancing access to them; and
    - c) where existing open spaces, that aren’t required to meet the accessibility standard, might be used in a less maintenance intensive, but more environmentally productive, way; and
  - 2 the planning process and identifying when, for example:
    - a) a new open space, to meet the accessibility and quality standards, should be provided as part of a new development; or
    - b) a new development should contribute towards the provision of a new space, the enhancement of an existing space or access to a space.

Figure 8 Quality Assessment Matrix Considerations



4.13 Re-focussing and rationalising the Council’s investment priorities and maintenance regimes, and making effective use of the planning process to enhance the open space required to support new development, will play a significant role in delivering the benefits that the Accessibility and Quality standards are intended to achieve (see Figure 8).

4.14 In addition to creating good quality Community Spaces, this approach should aim to ensure that the journey to the space is as convenient and attractive as possible. Whilst the analysis undertaken to determine accessibility is based on the use of existing paths and pavements, it does not take account of the condition of these, nor of the environments they pass through. As part of the OSS Delivery Plan approach, the Council will assess the quality of key links with a view to identifying priorities for enhancement.

**Action 5** *We will identify, and prioritise, opportunities for enhancing the quality of links to Community Spaces.*

**Action 6** *We will pursue opportunities to enhance public access to larger open spaces in Penilee, Yoker, Lambhill/Milton, Robroyston, Lochend and Broomhouse.*

### Access to Larger Open Spaces

4.15 Whilst Community Spaces might meet “everyday” requirements, people will also want access to larger, multifunctional open spaces on occasion. Analysis of accessibility to the Council’s public parks has illustrated that a limited number of parts of the residential urban area appear deficient in accessibility to these larger spaces.

4.16 Whilst there is, generally, little scope to introduce new public parks into the City in response to these gaps in provision, there are opportunities to enhance public access to existing, larger open spaces in these areas. These are illustrated on Figure 9.

**Figure 9: Opportunities for Enhancing Access to Larger Open Spaces**

**Yoker** - potential to utilise the length of, currently disused, former rail formation that runs between Ardsloy Place and Yoker Ferry Road as part of a linear park loop (along with the existing national cycle network route) linking a number of open spaces/pocket parks along the route. Dependent on the rail formation not being required for road infrastructure.

**Penilee** - improving the existing open space spine that runs through central Penilee to improve connectivity between the spaces and create a linear open space of enhanced multi-functionality. The Surface Water Management Plan for the area can help deliver improvements.

**Lambhill/Milton** - proposals for a walking/cycling crossing of the canal at Stockingfield Junction provides opportunities to utilise the underused Ruchill Golf Course as a park destination with enhanced multi-functionality and accessibility. Dependent on external funding and an understanding of demand for continuing golf course use.

**Robroyston** - the Robroyston/Millerston Community Growth Area masterplan proposes the creation of new open spaces - opportunities should be taken to ensure enhanced multi-functionality.

**Lochend** - proposals are advanced for the Seven Lochs Wetland Park, Scotland's largest urban nature park providing enhanced public access, walking and cycling routes and enhanced biodiversity.

**Broomhouse** - the Baillieston/Broomhouse/ Carmyle Community Growth Area proposes significant new house building and associated open space - opportunities should be taken to deliver enhanced multi-functionality.

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## 2 Open Space Quantity

4.17 The provision of Community Spaces should help ensure people have access to good quality open space within an easy walk of the home. However, additional open space is required if the green network is to be effective in terms of its wider functions. The Quantity Standard will be used to better understand the distribution of all public open space, not just Community Spaces, throughout the City, and where new spaces may need to be delivered.

### Quantity Standard

*There should be 1.9 ha of publicly usable open space per 1000 people in the Inner Urban Area and 5.5 ha of publicly usable open space per 1000 people in the Outer Urban Area.*

4.18 The Quantity Standard relates to the amount of “publicly usable” open space there should be in the inner and outer urban areas of the City. The Council differentiates between “**demand-led**” categories of protected open space (those types of open space for which a quantifiable demand can be established – see 7) Outdoor Sports and 8) Growing Spaces) and the remaining “**publicly usable**” categories of protected open space.

4.19 Overall, city-wide, there is a sufficient quantity of publicly usable open space in the inner urban area (2.2 has per 1000 people) and in the outer urban area (8.2 has per 1000 people). However, this masks significant variations in the quantities of publicly usable open space, per head of population, in different parts of the City. An analysis of the City’s electoral wards, split (where relevant) into their inner and outer urban areas, illustrates that there appear to be marked deficiencies in some wards and in parts of some wards (see Fig 10):

- Ward 4 Cardonald;
- Ward 5 Govan (outer urban area);
- Ward 6 Pollokshields (inner urban area);
- Ward 7 Langside;
- Ward 9 Calton (outer urban area);
- Ward 10 Anderston (inner urban area);
- Ward 12 Victoria Park (outer urban area);
- Ward 13 Garscadden/Scotstounhill (inner and outer urban areas);
- Ward 18 East Centre;
- Ward 19 Shettleston (inner urban area); and
- Ward 23 Partick East/Kelvindale

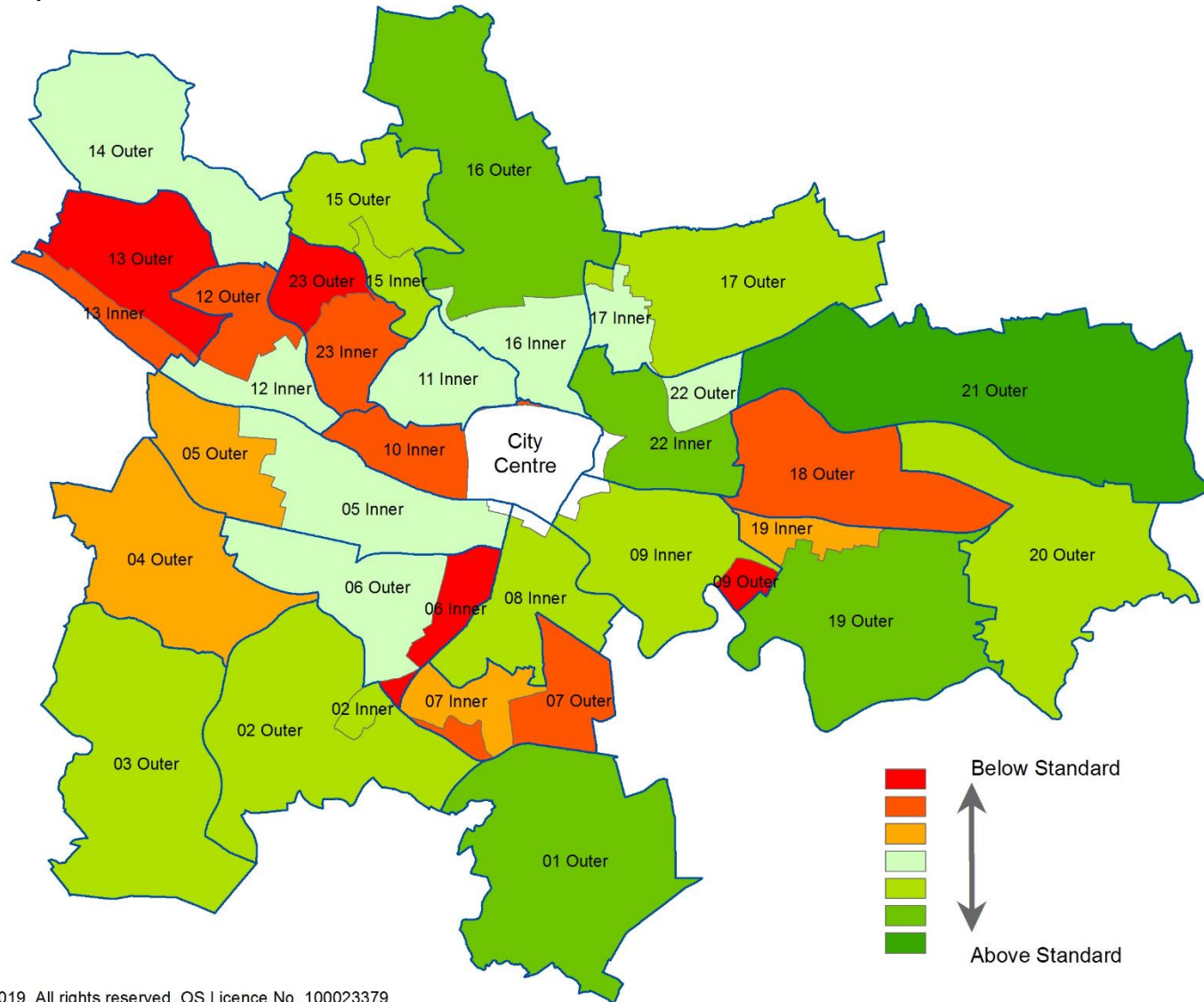
4.20 The Council will use its planning powers to protect publicly usable open space throughout the City, but in these areas in particular. Whilst the built-up nature of some of these wards means it is unlikely that the Quantity Standard can be fully met, application of the Quantity Standard on this basis will help inform:

- 1 the Council’s decisions on investment in open space, including where it will be most beneficial to invest to increase the quantity of publicly usable open space; and
- 2 the planning process, through a new Supplementary Guidance SG6, including where:
  - a) protection of existing open space might be particularly important as a result of identified deficiencies; or
  - b) a new development should contribute towards the provision of new publicly usable open space to help meet the Quantity Standard.

4.21 It will be particularly important to take action in areas where quantity standard deficiencies co-incide with accessibility standard deficiencies.

**Figure 10: Quantity Standard by Ward/Part of Ward**

- 01 Linn
- 02 Newlands/Auldburn
- 03 Greater Pollok
- 04 Cardonald
- 05 Govan
- 06 Pollokshields
- 07 Langside
- 08 Southside Central
- 09 Calton
- 10 Anderston/City/Yorkhill
- 11 Hillhead
- 12 Victoria Park
- 13 Garscadden/Scotstounhill
- 14 Drumchapel/Anniesland
- 15 Maryhill
- 16 Canal
- 17 Springburn/Robroyston
- 18 East Centre
- 19 Shettleston
- 20 Baillieston
- 21 North East
- 22 Dennistoun
- 23 Partick Keast/Kelvindale



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4.22 Further consideration will be given to how to address this issue, and all of the other issues identified in the LCA analyses, through the OSS Delivery Plan process.

**Action 7** *We will work to deliver new publicly usable open spaces in areas of the City where the Quantity Standard is not met.*

4.23 Conversely, many areas of the City have quantities of publicly usable open space that exceed the quantity standard. This does not mean that there is too much open space in these areas – each space may play a valuable role in meeting current or future need. The OSS Delivery Plan process, informed by a better understanding of this need, will help us understand whether any of these spaces may be used for other purposes in future. Where there may be scope to release some open spaces for other uses, there may also be opportunities to free up resources for enhancing the value and quality of the remaining open spaces.

### 3 Setting & Amenity

4.24 The City's open spaces can play a critical role in delivering better places and improving quality of life, as part of a wider placemaking approach. If places or open spaces are poorly designed or uncared for, people are less likely to use them and won't feel as good when they do, leading to a cycle of decline. Where designed well, however, open space can provide a social and physical focus for communities, drawing people together, providing opportunities for exercise, enabling engagement with nature and providing a setting for the wider urban environment. This can enhance the attractiveness of the City, helping to retain residents and businesses and attract people and businesses making locational choices.

4.25 Supplementary Guidance SG1 provides further detail on how the planning system can help deliver better places. It sets out a placemaking toolkit to help create places throughout the City that look good, feel great and work well for everyone. The Toolkit sets out 6 basic Placemaking Principles that apply to all development proposals in Glasgow:

- Character & Identity - places should feel unique and make people want to stay
- Successful Open Space - places should include successful open spaces
- Legibility & Safety - places should be accessible, easy to move around and people should feel safe at all times.
- Ease of Movement - places should be well-connected and focussed on active travel
- Vibrancy & Diversity - places should have lots of things to see and do and high levels of street level activity
- Adaptability & Sustainability - places should be adaptable for future needs and demonstrate sustainable design

4.26 Open space is important in its own right but can also form a key component in underpinning the success of these other facets of the urban environment. Use of these principles can inform our understanding of how an open space can provide amenity and a good setting for surrounding uses as part of a placemaking approach. Use of the Scottish Government's [Place Standard](#) tool can help provide a better understanding of the role of open space in contributing to the quality of the City's places.

4.27 The City Development Plan can help ensure the location, type, scale and design of open space associated with new development is a key consideration throughout the planning process, helping deliver

better places. Production of the OSS Delivery Plan will take account of placemaking principles when catering for future need.

4.28 The City's historic and other significant landscapes have an important role to play in creating better places. Policy CDP7 of the City Development Plan protects spaces designated as Sites of Special Landscape Importance but recognises that there is a need to review them in order to provide a clear, up-to-date justification for their protection. Work to identify the remaining elements of the City's historic landscapes (not currently identified on the [Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes](#)) is also proposed and will inform our understanding of the need to protect such open spaces.

**Action 8** We will undertake a review of existing landscape designation boundaries and justifications as an input to the OSS Delivery Plan process.

#### 4. Views of the Public

4.29 Gathering and understanding the views of the general public, open space users and local organisations, such as housing associations, is of vital importance in identifying current and future open space needs and ensuring they are catered for.

4.30 The people of Glasgow have the best understanding of the value of individual open spaces and how they are used, or could be used in future. The OSS Delivery Plan process will require extensive engagement with local communities about the open spaces in their areas, including:

- the use made of them – which ones are of particular value to a community, which ones are not used or are underused and why?

- access to them – is the journey to them a pleasant one?
- their quality – which ones are particularly good and which ones are poor? and
- which other spaces should be protected by the Council through inclusion on the Open Space Map and which ones might be removed from it?

4.31 Community engagement is expected to commence in 2021 and is likely to be organised by Council ward. It should take place at two stages of the OSS Delivery Plan process, enabling community views to be taken on board in the preparation of the OSS Delivery Plan and also when a “final” version of the OSS Delivery Plan is emerging. Engagement with users of specific types of open space is underway through the work on the Food Growing and Sports Pitch Strategies. The OSS Delivery Plan process will need to take into account the requirements of different population groups (eg children, older people).

4.32 In addition, public engagement was influential in shaping the final form of [Our Dear Green Place](#) – the Vision for Glasgow's Parks and Greenspaces, which sets out priorities for the day to day management of the City's key public spaces in future.

**Action 9** We will engage with the public and key organisations to gather and understand their views on open space in their area to inform the production of an OSS Delivery Plan.

4.33 The Council also wants to improve the ways in which it works with local people through partnership working and facilitating community building. The [Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#) presents communities with opportunities to shape how their local neighbourhoods are managed, including management of local



open spaces, and the Council is supportive of such an approach. Our Dear Green Place identifies community participation as having a key role in making best use of the City’s open spaces, and provides detail on how the Council will promote and support communities to do so – see also Part 7.

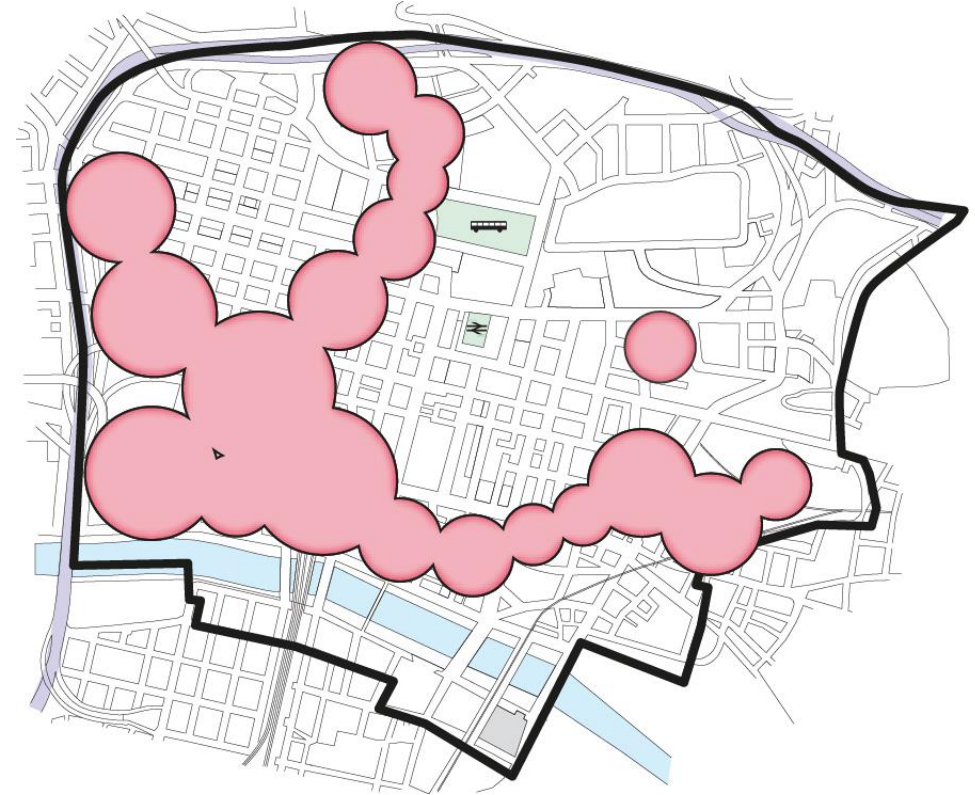
### 5. City Centre/Grey Space

- 4.34 The city centre is the hub of the commercial, social and cultural life of the City and the surrounding conurbation. It provides employment for 150,000 people and accommodates thousands more students, shoppers and other visitors on a daily basis. In addition, the city centre has a significant, and growing, residential population. Good quality open space supports the city centre’s key functions, providing opportunities for workers, visitors and residents to meet, talk, eat, relax and let children play and explore safely.
- 4.35 To help deliver the ambitions of the [City Centre Strategy](#), the city centre has been divided into 9 smaller areas called Districts. A District Regeneration Framework (DRF) will be developed for each, setting out a strategic vision for the District, including where open space requires to be provided or enhanced and other green and green/grey infrastructure proposals.
- 4.36 Whilst the accessibility standard does not apply in the city centre, the Council has analysed access to publicly usable open space, including civic space, to inform the production of the DRFs (Figure 11). This analysis indicates that the biggest gaps in accessibility to spaces that are usable by the public are in the western parts of the city centre, along parts of the river and in parts of Cowcaddens and the Merchant City. Whilst many of these areas are not heavily

populated at present, the aspiration to increase the city centre residential population significantly means they may be so in future.

- 4.37 The Council will utilise this analysis to provide an understanding of where new open spaces might be required to support the needs of the city centre. District Regeneration Frameworks will set out how and where these needs can be addressed and new city centre developments will be expected to contribute to their delivery.

**Figure 11: City Centre Open Space Accessibility Deficiencies**



4.38 Civic, or grey, space, particularly in the form of public squares and spaces, pedestrianised streets and riverfront walkways, can provide a focus for cultural events and an opportunity for communities to meet and socialise, as well as opportunities to introduce green infrastructure into, otherwise, hard urban environments. When designed well, it can also attract commercial activity, helping sustain locations such as town centres and bringing life to areas such as the Clyde riverfront. An assessment of the quality of existing city centre grey spaces, and opportunities to make them greener, eg to enhance biodiversity and provide respite from heat, will inform the OSS Delivery Plan – [Greening the Grey](#) (Universities of Glasgow and Oxford and the Natural Environment Research Council) will also be a useful input. The Council’s planning policies will be used to ensure that new development helps deliver enhanced biodiversity, both in the city centre and elsewhere.

4.39 Whilst most of the City’s civic spaces are located in the city centre, regeneration projects such as those at Sighthill and the Clyde Waterfront are recognising the benefits of more formal public space of this type and are making provision for civic space in new development. Consideration will be given to where else in the City would benefit from enhanced access to civic space and how it could best incorporate green infrastructure.

**Action 10** *We will consider the need for new grey/green civic spaces to serve major development schemes and regeneration projects.*

## 5 A Healthy Glasgow

5.1 Good quality open spaces can have a significant bearing on peoples’ health. In addition to the obvious opportunities for exercise, active

travel, play and food growing, open spaces can also enhance mental health and well-being through the creation of more attractive urban environments; the provision of better opportunities to socialise; and opportunities to interact and engage with nature.

5.2 This is particularly important in Glasgow where life expectancy remains significantly lower than the Scottish average and where there is a significant health gap between our most deprived and affluent communities.

## 6. Play & Education

5.3 Increased play in childhood helps lead to more healthy, sociable and confident children and adults. The Play Strategy for Scotland highlights that open space allows children and young people to be physically active and to challenge themselves. It recognises that daily contact with nature and playing in natural spaces has additional benefits and that it promotes greater use of open space as adults. It also recognises that most children and young people want to be able to play outside in the local neighbourhood where they live.

5.4 The accessibility and quality standards will help provide for Community Spaces across the City that will encourage play. By providing a variety of functions that appeal to all generations on a single space in close proximity to the home, these spaces will:

- encourage intergenerational contact and passive surveillance;
- provide for daily contact with nature and other people;
- provide opportunities for informal and natural play as well as informal sport/recreation; and
- provide for play in the local neighbourhood.

5.5 The provision of Community Spaces may provide an opportunity to examine and review the distribution of, and equipment provided in, existing formal play facilities. This analysis will require to take account of a number of factors, including:

- distribution and quality of Community Spaces in the local area;
- ease of access to the Community Space, including how pleasant and safe the journey to it is for all members of society;
- how old/well maintained the existing formal play facility is;
- community views; and
- other opportunities for informal play in the area.

**Action 11** *We will work with children, young people and others in local communities when considering the future distribution of formal play spaces across the City.*

5.6 Opportunities for play should not be limited to Community Spaces or to formal play facilities. Other open spaces in the City, particularly publicly usable open spaces, provide significant opportunities for imaginative, active play and for engaging with nature. The CDP protects such spaces, and the Quantity Standard will provide for a good distribution of them, but it is possible that they may not, currently, be particularly accessible to, or usable by, residents.

**Action 12** *We will work to assess the quality of publicly usable open spaces to help determine their suitability for informal play and to identify opportunities for improvement.*

5.7 Opportunities also exist to make better use of the more urban, non-open space elements of the City environment for play, for relaxation and for social interaction. Supplementary Guidance SG1: Placemaking, in particular, promotes design that will deliver more

playable spaces and places in the fabric of new development, in addition to the Community Spaces. Managing traffic in and around residential areas can also be an important means of making the urban environment more attractive for play and the Council's Strategic Plan identifies further progress to reduce the speed limit on all suitable residential roads to 20mph as a priority.

5.8 Schools can play a key role in facilitating play. Amongst other things, Glasgow's Improvement Challenge aims to improve literacy and improve children's health and wellbeing. The Council has been working with [Inspiring Scotland](#) and others to deliver these aims, and a three-year programme of Active Play training commenced in 2016/2017, with 296 Active Play sessions delivered across 30 schools.

5.9 Whilst many Glasgow schools have been pro-active in developing school grounds as outdoor classrooms and innovative play spaces, others have playgrounds that are "harder" in nature. A better balance between hard and natural playground would provide opportunities not just for natural, inventive play but also for engaging with nature, outdoor learning and helping address issues such as flooding by introducing more permeable surfaces. Further work is required to understand the potential of the City's school and nursery playgrounds for such multi-functional uses and to overcome barriers to delivery.

**Action 13** *We will work with pupils and staff to investigate the potential for re-imagining school grounds to provide opportunities for biodiversity, outdoor learning, relaxation, stimulating play and, where appropriate, flood risk/surface water management.*

## Using Investment in Surface Water Infrastructure to Deliver Enhanced Play and Amenity - Croftfoot Primary

The South East Glasgow Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) includes measures to help control surface water runoff and flooding within key areas of south east Glasgow. These measures include retrofitting a Sustainable Drainage Scheme (SuDS) at Croftfoot Primary as the runoff from the site contributes to flooding in the area.

Investment in the SuDS is providing an opportunity to provide additional benefits for biodiversity, amenity and play, including a new porous Multi Use Games Area, new outdoor, water-themed play equipment and a proposed overflow basin/amphitheatre that will provide water storage during severe flood events, but can be used for play/outdoor recreation at all other times.

A holistic approach to investment is not only helping address flooding in the area, but is also enhancing opportunities for play, biodiversity and outdoor education.

- 5.10 The Scottish Government made Learning for Sustainability, which includes Outdoor Learning, an entitlement for all pupils in 2013. We are continuing to ensure all young people receive their entitlement to Learning for Sustainability which includes regular, high quality outdoor learning for all children and young people. We will also consider how best to support our Primary, Secondary and Additional Support for Learning establishments in engaging with and using the

City's open spaces, to provide an extended range of outdoor learning experiences and environmental education.

- 5.11 The Scottish Government is committed to transforming early learning and childcare (ELC) and, by August 2020, every 3 and 4 year old, and some 2 year olds, will qualify for 1140 hours of ELC every year, almost doubling the current entitlement. This will entail a significant increase in the number of ELC establishments in the City.
- 5.12 Outdoor ELC can deliver a range of benefits for children, families and delivery agencies above and beyond that achieved within indoor settings. The benefits of outdoor ELC include:
- *Child Resilience* – outdoor play in natural environments can reduce stress;
  - *Child Socialisation* - outdoor play facilitates socialisation with peers, the community and the environment;
  - *Child Health* – active outdoor play helps address issues associated with cholesterol, blood pressure, body composition, bone density, cardiorespiratory and musculoskeletal fitness and aspects of mental, social and environmental health;
  - *Family Wellbeing* – outdoor play can help children eat better, sleep better, be happier, become more engaged in family life and encourage family use of the outdoors outwith formal ELC; and
  - *Environmental Care* - contact with nature allows embedded learning and understanding, ultimately helping support the mind-set that the outdoors is a place to enjoy and cherish.

5.13 The City wants to enhance the role of outdoor learning for children, ensuring it becomes a key component of every child's early learning experience no matter which nursery they attend, and our aim is a service that can offer at least 2 full days outdoors to every pre-school child in Glasgow, should the parent wish it. The investment associated with 1140 hours delivery provides an opportunity to help realise this ambition.

5.14 The Council is seeking to explore opportunities to enhance the use of the outdoors and will be consulting on a number of different models, including:

- **New IN/OUT & Park-based ELC Centres** - comprising use of both a built nursery and a woodland nursery within a park/open space setting. Children will be able to move between the indoor and outdoor provision;
- **New Woodland/Park Nurseries** – nurseries that work in partnership with existing nurseries to offer opportunities for full days outdoors to children; and
- **Extended Outdoor Space in the Existing Nursery Estate** - transforming existing outdoor spaces, moving away from traditional structured outdoor play environments to create a wilder, more natural space for children.

5.15 To facilitate delivery of these models, particularly IN/OUT centres, it may be necessary to make use of some of underused/vacant buildings or land within the City's existing parks or other open spaces. The Council will use its planning policies to ensure that such provision does not have a detrimental impact on the wider functionality of the open space in question, but will help enhance its attractiveness wherever possible.

## Outdoor/Woodland Nursery Provision

Working in partnership with Inspiring Scotland, during 2017/18, GCC developed 3 collaborative outdoor ELC pilot sites in Castlemilk, Drumchapel and Parkhead/Dalmarnock (Tollcross Park).

Led by local third sector organisations – Jeely Piece Club, 3D Drumchapel, Baltic Street Adventure Playground - and bringing together third sector, public sector and private sector providers, shared early years learning spaces have been created in woodlands in each of the communities.

Children and staff from local nurseries have the opportunity to spend at least 1 full day per week – and in Drumchapel up to 4 days per week – playing and learning together in the outdoors. Mixing staff and groups of children from different settings, in natural environments, brings broad community benefit.

Children and their families become accustomed to seeing the woods as one of the local assets available to them to use both at nursery and at the weekend. The wider community become accustomed to seeing the woods as a child and family friendly place to be cherished.

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**Action 14** *We will work to deliver the additional nursery capacity needed to meet 1140 hours in a way that ensures outdoor learning becomes a key component of every child's early learning experience.*

## 7. Outdoor Sport

- 5.16 Engaging in sport can have a number of benefits for both physical and mental health and one of the Government's key legacy objectives of the 2014 Commonwealth Games was to inspire people to be more active, taking part in physical activity and sport and living longer, healthier lives as a result.
- 5.17 Glasgow has a variety of open spaces that are used for formal outdoor sport, ranging from local tennis courts and bowling greens to golf courses or football centres which can draw users from a wide area. Some of these are open spaces in their own right (eg some football pitches) and others are part of larger open spaces (eg tennis courts or bowling greens in public parks). Outdoor sports provision shown on the Open Space Map is protected through policy CDP6 of the City Development Plan. Open space dedicated to formal outdoor sports is considered a demand-led open space whereas informal sport and recreation more regularly takes place on publicly usable spaces such as public parks and Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs).
- 5.18 The Council, in conjunction with Glasgow Life and sportscotland, is funding an Outdoor Sports Study to provide a better understanding of the amount and types of outdoor sports facilities required to meet demand for sport in Glasgow. Given recent investment in athletics and cycling, the study is focusing on pitch sports (football, cricket, hockey, rugby etc), bowling and tennis.

**Action 15** *We will undertake an Outdoor Sports Study for the City with Glasgow Life and Sportscotland.*

- 5.19 On completion of the study, consideration will be given to where it may be possible and most appropriate/beneficial to address any unmet demand/quality issues through the production of an Outdoor Sports Strategy. This will take into account matters such as: the relative distribution of existing outdoor sports provision; its quality and any obvious "gaps"; geographic patterns of demand (including projections of housing completions and population growth); car ownership levels and associated mobility; opportunities to address issues such as health and inactivity, etc. The Outdoor Sports Strategy will both inform, and be informed by, the OSS Delivery Plan and will inform the Council's/Glasgow Life's spending commitments.
- 5.20 If the study establishes a need for additional or improved facilities, new residential developments will be expected to make a financial contribution towards meeting that demand. Should the study conclude that, for some outdoor sports, there is enough open space to meet current and future need, the Council will consider which existing facilities are best placed to meet demand for sports and which may have potential to be used for other purposes. The OSS Delivery Plan process, taking account of all aspects of current and future need, will determine whether a space should be retained for another open space use (eg growing) or whether it can be used for something else.
- 5.21 Any new outdoor sports facilities created to meet demand will be shown on the Open Space Map, and will benefit from protection under Policy CDP6. Open spaces subsequently used for other, non-open space, purposes will be removed from the Open Space Map.
- 5.22 Many of the City's schools have associated sports pitches, some of which have a relatively poor quality blaes surface, limiting their value for pupils and the wider community. The City Administration has identified capital resources within the 2018/19 Council Budget to

help upgrade some of these pitches to encourage active play and sport. The Council aims to provide for community use to school pitches. However, security and safety issues require to be addressed, and this may not always be possible.

- 5.23 At present Glasgow has six public golf courses (three 18-hole and three 9-hole) operated by Glasgow Life. Low usage figures and a substantial annual deficit incurred in running the courses led to the Council consulting on the future of these courses in summer 2019. The outputs from the consultation will require to be taken into account in the OSS Delivery Plan process. In the meantime, the golf courses continue to be protected as open space.

## 8. Growing Spaces

- 5.24 Awareness is increasing of the benefits of local food production, including reducing food miles, packaging and the cost of fresh food, promoting healthy-eating, improving physical activity, mental health and improving the environment, including promoting biodiversity. The Council is keen to promote more food growing in the City (including in schools) and it is important that existing provision is protected and that new opportunities for growing can be created.
- 5.25 The Council is in the process of producing a Food Growing Strategy that will set out how we will support community ambitions for more food growing opportunities and meet the statutory requirements of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. As part of this process, an assessment of the demand for allotments and space for food growing is being undertaken, taking into account the quantity, quality and geography of demand and supply. It will inform current and future open space need and the OSS Delivery Plan. The Food Growing Strategy will be informed by existing or planned GCC

policies and strategies, including the Glasgow Food Policy which will address a broad range of sustainable food issues, including food inequality.

- 5.26 Should a deficit be identified across the City, new residential developments will be expected to make a financial contribution towards helping meet this demand. Demand may be met through new allotments, the provision of community gardens or through other mechanisms, eg green roofs or walls, on opportunity sites identified through the Food Growing Strategy process. Land identified to meet demand for allotments/community gardens will be shown on the Open Space Map and will be protected by the City Development Plan. Demand for food growing will continue to be assessed to inform future updates of the Food Growing Strategy.

**Action 16** *We will produce and consult on a Food Growing Strategy for the City and will identify land that could be used for allotment sites or community growing.*

- 5.27 As well as permanent provision of new space and facilities for growing, the Council has been encouraging and facilitating the use of sites on which development proposals have stalled for temporary growing and for other purposes, eg artworks. The Council supports community groups and local organisations by acting as an intermediary between them and landowners to deliver access to, and use of, the land on a temporary basis. The temporary nature of these spaces means they won't be shown on the Open Space Map.
- 5.28 This "[Stalled Spaces](#)" programme has helped deliver a number of benefits, including making sites safer and more attractive for communities; promoting greater understanding of growing and natural processes; and helping improve health and well-being, including reducing social isolation.

**Action 17** We will continue to support communities wishing to make temporary use of stalled spaces.

5.29 In addition to growing food for personal use, there has been increasing interest in developing a local food economy – bringing together local food producers with outlets for their produce, such as cafés, restaurants, local markets, caterers and processors. Growing the local food economy has the potential to deliver a variety of benefits to the City, including:

- fresher and better quality food for consumers;
- less pollution and fewer food miles;
- enhanced economic development and more jobs;
- a better skilled workforce; and
- sustainably produced food, with benefits for biodiversity, landscape and animal welfare.

5.30 The Council is keen to encourage the growth of the local food economy and there may be scope to utilise existing open spaces and/or vacant/derelict land for food growing to do so. Where this would mean enclosure of land and exclusion of the public, the Council will need to be satisfied that a protected open space would no longer have any value as publicly usable open space before agreeing to its use for commercial growing. This would require consideration against the criteria set out in BOX 1 of the interim Supplementary Guidance [IPG6](#) and other policies of the City Development Plan, pending completion of the OSS Delivery Plan.

**Action 18** We will support the growth of the local food economy and will work with local growers to do so.

## 9. Walking & Cycling

5.31 Encouraging more people to walk and cycle can help deliver improvements in physical health but can also provide significant benefits for mental health and well-being, as well as benefits for the environment.

5.32 Glasgow's [Core Paths Plan](#), adopted by the Council in 2012, shows a network of key paths that give the public reasonable access throughout the City, in line with the requirements of the [Land Reform \(Scotland\) Act 2003](#). It comprises the routes that are most used and valued by communities, with many linking to, and through, open spaces.

5.33 The Council also wants to help meet the Scottish Government's [Cycling Action Plan for Scotland](#) vision of "10% of everyday journeys to be made by bike by 2020" and the health benefits that will deliver. The vision has been backed by a commitment, in the Government's Programme for Scotland 2017-18, to increase investment that supports active travel from £40m per year to £80m per year from 2018-19.

5.34 Glasgow's Strategic Plan for Cycling ([SPC](#)) sets out how we intend to increase cycling in the City. It proposes a fully integrated network of cycling routes that link communities to the city centre, schools, workplaces, leisure destinations, transport hubs and public facilities and identifies an aspirational Core Cycle Network of dedicated space for cycling, supported by local provision aimed at helping citizens move around their own communities. The cost of delivering the network has been estimated £125m and the Government's increased funding, plus increased funding from the Council, offers opportunities to grow active travel in the City.



5.35 The City's open spaces can contribute to the creation of this network, offering opportunities for off-road routes through the urban area. The Council and the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership (GCVGNP) have been working together to produce a [strategic access network](#) (SAN) to identify options for connecting key destinations via off-road links, including the potential offered by underused former rail formations, other green corridors and larger open spaces. The SAN helps identify where connections already exist, where they require protection or enhancement, where there are gaps in connectivity and where potential options might exist for addressing those gaps.

5.36 The LCAs highlighted opportunities to enhance active travel linkages as part of a wider enhancement of green network connectivity and functionality. These opportunities, and those identified through the SAN, will be considered further through the OSS Delivery Plan process. Opportunities for recreational linkages for walking/cycling and other forms of non-motorised movement (eg by wheelchair users or for jogging, rollerblading, horse-riding etc) will also require consideration, as will opportunities for swimming or kayaking in blue spaces, if the ambitions of the Land Reform Act are to be fully addressed.

5.37 The Council will aim to utilise investment in the active travel/recreational networks to deliver associated, multi-functional green network improvements, wherever possible and desirable.

**Action 19** *We will continue to work with the GCVGNP to identify options for better off-road walking and cycling links between key City destinations.*

5.38 Whilst cycling can be an important mode of travel over a variety of distances, it will also be important to ensure conditions are suitable to encourage walking over short-medium distances. The Council has

established an Active Travel Forum with user groups to ensure that both cycling and walking are considered in the Council's decision making.

5.39 Amongst other things, enhancing local walking links can ensure that the journey to Community Spaces is a safe and pleasant one for all abilities/sectors of society. Further work is required to consider the quality of the journey to public parks and gardens and other Community Spaces, with a view to identifying priorities for improvement, eg greening the journey or enhancing road crossing options. This should be undertaken as part of the OSS Delivery Plan process. The policies of the City Development Plan will be used to ensure new development is designed to promote and facilitate active travel as part of the development's green infrastructure.

## 10. Air Quality & Pollution and Heat

5.40 The Council is required to regularly review and assess air quality within the City, comparing concentrations of key air pollutants with the objectives set in the UK Air Quality Strategy. A number of areas of Glasgow do not achieve air quality objectives in relation to two key pollutants and Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) have been identified in the city centre, Byres Road/Dumbarton Road and Parkhead Cross. The Council is considering the options for reducing these pollutants in the AQMAs and elsewhere in the City.

5.41 Trees and other plants, including those in green screens, green walls and green roofs, can act as natural filters, with the surfaces of their leaves absorbing particles and gases, including Nitrogen Dioxide, from the air. They can also help remove pollutants from surface water. Investment in green infrastructure, including street trees, green roofs and living walls, can help the Council meet its air quality objectives and improve water quality.

- 5.42 Ensuring the green infrastructure provided to support new development helps mitigate air quality concerns will be a key role of the planning system. However, the Council will also consider how management and enhancement of the City's existing open spaces (including school grounds) can help remove pollutants and improve air and water quality concerns. This will be particularly important in close proximity to the source of the pollution, eg alongside roads. Wherever possible, the open spaces should be designed to provide other, multifunctional benefits for people and nature.
- 5.43 [Noise mapping](#) also illustrates the extent to which some of the City's important open spaces (eg Victoria Park, Pollok Park) can be affected by traffic noise. There may be scope to incorporate planting or other measures in these open spaces to reduce the impact of noise on users.
- 5.44 Finally, climate change is exacerbating the urban heat island effect, where dense concentrations of man-made surfaces (such as can be found in the city centre) absorb and retain heat, increasing local temperatures. Open spaces, associated vegetation and other green and green/grey infrastructure can help mitigate, or provide local adaptation to, higher temperatures through shading, deflecting the sun's radiation and releasing moisture into the atmosphere.
- 5.45 All of these matters should be considered further through the OSS Delivery Plan process and through the Council's planning policies.

**Action 20** *We will investigate how we can use open spaces to help improve air and water quality and to mitigate traffic noise and the urban heat island effect.*

## 6 A Resilient Glasgow

- 6.1 People, nature and infrastructure can all be vulnerable to a changing climate. More of the City will be exposed to flood risk associated with an increased intensity of rainfall and with sea level rise, people can be vulnerable to heat waves and flood events and changes in warmth and precipitation can have significant impacts on habitats and the species they sustain. An increase in heat, rainfall and winds can impact on building fabric, ground conditions, road surfaces and rail lines, with implications for the transport network and other utilities. City centre temperatures could increase as the built fabric absorbs and retain more of the sun's heat.
- 6.2 Our open spaces provide opportunities to help the City adapt to inevitable climate change (including through reducing flood risk through water storage, attenuation and infiltration) and to help limit climate change by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases. This can be done in ways that help us address other aims.

## 11. Flooding

- 6.3 The Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Partnership (MGSDP) consists of organisations involved with the operation of the sewerage and drainage network within the Glasgow conurbation. It is helping identify the measures needed to ensure that Glasgow's drainage networks can cope with existing flood risk and a changing climate.

## Investment in Surface Water Infrastructure and Improvements to a Community Space – Halfway Community Park

The Council is currently delivering a SWMP for Hillington and Cardonald. Existing public open space at Moss Heights currently has limited multifunctional value and an opportunity was identified to use the open space to deliver more sustainable flood management solutions as part of a wider regeneration of the open spaces to deliver a new public park. The new Halfway Community Park will include sustainable drainage measures, such as raingardens and basins, as well as natural play areas, paths, seating and community space, growing space, extensive planting and a kick-about space that will help the Park meet the Quality Standard.

The park is being funded through a variety of sources, including the European Regional Development Fund, Green Infrastructure Fund, the City Council, City Deal and Southside Housing Association.



- 6.4 Surface Water Management Plans (SWMPs) are being advanced in various areas of the City as a means of identifying the most sustainable actions to manage surface water flood risk - SEPA's [flood](#)

[risk map](#) shows the areas of Glasgow potentially susceptible to surface water and other flood risk. SWMPs can include the provision of new green infrastructure and the use of existing open spaces and other green infrastructure to reduce surface flood risk and improve water quality. Significant investment is required and this offers opportunities to not only address flooding but also to enhance the quality of existing open spaces and ensure new spaces help deliver other green network benefits such as improving habitat connectivity, recreation, green active travel and amenity.

- 6.5 Such a multi-functional, Integrated Green Infrastructure approach will be pursued wherever investment is delivering new flood management infrastructure and the Council will work with others, such as SNH, SEPA and the MGSDP, to do so.

**Action 21** *We will ensure that investment made through the MGSDP delivers associated green network and flood risk management benefits that support the aims of this Strategy.*

- 6.6 Other green network elements, such as sustainable drainage systems (SuDS), vertical green walls and living roofs, street trees and rain gardens can absorb and help slow the release of surface water into water courses, as well as providing additional green network benefits such as provision for biodiversity and combatting air pollution. The policies of the City Development Plan, and associated Supplementary Guidance, promote the incorporation of such green infrastructure measures in new developments.
- 6.7 Glasgow, as far as Carmyle, is a coastal City and is also vulnerable to rising sea levels. Although there have been no recorded coastal flooding events within the area, existing data shows that a 1:200 year flood event would result in the Clyde over-topping quay walls at a number of locations. While the current extent of flooding is

relatively limited, longer term climate change projections, when applied to Glasgow, indicate a significant increase in the area of land that is vulnerable to flooding and an increase in the severity of flood events.

## The River Clyde

The River Clyde is Glasgow's largest area of continuous open space, stretching from Carmyle in the east to Yoker in the west. There is potential to enhance use of the river itself, to improve access to the water and to consolidate and enhance open space functions along its banks, including the opportunities it provides for: active travel; biodiversity (including as a pollinator corridor); rest and relaxation; enhanced access to open space for surrounding communities; and flood mitigation.

There are, however, other demands on the river that require to be accommodated, including the potential to accommodate new jobs, destinations and housing on former industrial land along its banks, reflecting its role as a major regeneration project of national significance. The forecast impacts of climate change mean that the Council is working with SEPA and other partners to manage flood risk and to ensure that new development (and existing land uses) is both protected from, and does not exacerbate, coastal flooding. To ensure that the river corridor can meet all of these demands in a holistic way, the Council is working to produce the River Clyde Corridor Strategic Development Framework which will set out a vision for the Clyde Corridor for the next 30 years. The ambition is for a Clyde Corridor that is a vibrant, inclusive, liveable and well-connected place, with an accessible waterfront and attractive spaces where people want to spend time. It will form part of a wider network of urban waterways, support continuous walking and cycling routes and be celebrated as the city's largest open space. This will allow Glasgow to capitalise on the opportunities that events present eg the Year of Coasts and Waters 2020, which will deliver an enhanced Clydebuilt Festival.

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- 6.8 The River Clyde Flood Management Strategy (RCFMS) was developed to help address the prospect of coastal flooding and identified a number of interventions along both banks of the Clyde to reduce the impact of flooding. The Council is currently working with SEPA to review the RCFMS during the production of the River Clyde Corridor Strategic Development Framework, supplementary guidance to the City Development Plan that will provide guidance on future development of the River Corridor and its open spaces. It will require to take account of the work of the [Clyde Marine Planning Partnership](#) and of [Climate Ready Clyde](#). The cumulative effect of open spaces on catchment drainage will require to be taken into account in the OSS Delivery Plan process.
- 6.9 The Council has had a long-standing ambition for the development of a "city park" along the Clyde corridor— a linear space with a number of connected parks and other open spaces linked by continuous walking and cycling routes along both banks of the river. This (and other linear blue open spaces) could help provide for walking and cycling, enhanced biodiversity (including as a corridor for pollinators) and greater accessibility to open space in areas of deficiency, eg Yoker, as well as improving resilience to coastal climate change risks. Investment in flood management infrastructure (including nature based solutions) can be used to help deliver this space and there are other opportunities to deliver an enhanced green network that should be considered, including the potential to use the former rail formation at Yoker. Proposals for new cross river bridges (eg between the Transport Museum and Govan) and/or the Renfrew Ferry provide for the longer term possibility for continuous walking and cycling loops using both banks. This should be investigated further during production of the OSS Delivery Plan and in the context of the River Clyde Corridor SDF's wider ambitions for the regeneration of the river as a vibrant, inclusive, liveable and well-connected place.

**Action 22** We will ensure that the OSS Delivery Plan process reflects the full scope of the Council's ambitions for the River Clyde corridor, aligning with the aspirations of the River Clyde Corridor SDF and helping deliver benefits for people and nature.

## 12 Enhancing Biodiversity

- 6.10 Biodiversity is the variety of living things on Earth, from the smallest insect to the largest mammal and tree. It contributes to meeting many of our essential needs, including oxygen, food, water and clothing, provides raw materials and can help create an attractive environment in which to live and work. Enhancing Biodiversity is, therefore, as much about our quality of life as it is nature conservation.
- 6.11 Local Authorities have a duty under the [Nature Conservation \(Scotland\) Act 2004](#) to further the conservation of biodiversity and, in doing so, must have regard to, amongst other things, the [Scottish Biodiversity Strategy](#). The Council has declared an ecological emergency and is likely to be recommending actions, in the near future, to help enhance and strengthen biodiversity.
- 6.12 The City's open spaces provide opportunities for biodiversity to thrive, if managed in the right way. Many of the open spaces protected by the City Development Plan, including natural/semi-natural greenspace and green corridors, are also designated for their [nature conservation value](#) as, for example, Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) or Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs).
- 6.13 Policy CDP7 of the CDP commits to a review of the existing nature conservation (primarily the SINCs) and landscape [designations](#), in

order to provide a clear justification of the reasons for their protection and ensure that site boundaries are accurate and appropriate. Being clear about why we consider these sites to be of value will help us to protect them.

### An ecosystems Approach to Biodiversity - Seven Loch Wetland Park

The Seven Lochs Wetland Park, spanning a wetland area between Glasgow and North Lanarkshire, has huge potential to provide for both biodiversity and enhanced accessibility for people. A new park of national significance is envisaged, sustaining and enhancing a high quality, innovative wetland environment that will:

- protect and enhance biodiversity;
- promote health and well-being; and
- contribute to environmental, economic and social regeneration.

Encompassing seven lochs, five local nature reserves, a country park and one of Glasgow's oldest buildings, the park will provide benefits for biodiversity and local communities. When complete, the project will enable local people and visitors to experience the natural and cultural heritage of the Seven Lochs area and help local communities take ownership of the park. The Park is home to populations of water voles, the only site for green hairstreak butterfly in Glasgow, key populations of the uncommon small pearl-bordered fritillary (butterfly) and other special species and habitats.

It is being funded by a variety of sources, including £4.5 million funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and contributions from surrounding housing developments.

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6.14 Local Nature Reserves are areas of land designated by a local authority because of their local special natural interest and/or educational value. In order to help achieve the “Access to Natural Greenspace Standard” of one hectare of LNR per 1,000, the Council is keen to increase the area of land declared as LNR, creating a network of sites for nature conservation and outdoor education. Options for doing so will inform the OSS Delivery Plan process.

**Action 23** *We will investigate options for new Local Nature Reserves with a view to providing 1 ha of LNR per 1000 population.*

6.15 To ensure that nature can thrive and that people can benefit from proximity to it on a regular basis, much more needs to be done to provide for nature in the City and to restore and enhance biodiversity.

6.16 The Council has produced a new [Local Biodiversity Action Plan](#) (LBAP). It sets out what the Council and its partners will do to help protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity over the next 10 years. It includes an increased emphasis on an “ecosystems approach”, aiming to protect individual species and habitats by conserving the whole of the environment in which they are found - a focus on broad habitats rather than individual habitats and species. The LBAP will be used to inform current and future need for open space to protect and enhance biodiversity.

6.17 Other opportunities exist to enhance biodiversity, including managing relatively sterile spaces, such as school playgrounds, the fringes of sports pitches or underused amenity spaces, more naturally. Opportunities may also exist to increase the extent of wildflower meadow and/or the number of trees in our cemeteries. Naturalising spaces that are, otherwise, relatively sterile in terms of their biodiversity value can help embed nature more firmly

throughout the City. The development plan requires the enhancement of biodiversity in new development and this OSS will operate in tandem with the CDP and associated Supplementary Guidance to promote biodiversity and help address the ecological emergency.

6.18 Not all spaces will be suitable for use in this way and proposals to do so will require to take account of potential costs and benefits, eg the costs of establishing and maintaining wildflower meadow, and good access through it, compared to cost of the ongoing mowing of amenity grassland. Cost implications should, however, be considered in the context of the potential benefits offered by, eg, enhanced ecosystem services, natural flood management, enhanced health and wellbeing etc. The financial implications of naturalising different types of open spaces should be considered further to help identify existing open spaces that may have potential to be used primarily, or in part, for biodiversity or for carbon sequestration.

6.19 Glasgow’s [Pollinator Plan](#) supports the LBAP and has been prepared to support the [Pollinator Strategy for Scotland](#) (2017-2027). Both recognise the critical role of insects in maintaining healthy plant populations which, in turn provide us with many of the services essential to our lives, including the air we breathe and much of the food we eat. The Council’s declared ecological emergency means there will be an even greater emphasis on protecting and growing pollinator populations in the City.

6.20 Our open spaces can play a key role in doing so, by ensuring that, wherever possible, they provide for enhanced biodiversity through the inclusion of pollinator friendly planting and/or appropriate management regimes. Engaging pupils in enhancing biodiversity in school grounds would support the Learning for Sustainability agenda, whilst managing the City’s roadside verges (“transport

amenity space” on the open space map) for biodiversity may provide another key means of doing so.

**Action 24** *We will review how we manage our roadside verges and other open spaces to provide additional habitat for pollinators.*

### 13. Connecting Habitats

6.21 The City’s natural environment is subject to a multitude of pressures that can make habitats and species vulnerable. Existing pressures such as noise, air and water pollution and the encroachment of development into habitats and the links between them are now accompanied by the threats of warmer temperatures and increased rainfall due to climate change. These changes are taking place at an unprecedented rate, leaving little time for habitats and species to adapt to new, and constantly changing, conditions. Species with limited dispersal abilities, or which are isolated by habitat fragmentation, may be unable to colonise more suitable areas if habitats connections are not sufficiently strong.

6.22 It is important that we manage the City’s environments to give biodiversity the best chance of adapting to a changing climate. This is best done by:

- maintaining the extent and diversity of habitats;
- enlarging existing areas of habitat to build resilience; and
- strengthening habitat connectivity to allow habitats and species to move and disperse to more suitable locations.

6.23 The Glasgow Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) promotes an ecosystem approach which aims to protect individual species and

habitats by conserving the whole environment in which they are found.

6.24 An Ecosystem Statement has been prepared for each of the five identified ecosystems in Glasgow. Each ecosystem sets out associated broad habitats and species and the actions to be undertaken to conserve and enhance them, including a habitat action plan for broad habitats. By managing the broad habitats for biodiversity, the associated species of that habitat should be protected and enhanced too.

**Action 25** *We will consider how open space in Council ownership can be maintained to enhance the extent and diversity of existing habitats and help deliver the actions set out in the LBAP habitat action plans.*

6.25 The Council is also working to enlarge existing habitat and strengthen habitat connectivity. Policy CDP7 of the City Development Plan states that new development should not further fragment habitats, networks or isolate habitats or species, but should enhance them. Well-designed development proposals will, therefore, have a role in helping enlarge existing habitats and strengthen connectivity between habitats. In areas, such as the city centre, where open space is relatively limited, there are opportunities to improve habitat connectivity by greening grey infrastructure and space and by introducing green roofs and walls in new development. In the Clyde Corridor, the city park proposal provides a linear opportunity to help natural habitats adapt to climate change and improve biodiversity, flood resilience and amenity.

6.26 The Council is working with its partners, including the GCVGNP, to identify a [Strategic Habitat Network](#) for broad habitat types in the City, notably woodland, grassland and wetland. It will help inform

management of existing open space and the design of new developments by identifying:

- habitat patches of a size and quality that sustain nature or that could do, with enhancement;
- habitat patches that are critical connections to an existing habitat network or that could be, with enhancement; and
- opportunities for habitat creation that would significantly help reconnect habitats/habitat networks.

6.27 Any new spaces identified through this process will be protected by incorporating them into the Open Space Map, during periodic updates. Policy CDP7 of the City Development Plan requires new development to enhance biodiversity and this may be also be delivered through green roofs, green walls, etc. This will inform the planning process and the production of the OSS Delivery Plan.

**Action 26** We will work with the GCVGNP to identify options for enhancing the quality and connectivity of the City's habitats.

## 14. Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change

6.28 The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 sets a legal framework for a reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases of 80% by 2050, with an interim target of 42% by 2020. The Scottish Government is legislating to amend these targets to reduce emissions by 75% by 2030 and set a legally binding target of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045, with Scotland becoming carbon neutral (carbon emitted balanced by carbon sequestered/offset) by 2040. The Council has committed to becoming a carbon neutral city by 2030.

6.29 This will require the Council, and other public bodies, to consider all possible options for reducing emissions. The City's Open Spaces have the potential to be used to facilitate the development and use of renewable and lower carbon sources of energy and heat as an alternative to fossil fuels, helping meet emissions targets.

6.30 Sources of energy and/or heat can include:

- **Heat pumps** absorb heat from the medium around them – open space provides opportunities for the deployment of water and ground-sourced heat pumps in particular. This can be used to heat radiators, underfloor heating systems, or provide hot water in the home.
- **District heating** systems use insulated pipes to take heat, in the form of hot water, from low carbon heat sources, such as heat pumps, to end users - homes, offices, leisure centres, etc. Open space can provide the best opportunity to retrofit district heating pipes into existing areas and provide for relatively easy access at a later date.
- **Biomass** (particularly wood-fuel), can be used to generate heat and power for individual homes or small businesses. However, its use can raise air quality concerns and there are questions over long-term sufficiency of supply and whether it may "compete" with biodiversity where commercially grown. It may be appropriate for small-scale local use but won't be suitable for all locations.
- **Solar energy** - solar photovoltaic panels produce electricity from sunlight and have been installed on a number of buildings in Glasgow. There may be opportunities to utilise underused open space to site photovoltaic panels, increasing the generation of electricity from renewable sources and generating income for the City. **Biosolar** combines solar panels with provision to enhance biodiversity.



- In addition to **water-source heat**, blue space (rivers, burns, lochs etc) has the potential to deliver renewable energy. **Hydro-electric power** (HEP) comes from the process of using water's energy as it flows from higher to lower elevations, rotating hydraulic turbines to create electricity. There is potential for small scale HEP schemes in Glasgow.

### Using Open Space to Deliver Renewable Heat and Energy - Saughton Park, Edinburgh and Gorbals Heat Pump Project

As part of the wider regeneration of Saughton Park, City of Edinburgh Council secured funding to install a ground source heat pump system. Estimates have suggested this could supply heat and hot water to 6 Council buildings within, and adjacent to, the park, via the installation of two small district heating networks. The buildings include nursery and primary schools, a library and a care home.

A micro-hydro system on the Water of Leith, also included as part of the Saughton Park redevelopment, could provide the electricity to operate the heat pumps. In combination, this could provide zero carbon energy for the park, saving CO<sup>2</sup> emissions and money.

The Gorbals Heat Pump Project, at Adelphi Street, has been supported, in principle, by Glasgow City Council and would involve the installation of a heat pump on the south bank of the Clyde. Heat would be recovered from the river and an energy centre would use it to deliver heat to a heating network (that could include nearby housing and the Gorbals Leisure Centre). Based on annual mean temperature, the Clyde presents an opportunity to recover a substantial amount of heat. Future riverside regeneration proposals may stand to benefit from the experience gleaned from this demonstration project.

case study

- 6.31 Use of green and blue space to generate renewable energy and heat can deliver cost savings and income generation for the Council that can, in turn, be used to deliver and manage enhanced open spaces. However, careful consideration will require to be given to where and when it is acceptable to use open space for renewables. Some forms of renewable infrastructure may be relatively easy to deliver with little impact on open space functionality – eg ground source heat provided under re-laid grassland, but others may have visual impacts and impact on the usability of the space.

**Action 27** *We will investigate the potential of the City's open spaces to deliver renewable energy and heat and whether any associated financial savings could be used to help deliver the ambitions of this Strategy.*

- 6.32 As well as providing opportunities for the delivery of renewable energy, the City's open spaces also have potential to mitigate climate change by acting as "carbon sinks", capturing and removing carbon, and its effects, from the atmosphere and storing it. This process is known as carbon sequestration.
- 6.33 There are a number of natural carbon sinks in the City, eg the carbon rich peat/soils in and around north east Glasgow. These are nationally important and are protected as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) by the CDP. However, there will be opportunities to enhance the carbon capture capability of some of the other open spaces in the City, eg though the creation of woodlands, meadows and other habitats, where this wouldn't decrease the effectiveness of soils as a carbon store.
- 6.34 The Scottish Government published [Scotland's Forestry Strategy](#) in May 2019. It provides a 50-year vision for Scotland's forests and woodlands, and a 10-year framework for action, setting out an ambition to increase Scotland's forest cover to 21% of Scotland's

land area (from the current 18.5%) by 2032. In doing so, it recognises the important contribution that individual trees outside of forests and woodlands make to enhancing Scotland’s urban landscapes, and their role in mitigating climate change, promoting biodiversity and facilitating flood water management.

maximum benefit for sequestration and other ambitions of this OSS, particularly biodiversity.

**Action 28** *We will work to significantly increase the number of trees within the City over the next 5 years and to assess the potential of the City’s open spaces and vacant/derelict land for carbon sequestration.*

### Carbon Sequestration – Glasgow’s Trees

case study

We worked with Forest Research and Forestry Commission Scotland in 2013/2014 to assess the ecosystem services provided by Glasgow’s Urban Forest (Council, public sector and private). 15% of the City’s area has tree cover -112 trees per ha, with an estimated replacement value of £4.6 billion. In addition to intercepting rainfall and removing air pollution, the trees:

- Remove c9,000 tonnes of carbon from the atmosphere each year, equivalent to the annual emissions of 6,000 family homes
- Store 193,000 tonnes of carbon (worth c£40m), 177% of the estimated annual CO2 emissions produced by Glasgow’s cars

6.35 The Council’s climate emergency response also recognises the critical role which new and existing trees can play in carbon sequestration. It commits to further work to identify and review existing barriers to tree planting in order to significantly increase the number of trees within the City over the next 5 years. The City’s open spaces and vacant and derelict land will have a critical role to play in delivering such ambitions and the OSS Delivery Plan process should help inform which spaces will be most suitable for this purpose. As part of this work, consideration should be given to where planting (particularly of native trees), natural regeneration or a combination of both should be pursued, with a view to delivering

- 6.36 Establishing woodland or other natural habitats on open space or vacant/derelict land should provide for enhanced biodiversity and public access.
- 6.37 The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 also requires the Council to act to deliver the Scottish Government’s climate change adaptation programme, [Climate Ready Scotland](#). The latest [UK Climate Projections](#) (UKCP) from the Met Office indicate that rainfall from extremely wet days is increasing in Scotland and that sea level around the UK will continue to rise to 2100. Using our open spaces to provide habitat connections, surface water management solutions and to mitigate higher temperatures can help the City adapt to climate change but open spaces may be able to help the City adapt in other ways.
- 6.38 Account requires to be taken of the Scottish Government’s Climate Change Adaptation Programme and the Council’s own Adaptation Strategy, when published, together with the work of [Climate Ready Clyde](#), a partnership of organisations working together to minimise the risks posed by climate change and consider how our economy, society and environment might best adapt, in determining what role our open spaces can play. This will inform the OSS Delivery Plan process.

## 15 Blue Space

6.39 [Scottish Planning Policy](#) promotes the protection and improvement of the coastal and freshwater water environment, including rivers, lochs and groundwater, in a sustainable and co-ordinated way. The Council has a duty under the Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003 (the 2003 Act) to protect and improve Scotland's water environment.

6.40 River basin management planning (RBMP) is intended to protect and improve the water environment in a way that balances costs and benefits to the environment, society and economy. SEPA leads on the delivery of RBMP and the RBMP for the [Scotland river basin district](#) covers Glasgow.

6.41 The RBMP sets out actions to: improve water quality; improve physical condition; improve access for fish migration; improve water flows and levels; and help prevent the spread of invasive non-native species, reflecting the requirements of the European Water Framework Directive (transposed into Scottish Law as the 2003 Act).

6.42 In line with SEPA [guidance](#), opportunities should be taken, in planning and other decisions, to improve and naturalise water bodies, including through:

- de-culverting;
- re-meandering;
- restoring links between watercourses and floodplains;
- removal of redundant structures posing a barrier to fish passage –e.g. dams, weirs;
- maintaining appropriate riparian buffer zones around watercourses;
- creation of habitat diversity in-stream; and

- improvements to bankside vegetation through the planting of native species.

6.43 There are also likely to be opportunities, within the context of these wider duties, to make better use of the City's blue spaces, including by:

- enhancing the setting of the urban area;
- providing for travel and transport;
- enhancing habitat connections and biodiversity;
- contributing to flood risk management;
- facilitating generation of low carbon heat and power; and
- delivering opportunities for water-based recreation.

6.44 All such opportunities should be considered through the OSS Delivery Plan process.

6.45 The Clyde, the City's largest blue space, is coastal and the [Clyde Regional Marine Plan](#), currently in development, will help us better understand some of these issues as they relate to the Clyde corridor.

6.46 The work proposed by this strategy to inform current and future need will help us better understand the potential role of our water bodies to provide these functions. However, a greater understanding of the nature and character of the water bodies themselves will also be required. The Council will require to work with SEPA, SNH, University of Glasgow and other organisations to inform this process.

## Other Considerations

6.47 The production of the OSS Delivery Plan will require to take account of other aspects of need, including whether there is a requirement for land for new or expanded cemeteries and opportunities for dog walking, which can help address social isolation and encourage exercise. It will also require to consider the relationship between identified need and other matters such as health and multiple deprivation. This will help inform the final form of the OSS Delivery Plan as well as priorities for implementation and spend.

## 7 Delivering Future Use

- 7.1 In order to implement the OSS Delivery Plan and make the City more liveable, healthy and resilient, a significant amount of investment will be required. New open spaces will need to be created and existing ones enhanced; better connections will need to be provided between habitats which, themselves, will require to be improved; new flood water management and walking/cycling infrastructure will need to be delivered and the capacity, quality and design of existing routes will need to be upgraded. Doing all of this, and more, will be difficult, particularly in an age of contracting local government finances.
- 7.2 However, it is important to recognise the major economic, social and environmental benefits that investment in open space can provide. Good quality, well-located and well-designed, multifunctional open spaces can provide a huge range of benefits for society, and these can help counteract problems such as poor health and well-being, flooding and diminishing ecosystem services which can be a significant financial cost to central and local government, to our health and to the environment. Investment in open space is an investment in the future of the City and its people.

### Understanding the Value of Open Space

- 7.3 A number of local authorities have looked into the financial benefits that open space can provide, including City of Edinburgh Council. Edinburgh's 2015 Report [The Value of City of Edinburgh Council's Parks](#) valued the outcomes of the provision and maintenance of the City's parks at £114m for an investment of £9.7m - ie, for every £1 invested, around £12 of social, economic and environmental benefits are delivered. A similar study in [Sheffield](#) indicated that, for

every pound spent by Sheffield City Council on parks, an average £34 worth of services are supplied. However, the study also indicated that the benefits of parks often accrue to organisations other than the Council – eg around 60% are associated with a reduction in circulatory diseases such as stroke, heart attack, diabetes, cardiovascular dementia and a reduction in depression.

- 7.4 These benefits can be “hidden” and often not taken fully into account in public sector budgeting, policy-making and implementation. Further work is required to adjust the way the Council and other organisations, such as the NHS, consider open space in their decision making processes. To do so, we will need to work in partnership, with central government and other public sector agencies, with communities and with other businesses and organisations.

**Action 29** We will consider options for more fully recognising and reflecting the value of the range of functions open space provides for the City in our budgetary and decision making processes.

**Action 30** We will work with the Scottish Government and other partners to identify opportunities for innovative approaches to investing in open space delivery and enhancement that will have wider benefits for society and the economy.

### Making Best Use of Resources

- 7.5 It is hoped that a better understanding of the benefits of open space will facilitate increased funding, particularly through partnership with eg the NHS. However, there will still be a need to maximise the resources that the Council has at its disposal and to look at other

means of operating and maintaining our open spaces if we are to provide for current and future need.

- 7.6 Significant capital investment in Glasgow’s open spaces has been made in recent years through utilising external funding from sources such as the European Union, Scottish Government, and various Lottery funding streams. New funding streams, such as City Deal, provide additional opportunities and the Council is also keen to utilise increased funding for active travel, water management and other priorities to deliver associated open space benefits. Every effort will be made to continue to access and utilise these funding streams in future.
- 7.7 Scotland’s Park Endowment Fund (PEF) is one possible option for making best use of the money the Council has to deliver better parks and open spaces. The PEF is a crowdfunding platform for parks, allowing “donations” to the fund to be matched by an endowment grant from the Heritage Lottery, effectively doubling its value. The City Council, along with other councils, are investigating whether it might be possible to invest developer contributions for new or enhanced open space, made through the planning system, in the PEF until such times as it can be used to deliver the open space enhancements needed to support new development. Amongst other things, this work is exploring the legal implications of such an approach. The PEF can also be used for individuals to contribute to the funding of public parks.

**Action 31** *We will continue to work to maximise opportunities for external funding for capital enhancements to the City’s open spaces to address current and future need.*

- 7.8 The OSS Delivery Plan process also provides an opportunity to make best use of the resources the Council does have. It will provide for a

joined-up approach to how we plan for, and deliver, the various functions that open spaces can provide, maximising the potential of individual funding streams for multifunctional outcomes. It will allow us to plan, design and manage our open spaces as a network, and not as separate elements, to deliver maximum benefit for the City. Funding from the EU Horizon 2020 “Connecting Nature” project will allow the Council to pursue such a joined up approach, including by learning from what has worked in other participating cities.

- 7.9 The planning system will continue to play an important role in ensuring new development is supported by the right types of open space in the right locations. Developer contributions will continue to be required to address any shortfalls in access to different types of open space, or in the quality of those open spaces, and compensation will also be required for the loss of open space as a result of new development. Supplementary Guidance will set out how the Council will assess these matters, the appropriate levels of contribution or compensation required and how they should be used to enhance the City’s open spaces. The SG is being drafted to ensure consistency with this OSS.
- 7.10 [Our Dear Green Place](#), the Council’s vision for parks and green spaces sets out, in greater detail, the Council’s approach to delivering enhancements to our parks and open spaces in future.
- 7.11 The Council also recognises that the people of Glasgow can play an instrumental role in managing our open spaces and helping delivering the open space vision. The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 provides an opportunity for communities to control or manage open spaces alongside or instead of the Local Authority. Our Dear Green Place recognises that community participation can happen at various levels, including:

- parks management, for example sharing maintenance and funding responsibilities;
- co-operative working models;
- community asset transfers; and
- requests to participate.

7.12 The Council has a process for assessing asset transfer and participation requests, however, communities often want more transparency and collaboration with the Council but do not always wish to assume entire responsibility for managing open spaces. Co-production of the management service - a reciprocal relationship between the Council and the community - can be a solution and is endorsed by Our Dear Green Place. This approach recognises the skills of communities and that they can be a critical part of any solution, without the onerous responsibilities of financial sustainability, insurance etc.

7.13 Our Dear Green Place commits to supporting groups in participation opportunities and in developing the structures, and accessing the information, they require to actively participate.

### Releasing Funding

7.14 Establishing current and future need through the OSS Delivery Plan process will allow the identification of those open spaces that provide a beneficial function for the City, and an understanding of how they should be used and maintained to deliver those functions in future. However, the analysis will also provide a better understanding of those open spaces that are not especially useful in meeting current or future need or that could be used differently to address other priorities and reduce the maintenance burden.

### Retained or New Open Spaces

7.15 The OSS Delivery Plan will help inform how the City's open spaces should be used in future. It is anticipated that many existing open spaces will continue to be used and managed for their existing purpose – this is likely to have minimal implications for maintenance unless they are to be enhanced to serve as a Community Space, for example. Where this is the case, where a new open space is proposed or, indeed, where any investment in an open space is being made, opportunities should be taken to ensure that enhancement minimises the maintenance requirement in future years through careful selection of materials, planting etc.

7.16 The other potential outcomes offer opportunities to release funding for capital works and/or for maintenance:

### Re-defined Open Spaces

7.17 There is likely to be scope to use some open spaces for a different open space purpose in future. The provision of Community Spaces is intended to ensure that there is local access to a good quality open space within an easy walk of the home. This should mean that some of the functions that Community Spaces will deliver locally will no longer need to be provided on other open spaces. For example, many residential amenity spaces provide mown grassland and sometimes little else. The provision of Community Spaces will provide the flat mown grassland suitable for informal sport and recreation locally meaning it may no longer be necessary to maintain residential amenity space by mowing it regularly throughout the growing season. Establishing wildflower meadows, woodland or other forms of nature-friendly vegetation can cut maintenance costs and provide benefits for biodiversity, flood management, carbon

sequestration and air quality. Other open spaces, such as transport amenity space, are likely to provide similar opportunities.

- 7.18 Opportunities also exist to derive more income from the use of open spaces. This OSS highlights the opportunities that may exist to utilise open space for the generation of renewable heat and energy, helping the City meet carbon reduction targets and generating savings and/or income for the Council, and Our Dear Green Place identifies other potential income sources. These possibilities should be pursued wherever possible, especially where they have no adverse impact on the ability of the space to meet identified need.
- 7.19 Other opportunities exist to make better use of some of the redundant buildings in our parks and open spaces where this would complement the main function of the open space and help attract additional users.
- 7.20 Our Dear Green Place supports the use of parks and greenspaces for events and activities, supporting local groups in delivering community events and engaging with communities in the delivery of large scale events.

#### Redundant Open Spaces

- 7.21 The amount of public open space in some areas of the City exceeds the Quantity Standard. In these areas, there may be open spaces that are not needed to meet current or future demand for one or more of the 15 aspects of open space need. Should this be the case, these “redundant” open spaces may be repurposed, providing scope to save on maintenance costs and, where the space is owned by the Council, to generate income from its sale. Caution should, however, be exercised before sites are identified as surplus and their open space potential lost.

- 7.22 Given the other demands on the Council’s budgets, it will not be possible to re-invest all of the money from the sale of redundant open spaces into delivering this Open Space Strategy. However, given the many benefits that good quality, well located open space can provide for the inhabitants of the City, and the longer term savings such investment can help deliver, it would be beneficial to secure a proportion of sales for this purpose where possible.
- 7.23 There may also be opportunities to “swap” redundant spaces for other areas of land that are better located to help deliver this Strategy. For example, a stalled housing site, owned by a developer, may be located in an area where the accessibility standard is not met. The Council may own a redundant open space in a location that is more attractive for the developer to build houses on. Providing for a “swap” of the sites may be in the interests of both parties, and provide the potential for a new Community Space as well as an effective housing site.
- 7.24 In addition, there may be a limited number of instances where the release of a small part of an existing open space may help that space meet the quality standard. For example, where a space is of the right size and configuration to be used as a Community Space, but is not overlooked, allowing housing development on a small section of it could provide the enhanced surveillance required and allow it to meet the quality standard.

**Action 32** *We will use the OSS Delivery Plan process to help identify open spaces can be used for a different open space purpose or for a non-open space purpose and investigate whether doing so might free up some resources to help deliver this Open Space Strategy.*



## Annex 1: Quality Assessment Matrix

	Score 5 - Excellent	Score 4 - Very Good	Score 3 - Good	Score 2 - Fair	Score 1 - Poor	Minimum Required Score
<p><b>A) Size</b> – as specified in the accessibility standard, sites should be of 0.3 ha or more to provide enough space for a variety of uses.</p>	<p>Site is 0.3 ha or more in size</p>	<p>Spaces intended to address deficiencies in publicly usable open space provision should generally be a <i>minimum</i> of 0.3 ha, big enough to be multifunctional and accommodate the rest of the quality standard considerations. Note that there may be instances where it is not possible to deliver a space of 0.3 ha in the required location – Supplementary Guidance indicates what should happen in such instances.</p>				<p>see note a)</p>
<p><b>B) Configuration</b> – the open space should be of a shape that encourages use by all members of the community. Long, thin, irregularly shaped or steeply sloping spaces may be less able to accommodate a variety of uses. Exceptions might include where the space would play a key role in, eg water management, that would necessitate a certain configuration.</p>	<p>The space is of a topography, size, shape and configuration that can easily accommodate the intended range of functions (<b>Gi-Giv</b>) on it, and is designed and located to maximise its benefit to the wider place. No part of the space is rendered less functionally useful as a result of the shape of the space.</p>	<p>The space is of a topography, size, shape and configuration that can accommodate the intended range of functions (<b>Gi-Giv</b>) on it, and is designed and located to provide benefits to the wider place. Little of the space is rendered less functionally useful as a result of its shape.</p>	<p>The space is of a topography, shape and configuration that can accommodate some of the intended range of functions (<b>Gi-Giv</b>), and is designed and located with a view to providing no dis-benefit to the wider place. Much of the space is rendered less functionally useful as a result of its shape.</p>	<p>The space is of a topography, shape and configuration that can only accommodate some of the intended range of functions (<b>Gi-Giv</b>) with difficulty and in a form that would impact on their functionality. It has been designed and located with little thought given to the wider place. Large parts of the space are rendered less functionally useful as a result of its shape.</p>	<p>The space is of a topography, shape and configuration that cannot accommodate the intended range of functions (<b>Gi-Giv</b>) in a functionally useful way. It has been designed and located with no thought given to the needs of the wider place and is likely to have detrimental effects on it.</p>	<p>4/5</p>

	Score 5 - Excellent	Score 4 - Very Good	Score 3 - Good	Score 2 - Fair	Score 1 - Poor	Minimum Required Score
<p><b>C) Surveillance</b> – wherever possible, the areas of the space that people are likely to use most often (“key areas” – especially areas for quieter relaxation) should be visible from surrounding buildings, encouraging responsible use - secluded corners should be used for appropriate purposes, such as biodiversity.</p>	<p><b>For smaller spaces</b> (less than 1ha), effectively all parts of the space (90-100%) would be overlooked by buildings likely to be occupied during daylight hours. <b>For larger spaces</b>, key areas would be overlooked by buildings likely to be occupied during daylight hours.</p>	<p><b>For smaller spaces</b>, most parts of the space (65-89%), including key areas, would be overlooked by buildings likely to be occupied during daylight hours. <b>For larger spaces</b>, most of the key areas would be overlooked by buildings likely to be occupied during daylight hours.</p>	<p><b>For smaller spaces</b>, about half the space (35-64%), including key areas, would be overlooked by buildings likely to be occupied during daylight hours. <b>For larger spaces</b>, many of the key areas would be overlooked by buildings likely to be occupied during daylight hours.</p>	<p><b>For smaller spaces</b>, key areas would be overlooked by buildings occupied during daylight hours. <b>For larger spaces</b>, some of the key areas would be overlooked by buildings likely to be occupied during daylight hours.</p>	<p><b>For smaller spaces</b>, none or very few of the key areas of the space would be overlooked by buildings likely to be occupied during daylight hours. <b>For larger spaces</b>, very few of the key areas would be overlooked by buildings likely to be occupied during daylight hours.</p>	2/5

	Score 5 - Excellent	Score 4 - Very Good	Score 3 - Good	Score 2 - Fair	Score 1 - Poor	Minimum Required Score
<p><b>D) Accessibility</b> – the space should be easily accessible from the wider area, should utilise DDA compliant paths and access points and should, where appropriate, incorporate any longer distance routes. Access for maintenance purposes should be easy and direct. Key entrances should benefit from lighting on surrounding roads/paths.</p>	<p>The space is readily accessible from the wider area/all surrounding streets and entrances are DDA compliant. Movement within and through the space is facilitated by a network of well-surfaced, DDA compliant paths along desire lines and to surrounding routes. No barriers (e.g. high kerbs) should restrict movement between the path and important areas of the site (eg for relaxation or children's play). Key entrances benefit from lighting on surrounding roads/paths.</p>	<p>The space is directly accessible from most of the wider area/surrounding streets and most entrances are DDA compliant. Movement to key areas of the space is facilitated by a network of DDA compliant paths. Any barriers (e.g. high kerbs) between the path and important areas of the site (eg for relaxation or children's play) should be limited and negotiable. Key entrances benefit from lighting on surrounding roads/paths.</p>	<p>The space is designed to be accessible from parts of the wider area/some of the surrounding streets and key entrances are DDA compliant. Movement to key areas of the space is facilitated by DDA compliant paths. Any barriers (e.g. high kerbs) between the path and important areas of the site (eg for relaxation or children's play) should be negotiable. Key entrances benefit from lighting on surrounding roads/paths.</p>	<p>Access to the space is limited and may be from only one entrance. Only some of the paths, routes and accesses would be DDA compliant. Opportunities haven't been taken to link to the wider route network in the surrounding area. Entrances are poorly lit. Barriers (e.g. high kerbs) between the path and important areas of the site (eg for relaxation or children's play) may exist and would prove difficult to negotiate for users with limited mobility</p>	<p>Access to the space is limited and may be from only one entrance or be informal in nature. Paths and accesses have not been designed to be DDA compliant. Entrances are poorly lit and barriers between the path and important parts of the site exist that could not be negotiated by many users.</p>	<p>3/5</p>

	Score 5 - Excellent	Score 4 - Very Good	Score 3 - Good	Score 2 - Fair	Score 1 - Poor	Minimum Required Score
<b>E) Aspect</b> – much of the space should, where possible, benefit from direct sunlight (planting should provide some shade from the sun).	All of the usable/flat parts of the space (including key areas likely to be used for informal sports/ recreation and relaxation) are likely to benefit from direct sunlight for much of the day.	Most of the usable/flat parts of the space, (including areas likely to be used for informal sports/ recreation and relaxation) are likely to benefit from direct sunlight for much of the day <b>or</b> all of the usable/flat parts of the space (including areas likely to be used for informal sports/ recreation and relaxation) are likely to benefit from direct sunlight for some of the day.	Some of the usable/flat parts of the space (including areas likely to be used for informal sports/ recreation and relaxation) are likely to benefit from direct sunlight for much of the day <b>or</b> most of the usable/flat parts of the space (including areas likely to be used for informal sports/ recreation and relaxation) are likely to benefit from direct sunlight for some of the day.	Some of the usable/flat parts of the space (including areas likely to be used for informal sports/ recreation and relaxation) are likely to benefit from direct sunlight for some of the day.	The usable/flat parts of the space (including areas likely to be used for informal sports/ recreation and relaxation) are unlikely to benefit from direct sunlight for some of the day.	3/5
<b>F) Place Quality</b> – the location of the space, its planting and landscaping should create a sense of wellbeing for users of the space, in addition to complementing surrounding uses and contributing to their amenity.	The location, planting and landscaping of the space contributes significantly to the amenity of the surrounding area, particularly homes, and is likely to provide a sense of wellbeing for users of the space.	The location, planting and landscaping of the space contributes positively to the amenity of the surrounding area, particularly homes, and is likely to provide a sense of wellbeing for users of the space.	The location, planting and landscaping of the space provides some amenity for surrounding areas and contributes to the attractiveness of the space.	The location, planting and landscaping of the space provides little visual amenity for surrounding areas and does little to contribute to the attractiveness of the space.	The location, planting and landscaping of the space is likely to prove detrimental to the visual amenity of surrounding areas and may create a sense of discomfort for users of the space.	3/5

	Score 5 - Excellent	Score 4 - Very Good	Score 3 - Good	Score 2 - Fair	Score 1 - Poor	Minimum Required Score
<b>G) Use</b> – the space should provide for a range of active and non-active uses, including:						
<b>Gi) Informal sport/recreation</b> – a good proportion of the space should be flat or gently sloping and would be well-drained to provide for use on dry days.	<p><b>For smaller spaces</b> (less than 1 ha), most of the space could facilitate informal sport/recreation, particularly flat (or gently sloping) ground that is grassed or similar. All of this area is well drained, containing no soft or boggy ground during normal weather conditions (unless designed to flood during exceptional flood events).</p> <p><b>For larger spaces</b>, a significant proportion of the space is flat (or gently sloping), grassed or similar and can accommodate informal sport. Each of these areas is roughly equivalent in size to a 5-a-side football pitch, or larger.</p>	<p><b>For smaller spaces</b>, much of the space could facilitate informal sport/recreation, particularly flat (or gently sloping) ground that is grassed or similar. Most of this area has been designed to be well drained, containing no soft or boggy ground during normal weather conditions (unless designed to flood during exceptional flood events).</p> <p><b>For larger spaces</b>, some areas of the space are flat (or gently sloping), grassed or similar and can accommodate informal sport. At least one of these areas is roughly equivalent in size to a 5-a-side football pitch, or larger.</p>	<p><b>For smaller spaces</b>, a good proportion of the space would facilitate informal sport/recreation, particularly flat (or gently sloping) ground that is grassed or similar. Most of this area has been designed to be well drained, containing no soft or boggy ground during normal weather conditions (unless designed to flood during exceptional flood events).</p> <p><b>For larger spaces</b>, an area of the space is flat (or gently sloping), grassed or similar and can accommodate informal sport. It is roughly equivalent in size to a Multi-Use Games Area.</p>	<p><b>For smaller spaces</b>, little of the space would facilitate informal sport/recreation, particularly flat (or gently sloping) ground that is grassed or similar. Drainage may be an issue, even during dry periods.</p> <p><b>For larger spaces</b>, little of the space is flat or gently sloping, grassed or similar - any such space is smaller in size than a MUGA.</p>	<p><b>For smaller spaces</b>, very little of the space would facilitate informal sport/recreation, particularly flat (or gently sloping) ground that is grassed or similar. It is unlikely to be well drained, even during dry periods.</p> <p><b>For larger spaces</b>, very little of the space is flat or gently sloping, grassed or similar any such space is considerably smaller in size than a MUGA.</p>	<b>3/5</b>

	Score 5 - Excellent	Score 4 - Very Good	Score 3 - Good	Score 2 - Fair	Score 1 - Poor	Minimum Required Score
<i>Gii) Children's play – the space should provide for children's play, particularly natural and imaginative play - see note b).</i>	<p><b>Looking at the space as a whole</b>, there are a wide variety of natural play opportunities provided by the space's landscaping (including hard landscaping and water features), planting and vegetation, layout and topography. Fixed play equipment is available and is of good quality and in good order. Planting and landscaping has been designed to encourage and facilitate play. Together with the space provided for biodiversity and informal sport/ recreation, these different environments provide for imaginative and exploratory play for children of all ages and abilities as an integral part of the wider space.</p>	<p><b>Looking at the space as a whole</b>, there are good opportunities for natural play provided by the space's landscaping, planting, layout and topography. Some limited fixed, good quality play equipment is available. Together with the space provided for biodiversity and informal sport/ recreation, these different environments provide for imaginative and exploratory play for children of all ages and abilities as an integral part of the wider space.</p>	<p><b>Looking at the space as a whole</b>, there are adequate opportunities for natural play provided by the space's landscaping, planting, layout or topography. Together with the space provided for biodiversity and informal sport/ recreation, the space would provide opportunities for natural play for children of all ages and abilities as part of the wider space. Fixed play space may be available.</p>	<p><b>Looking at the space as a whole</b>, opportunities for natural play provided by the space's landscaping, planting, layout or topography are limited and are poorly integrated into the wider space. Any fixed play equipment is limited and of poor quality.</p>	<p><b>Looking at the space as a whole</b>, there are no opportunities for fixed play or for natural play provided by the space's landscaping, planting, layout or topography.</p>	3/5

	Score 5 - Excellent	Score 4 - Very Good	Score 3 - Good	Score 2 - Fair	Score 1 - Poor	Minimum Required Score
<p><i>Giii) Relaxation –</i> quieter areas, away from the parts of the space where informal sport/recreation and children’s play are likely to take place, should be provided for relaxation and meeting people. Seating and bins should be provided in suitable locations, including to allow surveillance of areas likely to be used by younger children</p>	<p>The space includes areas that can cater for "quieter" uses, including relaxation, meeting, picnicking etc. Such areas are designed to discourage informal sport through the provision of sensitively located trees and shrubs that help provide shade and some shelter from the prevailing wind. They are not immediately adjacent to areas likely to be used for informal sport. Good quality and robust seating, bins and picnic benches of an appropriate quality are provided and located to provide supervision of many areas in which children are likely to play. Permanent structures to provide shelter from the elements are provided, helping facilitate meeting/ outdoor education.</p>	<p>The space includes areas that can cater for "quieter" uses, including relaxation, meeting, picnicking etc. Design and location discourages informal sport. Trees and shrubs provide some shade and shelter. Seating and bins are provided and located to provide supervision of some areas in which children are likely to play. There is space for temporary structures to provide shelter from the elements, helping facilitate meeting/ outdoor education.</p>	<p>The space includes areas that can cater for "quieter" uses, including relaxation, meeting, picnicking etc and that are afforded some shade. Seating and bins are provided and located to provide supervision of some areas in which children are likely to play. There is space for temporary structures to provide shelter from the elements, helping facilitate meeting/ outdoor education.</p>	<p>The design of the open space has given little thought to the need to cater for "quieter" uses, including relaxation, meeting, picnicking etc. Seating and bins may be provided, but are not well located.</p>	<p>There are no obvious areas of the open space that might cater for "quieter" uses, including relaxation, meeting, picnicking etc. Seating and bins may be provided, but are not well located.</p>	<p>3/5</p>

	Score 5 - Excellent	Score 4 - Very Good	Score 3 - Good	Score 2 - Fair	Score 1 - Poor	Minimum Required Score
<b>Giv) Biodiversity</b> – spaces should provide for a variety of connected habitats and a variety of different plant and animal species.	The space provides areas for nature which are well-connected both within the site and to adjacent habitats or corridors. These areas provide a number of different habitats (eg woodland, grassy areas of varying length (including some over 30cm), wetland etc). These habitats provide a wide variety of plants (including flowering plants) of different types and heights that would support wildlife by providing food and shelter. A high proportion of vegetation is native.	The space provides areas for nature which are connected both within the site and to adjacent habitats or corridors. These areas provide habitats that provide a variety of plants (including flowering plants) of different types and heights that would support wildlife by providing food and shelter. Much of the vegetation is native.	The space enhances the biodiversity of the area through provision of habitat that is physically connected or located to facilitate functional connection, with surrounding open spaces/habitats. A variety of vegetation exists of varying heights. Some of the vegetation is native.	The space would only provide for biodiversity to a limited degree. Connections to surrounding habitats are poor and disjointed and there is little variation in vegetation mix or height.	The space provides little biodiversity interest.	3/5
<b>Gv) Maintenance and Condition</b> – over and above routine maintenance (grass cutting, litter clearing etc) the infrastructure required to meet key criteria should be well-maintained and in a usable condition.	All of the infrastructure that contributes to provision for: <b>informal sport/recreation</b> (flat, well-drained grassland or similar artificial surface and any enclosure); <b>children’s play</b> (fixed play equipment); <b>relaxation</b> (seats, bins, picnic benches) and <b>accessibility</b> (paths and entrances) is of good quality and condition.	Much of the infrastructure that contributes to provision for: informal sport/recreation; children’s play; relaxation; and accessibility is of good quality and condition and the remainder is of reasonable quality.	Some of the infrastructure that contributes to provision for: informal sport/recreation; children’s play; relaxation; and accessibility is of good quality and the remainder is of reasonable quality.	Some of the infrastructure that contributes to provision for: informal sport/recreation; children’s play; relaxation; and accessibility is below reasonable quality.	All or most of the infrastructure that contributes to provision for: informal sport/recreation; children’s play; relaxation; and accessibility is below reasonable quality.	3/5



Criteria Gvi) and Gvii) should only be assessed where it has been identified that the space has potential to address surface water management issues in the wider area (criterion Gvi)) and/or where the space has been identified as having the potential to help address a deficiency in the provision of space for food growing in the wider area, identified through the Food Growing Strategy (criterion Gvii)).

	Score 5 - Excellent	Score 4 - Very Good	Score 3 - Good	Score 2 - Fair	Score 1 - Poor	Minimum Required Score
<b>Gvi) Water Management</b> – spaces should, where appropriate, help meet the requirement for natural flood water management.	Where landform is suitable, all opportunities have been taken to minimise/reduce flood risk and slow storm water run-off from the space and from the wider area. Where appropriate, water courses have been naturalised. Areas designed to help address water management requirements are safe, attractive and provide for enhanced amenity and biodiversity.	Where landform is suitable, some opportunities have been taken to minimise/reduce flood risk and slow storm water run-off from the space and from the wider area. Where appropriate, water courses have been partly naturalised. Areas designed to help address water management requirements are safe, attractive and provide for enhanced amenity and biodiversity.	Where landform is suitable, the space has been designed to contribute to minimising and/or reducing flood risk, with areas designed for this purpose being safe and helping provide some amenity and biodiversity value.	Where landform is suitable, few opportunities have been taken to help minimise and reduce flood risk or slow storm water run-off.	Where landform is suitable, no opportunities have been taken to help minimise and reduce flood risk or slow storm water run-off.	<b>3/5</b>

	Score 5 - Excellent	Score 4 - Very Good	Score 3 - Good	Score 2 - Fair	Score 1 - Poor	Minimum Required Score
<p><b>Gvii) Community growing/ allotment space</b> – where appropriate and where a local demand has been established that cannot be easily met elsewhere in the area, spaces should provide for space for allotments/community growing - see note e). this is likely to require a publicly usable open space greater than 0.3 ha in size</p>	<p>The space would provide allotments/ community growing spaces that have been well located to benefit from direct sunlight and passive surveillance during much of the day. Where space allows, they would play a significant role in meeting demand in the immediate locality. Plots (including growing mediums) and ancillary facilities (as required) have been provided to a good standard and make use of rainwater harvesting. Allotments/community growing spaces would be secure but provide for visual and social interaction with the remaining space.</p>	<p>The space would provide allotments/ community growing spaces that have been located to benefit from direct sunlight and passive surveillance during some of the day. Where space allows, they would help meet demand in the immediate locality. Plots (including growing mediums) and ancillary facilities (as required) have been provided and make use of rainwater harvesting. Allotments/ community growing spaces would be secure and provide for some visual and social interaction with the remaining space.</p>	<p>The space would provide allotments/ community growing spaces that have been located to benefit from enough direct sunlight to render them usable and some passive surveillance. Where space allows, they would help meet demand in the immediate locality. Plots (including growing mediums) and/or ancillary facilities (as required) have been provided to some degree and provide potential for rainwater harvesting. Allotments/ community growing spaces are secure.</p>	<p>The space would provide little in the way of space for allotments/ community growing spaces. Any allocated space would not be located to benefit from direct sunlight or passive surveillance. Plots (including growing mediums) and ancillary facilities (as required) would not be provided or would be provided to a poor standard, and would not be secure. No use would be made of rainwater harvesting.</p>	<p>The space would provide no space for allotments/community growing spaces.</p>	<p>3/5</p>

**Notes:**

- a) to meet the quality standard, open spaces are expected to be a minimum 0.3 ha in size.
- b) the Scottish Government document "[Out to Play](#)" provides some useful advice on the creation of natural play space.

## Action Programme

Introduction				
No	Action	Lead/Partners	Timescale	Funding
1	We will identify key indicators against which implementation of this strategy can be assessed and will report on progress against them on a biennial basis.	GCC Development & Regeneration Services (DRS) /GCC Neighbourhoods & Sustainability Services (NS)/GCC Education Services/Glasgow Life/ Horizon 2020 (H2020)	2019-2020	GCC

A Vision for Glasgow's Open Space				
No	Action	Lead/Partners	Timescale	Funding
2	We will engage with local communities in preparing the OSS Delivery Plan to ensure the City's open spaces provide for their needs.	DRS/NS/General Public/ H2020	2020-2022	GCC/H2020

A Liveable Glasgow				
No	Action	Lead/Partners	Timescale	Funding
3	We will work to identify, improve and create Community Spaces that can provide for local access to good quality open space for communities throughout the City.	DRS/NS/General Public	Ongoing	GCC/Development Industry /Other funding sources
4	We will assess the quality of Community Spaces on an on-going basis.	DRS/NS/General Public	Ongoing	GCC
5	We will identify, and prioritise, opportunities for enhancing the quality of links to Community Spaces.	DRS/NS/ General Public	2020-2022	GCC/H2020
6	We will pursue opportunities to enhance public access to larger open spaces in Penilee, Yoker, Lambhill/Milton, Robroyston, Lochend and Broomhouse.	DRS/NS/Other partners	Ongoing	GCC/Development Industry/Other funding sources
7	We will work to deliver new publicly usable open spaces in areas of the City where the Quantity Standard is not met.	DRS/NS/Development Industry	Ongoing	GCC/Development Industry/Other funding sources

No	Action	Lead/Partners	Timescale	Funding
8	We will undertake a review of existing landscape designation boundaries and justifications as an input to the OSS Delivery Plan process.	DRS/NS/SNH	2020-2022	GCC/H2020
9	We will engage with the public and key organisations to gather and understand their views on open space in their area to inform the production of an OSS Delivery Plan.	DRS/NS/SEPA/MGSDP/SNH/H2020/Other partners	2020-2022	GCC/H2020
10	We will consider the need for new grey/green civic spaces to serve major development schemes and regeneration projects.	DRS/NS	Ongoing	GCC/Development Industry

#### A Healthy Glasgow

No	Action	Lead/Partners	Timescale	Funding
11	We will work with children, young people and others in local communities when considering the future distribution of formal play spaces across the City.	DRS/NS/Communities	2020-2022	GCC/H2020
12	We will work to assess the quality of publicly usable open spaces to help determine their suitability for informal play and to identify opportunities for improvement.	DRS/NS/GCVGNP	Ongoing	GCC/GCVGNP/H2020
13	We will work with pupils and staff to investigate the potential for re-imagining school grounds to provide benefits for biodiversity, outdoor learning, relaxation, stimulating play and, where appropriate, flood risk/surface water management.	GCC Education/NS	Ongoing	GCC/Other partners (MGSDP etc)

### A Healthy Glasgow

No	Action	Lead/Partners	Timescale	Funding
14	We will work to deliver the additional nursery capacity needed to meet 1140 hours in a way that ensures outdoor learning becomes a key component of every child's early learning experience.	DRS/GCC Education	Ongoing	GCC/Scottish Government
15	We will undertake an Outdoor Sports Study for the City with Glasgow Life and Sportscotland.	DRS/Glasgow Life/Sportscotland	2019-2020	GCC/Glasgow Life/Sportscotland
16	We will produce and consult on a Food Growing Strategy for the City and will identify land that could be used for allotment sites or community growing.	NS	2019-2020	GCC/Development Industry
17	We will continue to support communities wishing to make temporary use of stalled spaces.	DRS/Communities/Landowners	Ongoing	GCC
18	We will support the growth of the local food economy and will work with local growers to do so.	NS/DRS	Ongoing	Local Food Growers/GCC
19	We will continue to work with the GCVGNP to identify options for better off-road walking and cycling links between key City destinations.	DRS/GCVGNP/NS	2019-2020	GCC/GCVGNP/H2020
20	We will investigate how we can use open spaces to help improve air and water quality and to mitigate traffic noise and the urban heat island effect.	DRS/NS/SEPA/Other Partners	2020-2022	GCC/H2020

### A Resilient Glasgow

No	Action	Lead/Partners	Timescale	Funding
21	We will ensure that investment made through the MGSDP delivers associated green network benefits that support the aims of this Strategy.	DRS/MGSDP/H2020	Ongoing	GCC/MGSDP/H2020

## A Resilient Glasgow

No	Action	Lead/Partners	Timescale	Funding
22	We will ensure that the OSS Delivery Plan process reflects the full scope of the Council's ambitions for the River Clyde corridor, aligning with the aspirations of the River Clyde Corridor SDF and helping deliver benefits for people and nature.	DRS/H2020	2020-2022	GCC/H2020
23	We will investigate options for new Local Nature Reserves with a view to providing 1 ha of LNR per 1000 population.	NS/DRS	Ongoing	GCC
24	We will review how we manage our roadside verges and other open spaces to provide additional habitat for pollinators.	NS	2020-2021	GCC/H2020
25	We will consider how open space in Council ownership can be maintained to enhance the extent and diversity of existing habitats and help deliver the actions set out in the LBAP habitat action plans.	NS	Ongoing	GCC
26	We will work with the GCVGNP to identify options for enhancing the quality and connectivity of the City's habitats.	DRS/NS/GCVGNP/SNH/Other Partners	2019-2020	GCC/H2020
27	We will investigate the potential of the City's open spaces to deliver renewable energy and heat and whether any associated financial savings could be used to help deliver the ambitions of this Strategy.	DRS/NS/H2020	2019-2022	GCC
28	We will work to significantly increase the number of trees within the City over the next 5 years and to assess the potential of the City's open spaces and vacant/derelict land for carbon sequestration.	NS/DRS/SNH/Other Partners	2020-2024	GCC/Development Industry/Other Sources

Delivering Future Use				
No	Action	Lead/Partners	Timescale	Funding
29	We will consider options for more fully recognising and reflecting the value of the range of functions open space provides for the City in our budgetary and decision making processes.	GCC Chief Executive's Department/City Property/All Council Services/H2020	Ongoing	GCC
30	We will work with the Scottish Government and other partners to identify opportunities for innovative approaches to investing in open space delivery and enhancement that will have wider benefits for society and the economy.	GCC/NHS Scotland/Scottish Government/Other Partners/H2020	Ongoing	GCC/NHS/Scottish Government/Others/H2020
31	We will continue to work to maximise opportunities for external funding for capital enhancements to the City's open spaces to address current and future need.	DRS/NS/H2020	Ongoing	GCC
32	We will use the OSS Delivery Plan process to help identify open spaces can be used for a different open space purpose or for a non-open space purpose and investigate whether doing so might free up some resources to help deliver this Open Space Strategy.	DRS/NS/H2020/Local Communities	2019-2022	GCC/H2020

## Glossary

**Accessibility Standard:** a standard to be used by the Council to deliver access to open space of an appropriate size within a 400m walk of people's homes.

**Active Travel:** travel by physically active, human-powered modes, most commonly walking and cycling, as opposed to motorised ones, and largely for functional reasons as opposed to recreational ones.

**Allotments:** land owned or leased by a local authority for the cultivation of vegetables, fruit, herbs or flowers, on a non-profit basis.

**Biodiversity:** the variety of living things on Earth, from the smallest insect to the largest mammal and tree.

**City Development Plan (or Local Development Plan):** the Council's land use plan - sets out a 10 year planning framework for Glasgow and policies to guide new development.

**Community Gardens:** locally managed areas of land, used for cultivation, and developed in response to the needs of the communities in which they are based.

**Community Spaces:** spaces that the Council identify to provide for access to good quality open space in peoples' immediate environment (meeting the Accessibility Standard) and that meet a multitude of open space needs (meeting the Quality Standard).

**Demand-led open space:** those types of open space for which a quantifiable demand can be established (eg allotments, sports pitches) and which may have restrictions on access and use.

**Geodiversity:** the variety of rocks, landforms, sediments, soils and the natural processes which form and alter them.

**Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership:** a partnership of organisations working to deliver an enhanced environment in the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Area through the delivery of a strategic Green Network.

**Green Infrastructure:** Includes the 'green' and 'blue' (water environment) features of the natural and built environments that can provide benefits without being connected:

*Green features* include parks, woodlands, trees, play spaces, allotments, community growing spaces, outdoor sports facilities, churchyards and cemeteries, swales, hedges, verges and gardens.

*Blue features* include rivers, lochs, wetlands, canals, other water courses, ponds, coastal and marine areas including beaches, porous paving and sustainable drainage systems (see also SuDS). (Source: SPP 2014)

**Green/Grey Infrastructure:** what is created when hard, grey infrastructure assets (eg transportation infrastructure, boundary walls) are greened to improve their multi-functionality and ecological value.

**Green Network:** connected areas of green infrastructure and open space that together form an integrated and multi-functional network. (Source: SPP 2014)

**Local Context Analysis (LCA):** an initial analysis of the amount, distribution and quality of the open space resource in an area, identifying key open space issues for further analysis through the OSS Delivery Plan process and used to facilitate engagement on the draft OSS.



**Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Partnership (MGSDP):** a non-statutory, collaborative partnership between public bodies involved in managing surface water, water quality, flood risk, investment planning and economic development in a regulatory, service provision, asset management and / or infrastructure provision capacity.

**Nature Based Solutions:** actions inspired by, supported by or copied from nature that aim to help societies address a variety of environmental, social and economic challenges in sustainable ways.

**Open Space:** space within and on the edge of settlements comprising green space (eg parks, playing fields), grey space (eg civic space, urban realm) and blue space (eg burns, lochs).

**Open Space Map:** a map illustrating the extent, type and spatial distribution of the Glasgow's protected open spaces.

**Open Space Strategy:** a means of co-ordinating the policies of the different Council departments with responsibilities for open space, and of focusing liaison and partnership working with relevant public, private and community interests. *(Source: PAN 65 2008)*

**Ordnance Survey:** UK Government owned mapping agency which surveys, and produces maps for, the UK.

**OSS Delivery Plan:** a long-term plan for how the City's open spaces should be used, managed and maintained to address all aspects of open space need in a co-ordinated manner.

**OSS Delivery Plan Process:** the process of gathering and co-ordinating data on the ways in which open spaces could help meet all aspects of current and future need to produce a fully informed OSS Delivery Plan. Will be informed by engagement with local communities throughout the City.

**Outdoor Sports Provision:** Open spaces that are provided to support sports that involve active play outdoors and that are conducted in a competitive manner. Examples include athletics, bowls, golf, pitch sports, tennis.

**PAN 65:** a Scottish Government Planning Advice Note setting out advice on good practice in relation to planning and open space.

**Placemaking:** the process of delivering better environments for people and nature through inclusive design, engagement and management.

**Publicly usable open space:** those categories of protected open space which are not *demand-led spaces* and which, in general terms are accessible to the public with relatively few restrictions eg public parks or amenity spaces.

**Quality Standard:** a standard to be used by the Council to ensure that spaces used to meet the Accessibility Standard are of good quality and provide for a variety of open space needs.

**Quantity Standard:** a standard to be used by the Council to ensure a sufficient quantity of publicly usable open space within each City ward.

**Scottish Planning Policy (SPP):** a document setting out Scottish Government Policy on nationally important land use planning matters.

**SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems):** drainage systems that mimic natural drainage by managing potential flooding during heavy storms and protect watercourses and rivers by using natural treatment processes including swales, porous paving, raingardens etc.

**Supplementary Guidance (SG):** a document prepared to support the City Development Plan, setting out further detailed guidance on the matters contained in the CDP.