Cabinet – 25 April 2018

Green Space Strategy 2018- 2022

Portfolio: Councillor Chris Jones

Related portfolios:

Service: Clean and Green – Parks and Green Spaces

Wards: All

Key decision: Yes

Forward plan: Yes

1.   Summary

1.1   This report seeks Cabinet approval for the adoption and implementation of Walsall's third Green Space Strategy, which updates and replaces the previous one. The new document includes a revised five-year action plan, which establishes the basis of Green Space development and management during that period.

1.2   In September 2012, Cabinet approved Walsall's second Green Space Strategy. This five-year strategy was a milestone in the management and development of the service. It led directly to the successful achievement of many service delivery improvements and initiatives, and gained much widespread recognition.

1.3   Independent analysis and community consultation have seen increases in the quality and value of Walsall parks and green spaces, improved customer satisfaction, the achievement of ongoing external investment (such as the nearly completed restoration of Walsall Arboretum) and the achievement and retention of five Green Flag Awards in Blackwood Park, Palfrey Park, Willenhall Memorial Park, Merrion's Wood and Rough Wood and Bentley Haye.

1.4   The positive contribution parks and green spaces make towards people's overall physical and mental wellbeing and the quality of their environment is well evidenced nationally along with the economic benefits they attract. This link is referenced in the Black Country Core Strategy.

1.5   The importance of providing a strategic framework in the management of this valued asset and in the delivery of the Parks and Green Space service has been well recognised. It provides a framework for establishing the quality and level of green space provision and a mechanism for improved service delivery and community participation. Most importantly, it identifies priorities, sets the vision and enables the focusing of limited resources where it really matters during the five-year life time of the plan.

1.6 The new strategy provides additional value compared to the previous one. It not only updates the data on green space changes over the last six years, but accounts also for policy changes, the new Playing Pitch Strategy and Health and Wellbeing Strategy. It reflects wider consultation than the previous strategy and it also revises the hierarchy of green spaces, based on their strategic values and management needs.

1.7 In the development of the new strategy, extensive consultation was undertaken with a wide range of stakeholders and organisations both within the Council and externally, including the various Friends and User Groups, local residents, key partners such as Public Health and Sports and Development.

1.8 The evidence gathered from this extensive consultation, along with baseline data arising from an independent quality assessment using Green Flag Award criteria, as well as a quantity analysis of existing green space, has resulted in a prioritised action plan which has been developed under a number of clear strategic headings to be achieved over the next five years.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Cabinet approve the adoption of the Green Space Strategy 2018-2022 and delegate authority to the Executive Director of Economy and Environment in consultation with the portfolio holder to approve any minor amendments.

1. Report detail

3.1 **Green Space Strategy**

3.1.1 Walsall's Green Space Strategy 2018-2022 represents the third such strategy for Walsall, with previous versions adopted in 2006 and 2012. It updates and replaces the last version and includes a revised five year action plan.

3.1.2 The Green Space Strategy 2018-2022 has been developed within the following context:

- Set out a shared Vision for green spaces in Walsall Borough
- Contribute to the wider objectives of the Council as set out in the Corporate Plan 2018-2021, Sustainable Community Strategy, draft Volunteering Strategy and Walsall Plan: Our Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017-2020.
- Establish an accurate picture of the quality of green spaces
- Meet government guidance, inform the Local Development Framework and planning policy process
- Establish if there is enough green space in the borough to meet the needs of local people
- Provide a framework for improved service delivery linked to the Council's corporate objectives
- Provide a framework for identifying priorities for future investment and improvement
- Provide a framework for community and voluntary groups to participate in green space provision and management

- Guide the allocation of reduced resources and help develop local standards during the five year period to meet community and strategic aims

3.1.3 The revised aims of the Green Space Strategy 2018-22 are:

- To provide opportunities for people to actively participate in green spaces
- To develop and strengthen existing partnerships to bring added value to the parks and green spaces
- To ensure that green spaces conserve and enhance bio and geo diversity
- To realise the potential that green spaces can play in addressing health inequalities
- To develop a financially sustainable Parks and Green Space service through innovation
- To ensure green spaces to play their part in the economic prosperity of the borough
- To provide safe, accessible, clean and well-maintained spaces and facilities

3.2 **Green Spaces**

3.2.1 Parks and public spaces are the most accessible and well used leisure and recreational facilities both locally and nationally. Many of Walsall's green spaces are or include areas designated for their importance for nature conservation. Indeed, Walsall's green spaces form part of both the Birmingham and Black Country Nature Improvement Area and Black Country UNESCO Global Geopark Project.

3.2.2 High quality parks and public spaces create economic, social and environmental value:

- Economic benefits – high quality green spaces have positive impacts upon property prices, are good for business and being close to public space adds economic value, supporting the local visitor economy.

- Social benefits – green spaces are highly valued by people. Safe, clean spaces offer places for events, play, recreation and relaxation, all benefiting physical health and mental wellbeing.

- Environmental benefits – networks of green spaces and green corridors encourage cycling and walking, improve air quality, provide sustainable urban drainage solutions, mitigate against climate change, support biodiversity and geodiversity, and enable people to experience nature firsthand.

3.2.3 National research shows that the average revenue cuts to parks services from 2013 to 2015 are around 18%, with the north of England being hit the hardest. Also, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the single biggest funder of parks restoration and redevelopment over the past 21 years, recently closed its Parks for People programme.

3.2.4 Walsall's Parks and Green Space Service has seen the reduction of £1m revenue budget and around 25% of its management and development staff over the last five years. As a consequence, the service has not been able to deliver

all of the objectives set out in the previous strategy. However, a number of key levels of output and engagement have been achieved:

- The number of Green Flag Awards has risen to five (three in 2012) – new awards have been secured for Blackwood Park and Rough Wood & Bentley Haye.
- The number of Friends Groups has remained fairly constant, though membership is increasing
- Through supporting community engagement over £120k per annum of in kind contribution was generated
- The restoration of Walsall Arboretum is almost complete and visitor numbers are close to 1,000,000 per year, making it one of the most visited parks in the region
- External funding is still being secured and a leverage of around five times is being attained i.e. for every £1 the Council invests a further £4 is secured
- Site quality has increased on key spaces through external funding, council match and investment by Friends groups
- Basic operational and infrastructure maintenance is being improved on selected sites
- Partnership working is a key priority and it highly valued by internal and external partners

3.2.5 A quality assessment was carried out across 53 green space sites (10% of sites in the borough). Sites identified were assessed against the criteria derived from the national standard for parks and green space quality, the Green Flag Award. The same assessment was used in the 2005 and 2011 quality assessments. The top ten sites overall are mostly parks with one natural and semi natural green space (Merrions Wood) included. The top three ranked sites are also the three sites where the authority has secured major restoration grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

3.2.6 The quality audit has highlighted a number of changes since the 2011 assessment was carried out. Changes have been noted on both a site basis and a quality criteria basis. Across all sites the following changes were noted;

- The average quality score has increased for all sites from 39 in 2011 to 42 in 2017
- 75% of sites (40) improved upon their quality score since 2011, two remained the same and 23% (12) sites were seen to have declined
- Sites that had improved have received significant investment in improvements since 2011 and/or seen beneficial changes in user behaviour and site management

3.2.7 Through the development of this Green Space Strategy, it became clear that the 40 sites assigned to be of 'strategic significance' in the 2012 document were too many. The aspirations for those sites in terms of maintenance, management and development cannot now be achieved with the significant decreases in resources that have been experienced over the past five years.

3.2.8 Green spaces were reviewed using criteria from the previous strategy: size, quality and value, access, facilities and proximity. Other measures were also used, namely: popularity, community engagement, management plan, user and

non-user surveys, nature conservation value and service priorities. The revised list of sites gives a reasonable distribution across the borough. It is also suggested that the significance of Walsall Arboretum sets it apart from other green spaces and that it needs to sit at the top of the hierarchy as a Destination Site. Green spaces not identified as Destination or Strategic Sites would continue to receive routine maintenance.

	Green Space	Current Green Flag Award
Destination Site	Walsall Arboretum and Country Park	
Strategic Site	Aldridge Airport	
	Barr Beacon	
	Blackwood Park	Yes
	Brownhills Common / Holland Park	
	Doe Bank Park	
	Fibbersley	
	Goscote Valley	
	King George Vth Playing Fields	
	Kings Hill Park	
	Leamore Park	
	Merrions Wood	Yes
	Palfrey Park	Yes
	Pelsall Commons	
	Pleck Park	
	Reedswood Park	
	Rough Wood Chase	Yes
	Shire Oak Park	
	Willenhall Memorial Park	Yes

3.2.9   It is planned to increase the number of sites with a Green Flag Award over the next five years.

3.2.10 In relation to the Allotments, all allotment groups are part of a management association where the majority have agreed lease terms. This will inform self management for the groups. Four Community Gardens have also been developed, with a focus on sustainability over the next five years. There are three derelict allotment sites, one of which is being regenerated by the local community, whilst it is proposed to take forward options appraisals for the others.

3.2.11 Part of the strategy was to explore the links between green space quantity, quality and accessibility to wider factors such as deprivation and health. A potential relationship between green space quality and deprivation has been investigated, with investment over the past 20 years focussed in some of the most deprived parts of the borough around Willenhall Memorial Park, Palfrey Park, Walsall Arboretum and Kings Hill Park, which helped to determine how the service was using its management within the available resources.

3.2.12 It is proposed to use all existing data sets to explore the links between green space and health, to map external funding and site improvement data to show spend in more deprived areas of the borough, to develop a more robust monitoring and evaluation system across green spaces and develop research around mental health and green space use.

3.2.13 Planning Policy and Development Management have important roles in relation to green spaces. The Local Plan designates and protects green spaces and it has to plan for developments, including for housing developments, which will generate needs for open spaces. Walsall's Site Allocation Document (SAD) is at an advanced stage and identifies sufficient land for housing and other development to more than meet the borough's needs to 2026 as set out in the Black Country Core Strategy. It has been able to do this whilst protecting almost all of the borough's existing open spaces, with only minor losses that reflect previous planning permissions.

3.2.14 The Black Country Core Strategy is in the early stages of a review that will extend the plan period to 2026. This means that more housing and other development is likely to be needed. Consequently there could be increasing pressure on existing open space and a need for additional space to be identified. It will be important that the Green Space Strategy and the Core Strategy Review can inform each other to shape sustainable proposals for the future.

3.2.15 New developments could result in direct provision of new open space by developers to mitigate for the extra pressure caused and/or commuted sums for offsite provision. The Urban Open Space SPD (2006) sets a threshold of ten or more dwellings as a trigger for open space contributions to be sought.

3.2.16 Officers have been engaged in active discussions about the management of s106 planning obligations and of the funding that can be secured. These discussions need to be formalised into a review across the range of relevant provision (including affordable housing and various forms of infrastructure) to make recommendations on how developer contributions may be allocated. This will need to address strict legal requirements as well as national and local policy, and the hierarchy of sites as identified in the Green Space Strategy. Government is currently consulting on possible changes to developer contributions including possibly in relation to the CIL and this will need to be taken into account in the review by the Council.

3.3 **Action Plan 2018-2022**

3.3.1 The Green Space Strategy 2018-2022 includes a five year action plan, which aligns recommendations against its aims and a timescale.

3.3.2 The Action Plan will be reviewed annually, with new actions developed as appropriate.

4. **Council Corporate Plan priorities**

4.1 Providing access to green space meets the following Council priorities:

- People – have increased independence, improved health and can positively contribute to their communities.

- Communities – are prospering and resilient with all housing needs met in safe and healthy places that build a strong sense of belonging and cohesion.

Additionally, the access and use of green spaces:

- Improves health and wellbeing and reduces social isolation

- Empowers communities to support themselves by facilitating volunteering opportunities

- Provides and supports sustainable environments and services, which make Walsall an attractive, healthy and safe place to live and work through maintaining clean, safe and attractive urban environments.

5.   Risk management

5.1   Risk 1 – Failure to obtain support for the Strategy

5.1.1 This is considered to be a low risk considering the level of consultation undertaken with staff, the local community, user groups and Elected Members during the production of the strategy. The draft Strategy and action plan were also made available for consultation and comment.

5.2   Risk 2 – Failure to attract sufficient resources to fund the implementation of the Strategy

5.2.1 This risk is considered to be medium. The Strategy sets out a five-year action plan with annual targets. The Council will work in partnership with the community, user groups and other organisations to secure external resources. The adoption of the strategic hierarchy will provide a focus and justification for future investment and align revenue with defined maintenance standards.

5.2.2 Many of the targets contained within the Action Plan can be met by utilising existing staff and financial resources.

5.3   Risk 3 - Failure to resource the maintenance of new facilities

This risk is considered medium on the basis that resources to guarantee the long-term sustainability of new investment will be identified before the investment takes place and that funding will require new facilities to be maintained for a certain length of time. The Strategy also recommends that commuted sums be secured from developers towards the maintenance of green space that is needed as a result of, or would be impacted upon by, new development. At present, this should be done through the use of Section 106 planning obligations; however, these can only secure maintenance for limited periods (normally up to five years). Officers will consider the options for the future use of planning obligations and possibly of the CIL.

5.4   Risk 4 – Failure to effectively direct limited resources

5.4.1   This risk is considered low on the basis that the Green Space Strategy will enable limited resources to be managed and utilised more efficiently and effectively by focusing them directly in line with customer needs and statutory requirements in respect of nature conservation and to make allowances for circumstances where particular issues (such as flood risk) will require resources. The strategic process identifies what is most important to the community and enables the use of decreasing resources to be directly aimed on what really matters. In addition, the integration of maintenance of strategic and other green spaces with the Parks and Green Space Service ensures a more co-ordinated service, a unifying of strategic direction and much more effective utilisation of resources towards green spaces and, in so doing, minimising the impact of reduced resources on service delivery.

6.   Financial implications

6.1   The Green Space Strategy 2017-22 has been reviewed and evaluated, and a new five year action plan produced, within available resources.

6.2   Expectations will be managed to ensure that the new Green Space Strategy is delivered within agreed resources and within a realistic outcome framework.

6.3   Alternative funding options / delivery models will be pursued in order for green spaces to meet the needs and expectations of local communities e.g. capital programme, planning contributions (Section 106 and possibly CIL, where appropriate and viable) regeneration initiatives and external funding.

6.4   The consultants carried out financial modelling work in order to test initial viability of a Trust delivery model. It showed that the endowment required to support the model is between £34.9m and £62.9m and to fund the transition process to a Trust, between £15.5m and £16.4m is required. It is suggested that to support new business opportunities in order to increase revenue levels, the trust would need to secure capital investment of £12.5m.

7.   Legal implications

7.1   National planning policy sets out clear expectations for local authorities to take a strategic approach to green space. Green space strategies should contribute to development plan documents (such as the Black Country Core Strategy) and important supplementary planning documents.

7.2   Section 164 on the Public Health Act (1875) and Sections 9 and 10 of the Open Spaces Act Open spaces grant power to local authorities to acquire land for or to provide recreation grounds, public walks, pleasure grounds and open spaces and to manage and control them.

7.3   Section 23 of the Small Holdings and Allotments Act (1908) places a statutory duty on local authorities to provide a sufficient number of allotment plots.

7.4   Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006) requires all public bodies to have regard to biodiversity conservation when carrying out their functions – commonly referred to as the 'Biodiversity duty'.

7.5   The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) and Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) place further duties on local authorities with regards to management and maintenance of Sites of Special Scientific Interest and public rights of way.

7.6   The Community Infrastructure Regulations (2010) (as amended) place strict tests on s106 planning obligations, so that they must be:

   (a) necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms;
   (b) directly related to the development; and
   (c) fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.

The Regulations also introduced the CIL with the potential for local authorities to impose a flat rate charge on certain types of development in certain areas. CIL is presently the subject of a review by the Government.

8.   Property implications

8.1   There are a large number of buildings which fall within the portfolio of Clean and Green to manage and operate as part of the Council's corporate asset base, these include visitor centres, offices, lodges, pavilions, toilet facilities, sports changing rooms or other structures (e.g. play areas and outdoor fitness equipment) in addition to the green space assets themselves. These properties should, and are, under continued review in line with the Council's 'Our Assets' transformation programme. Clean and Green, will take forward the implementation of the Green Space Strategy (and Action Plan) by aligning it to the policies of the Council's Corporate Asset Management Plan 2014-19 and its recognised governance arrangements. Key actions to improve and enhance Walsall's parks and green spaces will both improve the quality and value of these assets and its associated infrastructure and facilities, and encourage wider use and opportunities. In addition, the poor condition of buildings, particularly those associated with sports uses, have been recognised as suppressing participation in sport are in much need of capital investment to improve the quality of provision so opportunities will be explored to secure internal and external funding to support this.

8.2   In the development of the Green Space Strategy, it has been recognised that many buildings situated within the borough's open spaces are under-utilised and do not currently generate the level of income which could potentially be achieved to keep them operational or be made available to other uses. There are also considerations for how the Council as landlord can make such buildings available for alternative uses as certain planning and other statutory duties may limit the Council's ability to maximise their potential. Therefore a review of leases and other agreements may be required to widen use and generate increased income for the Council; any such review will be undertaken in the context of the Council's asset management policies and procedures.

9. Health and wellbeing implications

9.1 There are considerable health and well being implications for providing green spaces. The Green Space Strategy advises that good quality accessible green space is a necessity, not a luxury, which contributes to the unique character of Walsall Borough, improving the quality of people's lives, bringing economic benefits and contributing to physical and mental health and well-being.

9.2 There is considerable evidence that safe, clean spaces encourage people to visit more and therefore offer significant health benefits. Parks and green spaces offer places for organised sport, informal recreation and quiet relaxation, benefiting physical health and mental wellbeing. There is evidence that access to good quality local spaces can help people live longer and green spaces can provide solutions to redress worsening public health.

10. Staffing implications

10.1 The creation of a single service area to manage and maintain strategic and other green spaces places greater emphasis on a broad range of skills including community engagement and development, leadership, management planning, business planning and grounds and infrastructure maintenance. It will also provide the opportunity for structured training and the framework for more formal apprenticeships and training placements to meet existing and future skill needs.

10.2 Alongside the development of staff, there is a need to assess the skills levels of individual and corporate volunteers, and to provide opportunities and support for skills development and learning. Increasing volunteer and community partnership contributes towards the management, development and operational support of green spaces and the local visitor economy.

10.3 In order for the Council to pursue all of the elements of the strategy, there will be a need for work extending beyond the remit of Clean and Green Services. This will place demands on staff in other services.

11. Reducing inequalities

11.1 With 21% of residents from a minority ethnic group, higher than the England and Wales average, the diversity of its population is one of Walsall's key strengths. Furthermore, the population of 5-15 year olds continues to increase in Walsall, which is another key strength, placing the borough in a good position for a strong economic future if they are nurtured and supported.

11.2 However, there remain high levels of deprivation and associated problems such as health, housing, education and employment, particularly in the west of the borough. On a number of key Public Health indicators, Walsall falls significantly below the England average, including numbers of children (under 16) in low income families, long term unemployment, infant mortality and rates of illness such as diabetes and TB. Life expectancy is also lower in Walsall than the rest of England, with a difference of nine years between the most and least deprived wards.

11.3 There has been a significant increase in the level of ethnic diversity in Walsall over the past decade. While 'White British' remains the largest single group, at 76.9%, the number of residents from a minority ethnic group has risen to almost 1 in 4 (23.1%). As of February 2018, 3.0% of the working age population (16-64) claimed out-of-work benefits (Source: NOMIS ONS).

11.4 The Council's Corporate Plan (2018 - 2021) states that the Council's vision is that "*Inequalities are reduced and all potential is maximised.* The Green Space Strategy will make a significant contribution to a range of themes including cultural engagement and community empowerment.

11.5 A key recommendation within the strategy would be to ensure that public need to be targeted to best possible effect and collecting and managing baseline data (e.g. visitor counters) about urban green spaces helps to maintain a strategic view, co-ordinate provision, measure the effects of investment or policy initiatives, and respond to changing circumstances. The data can support more equitable access to public services, regardless of income or ethnicity.

11.6 Green spaces contribute to the cultural identity of an area, helping to shape a sense of place and also, if good quality, can contribute to civic pride. They have a key role to play in bringing people together on common ground, uniting diverse communities through activities, education, celebrations, cultural events and engagement. Public spaces are open to all.

11.7 The Strategy identifies the need to develop a planned approach to engaging with groups to identify wider barriers to the use of green spaces. It also recognises the need to provide a safe environment and one in which people (particularly young) can be confident in, through effective enforcement, visible presence and joint working with other enforcement agencies and partners.

11.8 An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken.

12. Consultation

12.1 The Green Space Strategy has been developed through detailed consultation, including a household survey, Friends group and allotment association surveys, staff, Friends groups and stakeholder workshops and face to face discussions. The results of these consultations have influenced the Strategy's aims, contributed towards the review of the strategic green spaces and helped identify the recommendations in the five year action plan.

12.2 Allotment Associations' Survey

12.2.1 In 2017, a survey was distributed to all 21 of the current Local Management Associations and 15 organisations submitted a response (71%). Since the survey was issued a further LMA has been formed.

12.2.2 The top three areas where groups felt they need the most support in the future were:

- Funding (86.7%)

- Guidance on legal and lease concerns (73.3%)
- Guidance on land management issues (46.7%)

12.3   Friends Group Survey

12.3.1 A survey was sent to the 23 Friends groups across the borough, with responses received from 10 (43%) groups. Groups predict that they will have to do more particularly in the areas of recruiting new members (67%), fundraising (56%), networking with other groups (50%) and practical activities such as nature conservation (50%), gardening (40%) and events (44%).

12.3.2 In terms of support, the groups appear to have good levels of support from the Council, and do not expect a significant higher level of support, however, more assistance is desired in the areas of assistance with identifying funding, more staff time on site, and generally better communication with groups and the Council should consider prioritising these areas.

12.4   Household Survey

12.4.1 In early 2018, a household survey was distributed to 9,886 households across the borough and also hosted online. A total of 1,505 responses were received, with the paper version representing a return rate of 13% (12.6% in 2011). However, the sample of respondents is skewed in terms of gender, age and geography with more women, more older people and more people from the east of the borough taking part.

12.4.2 Almost two thirds (62.8%) of respondents are regular users of green spaces, using them weekly or more often, which is an increase on the 2011 survey. As in previous surveys and research, Walsall Arboretum is the most visited green space in the borough. The majority of people (64%) walk to green spaces, with around 29% driving. Cycling is slightly increased from the previous survey at 4%.

12.4.3 For their most frequently used green space, the overall quality average is 7.3 out of 10. There is a strong trend that people think that the quality of green space that they use most frequently has improved. Walsall Arboretum had the greatest proportion of respondents who felt that their most frequently used green space had improved over the past three years.

12.4.4 Overall, levels of satisfaction with their most used green space are high, with a 75.3% satisfaction rate. Only around one in eight respondents (13.0%) reported dissatisfaction with their most used space.

12.3.5 The top five reasons for using green spaces all have positive health benefits: Fresh air, for walking / jogging, for health or exercise, to relax / peace and quiet or for wildlife / nature.

12.3.6 Respondents were asked about the importance of different types of green space maintenance work – the removal of graffiti, litter and fly tipping was considered the most important, with an average score of 4.5 out of five. Respondents were also asked to rate development work, the most important being making improvements to support and encourage wildlife, as well as developing partnerships to help improve sites.

12.3.7 Generally, respondents supported the future funding options, with the most support for greater funding from sources like the National Lottery, with over four fifths of respondents (82.3%) supporting this. However, over half (52.8%) opposed the suggestion of increasing charges for using green space facilities.

12.5   Consultation Workshops

12.5.1 As part of the development of the strategy, three identical workshops were delivered with staff, councillors, friends and community groups, and other stakeholders to explore service priorities. The workshops were designed to explore the three key components of green space service delivery:

12.5.2 Management priorities:

- Health and Safety was seen by all groups as the highest priority. High priority was also given by all groups to managing facilities, managing staff, monitoring maintenance standards and financial management.

12.5.3 Maintenance priorities:

- Graffiti, litter and fly tipping are clearly considered to be the most important element of maintenance activities. It is estimated that Walsall Council spends a large amount funds a year on this area of work.

- At the other end of the scale, there are very differing views between the three cohorts when it comes to ornamental borders. Finally, there was significant discussion at the staff workshop about the maintenance of sports pitches – it was felt that the Council was essentially subsidising sports clubs, which had a limited audience.

12.5.4 Development priorities:

- The results from the workshops showed broadly comparable priorities. All shared the highest priority of developing community involvement, which would reflect the need to develop alternative ways of delivering services and the value that the Friends place on their own activity.

- All groups placed similar priority on making improvements for wildlife, marketing and promotion, education and interpretation and developing new projects. This has helped shape the programme of delivery and how some of the recommendations have been determined.

12.6   Draft Green Space Strategy

12.6.1 The draft Green Space Strategy was circulated to Councillors, colleagues, friends groups, allotment association, other local authorities and partners on 29th March. Over 450 comments were received from 18 respondents by 10th April; these have been considered and amendments made to the document as appropriate.


Background papers

- Walsall Green Space Strategy 2018-22
- Walsall Green Space Strategy Quality Assessment
- Walsall Green Space Strategy Household Survey 2018
- Walsall Green Space Strategy 2018-22 Consultation Workshops Report
- Walsall Green Space Strategy 2018-22 Friends Groups Consultation Report

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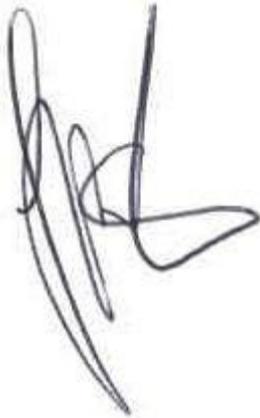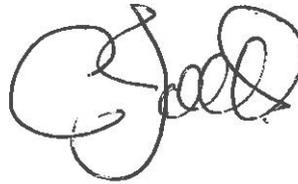
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17 April 2018   17 April 2018