



To: Executive Councillor for Planning and Transport
Report by: Head of Planning Services
Relevant scrutiny committee: Environment Scrutiny Committee 4th October 2011
Wards affected: All wards

ADOPTION OF THE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION STRATEGY 2011

Not a key decision

1.0 Executive summary

- 1.1 An essential part of the character of Cambridge is formed by the open spaces and grounds around buildings and the extent of green spaces within the City. These open spaces may be in public ownership (e.g. City or County Council), but many are part of the University of Cambridge and its colleges. These green spaces are vital for many reasons, including health and well-being, enjoyment and biodiversity. With increasing pressure for development in the City, it is particularly important that green spaces are protected and enhanced and that new open spaces are created and protected.
- 1.2 The purpose of the Open Space and Recreation Strategy 2011 is to replace the existing Open Space and Recreation Strategy 2006 in setting out the protection, enhancement and requirements for new provision of open space necessary to meet the needs of the expanding City, and the mechanisms for implementation.
- 1.3 After being approved for consultation at Development Plan Scrutiny Sub-Committee on 12th July 2011, the Open Space and Recreation Strategy 2011 was issued for consultation between 25th July and 2nd September 2011.
- 1.4 Consultation resulted in a number of amendments being made to the Open Space and Recreation Strategy. Appendix A of this report provides a summary of representations made to the draft Open Space and Recreation Strategy and provides information on officers' assessment of those representations. Appendix B comprises a tracked changes version of the Open Space and Recreation Strategy in order to allow the amendments made as a result of consultation to be viewed.

2.0 Recommendations

The Executive Councillor is recommended:

- 2.1 To agree the responses to the representations received to the draft Open Space and Recreation Strategy and the consequential amendments to the strategy;
- 2.2 To adopt the Open Space and Recreation Strategy 2011 as a material consideration and as part of the technical evidence base for the Local Plan Review.

3.0 Background

Purpose of the Draft Open Space and Recreation Strategy

- 3.1 In 2004 and 2006, open spaces within the City were the subject of assessment in the form of the Open Space and Recreation Survey, which then informed the development of the Open Space and Recreation Strategies (2004 and 2006). The last Open Space and Recreation Strategy was adopted in November 2006, incorporating relevant changes made to the Local Plan 2006 during the Inquiry process. The 2006 survey covered approximately 200 sites across the City, including City Council owned and managed sites, schools, University and College grounds. The data held is now almost five years old and it is essential for evidence base purposes that the existing sites are re-surveyed.
- 3.2 The Open Space and Recreation Strategy 2011 (hereafter referred to as the strategy) seeks to protect open spaces across the City and requires the delivery of new open spaces or the enhancement of existing open spaces through new development. The specification for the strategy was approved at Development Plan Scrutiny Sub-Committee on 13th July 2010.
- 3.3 It seeks to protect a greater range of open spaces than its predecessors as a number of open spaces have been created as a result of residential development and other open spaces have been the subject of development within or adjacent to their sites since 2006. Sites in the growth areas, though consented in some cases, will be surveyed following completion.
- 3.4 The strategy comprises two main components. The first part of the development of the strategy is the Open Space and Recreation Assessment, which allows the Council to identify specific needs and

quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in Cambridge. The assessment covered over 350 sites, including City Council owned and managed spaces, schools, and University and college land. Of the sites assessed, over 280 sites were considered worthy of designation as Protected Open Space. This assessment of sites in Spring 2011 formed the starting point for producing the Draft Strategy for consultation. The database of sites was added to during August and September 2011 with a number of further site assessments being undertaken as a result of sites coming forward through consultation. This site assessment work supports effective planning through the on-going use of Policies 3/8 and 4/2 of the Cambridge Local Plan 2006. The assessment of sites and review of relevant literature and national standards has supported the setting of new locally derived standards within the strategy. The setting of standards forms the latter part of the strategy.

- 3.5 The strategy forms part of the evidence base for the review of the Local Plan and the development of appropriate future policies. and is required under Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17): Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (2002).

Policy Context for the Draft Open Space and Recreation Strategy

- 3.6 PPG17 includes a requirement for local authorities to undertake assessments of the existing and future needs of their communities for open space, sports and recreational facilities. Assessments will normally be undertaken at district level, although assessments of strategic facilities should be undertaken at regional or sub-regional levels.

- 3.7 PPG17(Paragraph 3) states that:

Local authorities should also undertake audits of existing open space, sports and recreational facilities, the use made of existing facilities, access in terms of location and costs (such as charges) and opportunities for new open space and facilities. Audits should consider both the quantitative and the qualitative elements of open space, sports and recreational facilities . Audits of quality will be particularly important as they will allow local authorities to identify potential for increased use through better design, management and maintenance.

- 3.8 In terms of the strategy's interaction with the draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which is proposed to replace a range of Planning Policy Statements and Guidance Notes, including PPG17, the strategy is considered to be in conformity with the draft NPPF as

paragraph 128 of the draft NPPF recognises the importance of open spaces and requires planning policies to identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in a local area. The information gained from assessment of needs and opportunities should be used to set locally derived standards for the provision of open space, sports and recreational facilities. This approach in the draft NPPF is not considered to give rise to any change in the methodology for developing this strategy. The approach to assessment of open spaces, sports and recreational facilities within the draft NPPF is not considered to be considerably different from the approach taken in PPG17 and its companion guide. The only noticeable difference is the potential for the new designation of Local Green Space, which would have the same weight as Green Belt designation. As yet, the level of detail provided on Local Green Space does not allow the Council to make any changes to its approach to designating open spaces as protected. Additionally, the Local Green Space designation does not prevent Local Planning Authorities from making local designations such as Protected Open Space or City Wildlife Site. It is likely that further guidance will be required on the concept of Local Green Space.

- 3.9 Currently, the Cambridge Local Plan 2006 recognises the importance of open spaces and has two key policies, 3/8 and 4/2. Policy 3/8 *Open Space and Recreation Provision Through New Development* states that:

All residential development will provide public open space and sports facilities in accordance with the Open Space and Recreation Standards. Provision should be on-site as appropriate to the nature and location of development or where the scale of development indicates otherwise through commuted payments to the City Council.

The Open Space and Recreation Standards form Appendix A of the Cambridge Local Plan 2006.

- 3.10 Policy 4/2 Protection of Open Space in the Cambridge Local Plan 2006 states that:

Development will not be permitted which would be harmful to the character of, or lead to the loss of, open space of environmental and/or recreational importance unless the open space uses can be satisfactorily replaced elsewhere and the site is not important for environmental reasons.

- 3.11 Open space protected under this policy includes commons, recreation grounds, historic Parks and Gardens, sites with nature conservation designation, outdoor sports facilities, provision for children and teenagers, semi-natural green spaces, allotments, urban spaces and cemeteries. Although the majority are public open spaces, private spaces that contribute to the character, environmental quality or biodiversity of the area are protected. These spaces are often contiguous and have an important linking role as conduits for wildlife and for access by foot and cycle and recreation opportunities. Many have a dual importance, both for the contribution they make to leisure provision and for their environmental importance. Some still retain evidence of significant historic land use patterns.
- 3.12 Open spaces have been listed in the strategy as being public or private. In describing whether a site is public or private, one particular area of concern relates to school sites. Whilst private schools in the City have been described as being private, schools in the state sector have been described as being public. This is on the basis of community usage of school playing fields/Multi Use Games Areas etc taking place outside school hours. Access to these kinds of open space, particularly Multi Use Games Areas, provide a genuine resource for the wider communities within the City. In terms of the urban extensions, community access to a number of the school sites is committed to in the relevant Section 106 agreements.
- 3.13 Open spaces protected under this policy are:
- areas designated as Green Belt on the Proposals Map;
 - areas designated Protected Open Space on the Proposals Map; and
 - undesignated areas which fulfil at least one of the Criteria to Assess Open Space included in the Plan. This has separate criteria for Environmental and Recreational Importance.
- 3.14 The criteria for Environmental and Recreational Importance are set out in Appendix B of the Cambridge Local Plan 2006 and form Part 1 of the questionnaire for assessment of open spaces as discussed in Section 3 of the strategy.

Content of the Open Space and Recreation Strategy

- 3.15 The strategy comprises the following sections:
- Section 1 sets out the introduction, vision and the status of the strategy;

- Section 2 outlines the policy and strategic context for the document;
- Section 3 discusses the criteria for protecting open spaces, which includes the two established criteria of environmental and recreational importance and a subsidiary quality assessment. Carrying out a quality assessment is advocated by PPG17 and can be used to support decision-making on where monies could be spent in an area;
- Section 4 illustrates the findings of the Open Space and Recreation Assessment work. It breaks the information down by ward and provides data on the deficits in each ward and the ward's strengths and weaknesses in terms of open space provision. It also discusses the level of provision proposed in the urban extensions to the City, which have not been assessed in this strategy as they have not yet been delivered on site. An indicative map of the existing Protected Open Space in the City and the proposed provision in the urban extensions is set out in Appendix 4.
- Section 5 sets out standards for different types of Protected Open Space.
- Section 6 sets out the approach to implementing the strategy.

3.16 The main differences between the Open Space and Recreation Strategy 2006 and the 2011 strategy are outlined in the paragraphs below.

1. In addition to the criteria for environmental and recreational importance, the assessment now includes a questionnaire on quality. This is in keeping with the requirements of PPG17 and allows the Council to direct monies towards sites in poorer condition. It also allows officers to record a snapshot of the quality of the site in 2011, which can be compared against future quality assessments of sites. This quality assessment is discussed in paragraphs 3.14 to 3.16 of the strategy. The questions are included as Appendix 3 and the quality scores for each site form part of Appendix 2 of the strategy.
2. A number of sites have been assessed during the preparation of this strategy that were not previously considered, including new sites delivered since 2006.
3. As the development of the urban extensions has moved forward considerably since the last Open Space and Recreation Strategy, information on the proposed open spaces in the urban extensions is included. This information is provided in paragraphs 4.4 – 4.12.

4. Sections 4.20 to 4.33 provide profiles for each ward. The profiles provide information on Protected Open Spaces at a ward level as this approach allows data to be viewed at a comprehensible level for use by planning officers and other stakeholders to identify deficiencies. It also allows strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to be identified on a ward basis in relation to open space. Each profile includes a map of the Protected Open Spaces in the ward and a list of the sites which indicates whether the sites are publicly accessible or are private, requiring either an entry payment or membership of a College or allotment society for example. A number of the ward maps show Protected Open Spaces that span two or more wards. Any cross-boundary Protected Open Space is shown on the maps of each ward, but is only shown on one ward list in order to avoid double-counting of the site's area. Draft ward profiles were sent to all Councillors for their feedback. This resulted in a number of changes being made to the ward profiles and further assessment of a number of open spaces taking place, which has been incorporated into the strategy.
5. Chapter 5 sets out the proposed Open Space and Recreation Standards. The adopted standards for the quantity of open space required through new development are set out in the Cambridge Local Plan 2006. Policy 3/8 requires all residential development to include open space in accordance with the open space standards as included in Appendix A of the Local Plan. As this strategy suggests new standards, the Cambridge Local Plan 2006 standards will stand as the adopted standards for the time-being. However, the strategy's new standards will form part of the evidence base for the review of the Local Plan and support the Planning Obligations Strategy. Following the adoption of the next Local Plan, the strategy will be formally updated and readopted in order to ensure that the standards of the new Local Plan and strategy are aligned.
6. The main changes proposed to the existing Cambridge Local Plan standards are an increase in the Informal Open Space standard from 1.8 hectares per 1,000 people to 2.2 hectares per 1,000 people, and a change in the 0.4 hectares per 1,000 people standard for allotments.
7. The change to Informal Open Space is based on the level of provision of this form of open space in the City and is discussed in paragraphs 5.29 to 5.34.
8. Currently, the allotment standard is 0.4 hectares per 1,000 people for the urban extensions only. It is suggested that the standard

remains the same number of hectares per 1,000 population, but the standard is now also to be required in the existing built-up area of the City in addition to being required for the urban extensions. This is to allow the provision of further land for allotments to meet demand and to allow enhancements to existing allotment sites, which might allow increased levels of usage.

Management of Open Spaces

3.17 The Council owns and manages a significant number of publicly accessible open spaces across the City. Where new open spaces are delivered as a result of development, the Council normally prefers to take on the ownership and management of these spaces. However, it is not the role of this strategy to set out the ongoing management mechanisms for open spaces across the City. The Council has produced other documents, which address this issue. Both the Cambridge Parks – Managing the City’s Asset 2010 to 2014 document and the Events Management Framework for our open spaces are referred to in paragraph 6.12 of the strategy.

Public Consultation

3.18 After being approved for consultation at Development Plan Scrutiny Sub-Committee on 12th July 2011, consultation took place between 25th July and 2nd September 2011.

3.19 Statutory and other consultees identified in Appendix B of the 12th July 2011 report to Development Plan Scrutiny Sub-Committee and additional consultees identified by members during that meeting were informed of the consultation. In addition, the consultation material and response forms were made available at the Customer Service Centre. All of the consultation material was made available on the Council’s website, advertised on the front page and via Twitter. An online consultation system was utilised to allow people to submit their comments via the internet, although hard copies of the response forms were made available to those who do not have access to the internet and any hard copy response forms or letters sent in by respondents were entered into the online system to make them publicly available. Over 75% of responses were entered directly onto the Council’s online system, whilst a further 23% were submitted by email and subsequently entered onto the online system by officers. Only one response was made on paper during this consultation.

3.20 By the end of the consultation period, the Council had received a total of 425 separate representations made by 58 respondents: 58 representations in support, 127 representations making comments and 240 objections to the strategy. Officers have worked through all the representations and have drafted responses. Summaries of all

representations and proposed responses with recommended changes to the strategy have been attached as Appendix A to this report. The tracked changes version of the strategy is attached as Appendix B.

Key Issues

3.21 There are a number of key issues, which have been raised a result of the consultation on the strategy. These issues include concerns about prematurity in bringing forward the strategy in relation to the changing national planning policy context; concerns about protecting particular open spaces and the impact of protection of those spaces on the ability of institutions to continue to develop; and support from a range of organisations for the ongoing and new protection of open spaces. These key issues have been addressed in the following paragraphs.

Key Issue 1: Prematurity and the relationship of the strategy with national guidance

3.22 The first issue of prematurity relates to concerns raised by a number of planning agents, including Bidwells and Savills on behalf of a number of clients, many of which are Colleges of the University of Cambridge. They have stated that the strategy is in conflict with the draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which seeks to reduce the burden placed on developers through Supplementary Planning Documents. Furthermore, as the NPPF will eventually replace PPG17, they state that the strategy should be compliant with both adopted and emerging national planning policy. The non-compliance with the NPPF highlights the premature nature of the review. Additionally, they have asserted that the strategy must not designate open space as protected before the Local Plan Review as a holistic approach to growth within Cambridge is needed. This could lead to the Council creating a problem through the premature sterilisation of land.

3.23 At the time that the draft strategy was produced and endorsed for consultation, the draft NPPF had not been issued for consultation by the Government. Consultation on both documents commenced on 25th July 2011. References to the draft NPPF will be made in the strategy put forward for adoption (See new paragraph 2.5 in Appendix B). The strategy is considered to be in conformity with the draft NPPF as paragraph 128 of the draft NPPF recognises the importance of open spaces and requires planning policies to identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in a local area. The information gained from assessment of needs and opportunities should be used to set locally derived standards for the provision of open space, sports and recreational facilities. This approach in the draft NPPF is not considered to give rise to any change in the methodology for

developing this strategy. The approach to assessment of open spaces, sports and recreational facilities within the draft NPPF is not considered to be considerably different from the approach taken in PPG17 and its companion guide. The only noticeable difference is the potential for the new designation of Local Green Space, which would have the same weight as Green Belt designation. As yet, the level of detail provided on Local Green Space does not allow the Council to make any changes to its approach to designating open spaces as protected. Additionally, the Local Green Space designation does not prevent Local Planning Authorities from making local designations such as Protected Open Space or City Wildlife Site.

- 3.24 With reference to the additional burden being placed on development through the imposition of a further Supplementary Planning Document, it should be noted that the strategy is to be adopted as an evidence base document to inform the Local Plan Review. Whilst it will become a material consideration post adoption, it is not and has never been envisaged to be a Supplementary Planning Document. It is merely part of the Council's endeavours to develop a robust, credible and proportionate evidence base. In relation to forming part of the evidence base for the Local Plan Review, as this strategy suggests new standards, the Cambridge Local Plan 2006 (and the Planning Obligations Strategy Supplementary Planning Document) standards will stand as the adopted standards for the time-being. The suggested new standards will be used to inform the Local Plan Review and support the Planning Obligations Strategy. Following the adoption of the next Local Plan, the strategy will be formally updated and readopted in order to ensure that the standards of the new Local Plan and strategy are aligned. The Council cannot hold the completion of evidence base work in abeyance until the draft NPPF is adopted, the review of the Local Plan is completed, and further technical guidance is produced. In the meantime, planning officers should use the strategy and its site assessments as a material consideration in the planning process. This process is dealt with in paragraph 3.33 of the report.

Key Issue 2: Impact of protecting open spaces on the development of the city

- 3.25 The second issue raised by a number of planning agents and Colleges, including Trinity Hall; Lucy Cavendish; Fitzwilliam; Trinity; St. John's; Jesus; Sidney Sussex; Emmanuel; Pembroke; Christ's; Peterhouse; Hughes Hall; King's; Clare; Newnham; Gonville and Caius; and Queens' Colleges, relates to concerns that the development or re-development of buildings within the City is already restricted. The inclusion of buildings and open spaces prevents

private institutions and landowners from redeveloping existing buildings restricting the future success of the City.

- 3.26 In terms of the strategy prejudicing the development of sites in the City, it is considered that the strategy is in line with the current Policy 4/2 of the Cambridge Local Plan 2006, which has a caveat regarding unprotected sites which meet the criteria for protecting open space within its supporting text. The Council has long taken the approach of considering both public and private spaces against the criteria for Protected Open Space as both public and private spaces contribute to the environmental and recreational qualities of the City.
- 3.27 Whilst Cambridge is widely known for its academic achievements, the University and the architecture of its colleges, it is equally relevant to acknowledge the special relationship of built form and open spaces which contribute to the special character of the City's landscape. In both mapping terms and in relation to the intrinsic value of the site, it is often impossible to separate the series of open spaces out from adjacent buildings, e.g. college quadrangles.
- 3.28 Policy 4/2 Protection of Open Space within the Cambridge Local Plan states: Development will not be permitted which would be harmful to the character of, or lead to the loss of, open space of environmental and/or recreational importance unless the open space uses can be satisfactorily replaced elsewhere and the site is not important for environmental reasons. It is further supported by paragraph 4.10 of the Cambridge Local Plan 2006 which states that there is currently very little recreational open space surplus to requirements, as set out in the Open Space and Recreation Strategy (2006). The majority makes a major contribution to the recreational resources of the local area and could not be recreated elsewhere. In the exceptional circumstance that the open space uses could be replaced elsewhere, and the land is not important for environmental reasons, planning permission will only be granted if an equivalent and equally convenient area is secured.
- 3.29 Paragraph 3.13 of the strategy also states that there is a clear presumption against the loss of open space of environmental or recreational importance. Development may be acceptable if there will be no material harm to the character, use and visual amenity of the area, and: it is for ancillary recreational or open space related uses e.g. changing facilities; or it enhances the recreational or biodiversity value of the site; or in the case of school and College grounds, the proposed development meets a legitimate educational need that is appropriately met on site. As such, this does not unreasonably restrict

educational institutions, which comprise many of the Protected Open Spaces.

Key Issue 3: Ongoing and new protection of open spaces

- 3.30 In terms of the representations received, not only was the response rate high, but the strategy also received a significant number of supportive representations and many comments, which were supportive of the principles behind the strategy.
- 3.31 It was clear from the responses submitted by a number of private individuals and residents' associations, that Protected Open Spaces are vitally important. With increasing pressure for development in the City, many recognised that it was particularly important that the City's green spaces are protected and enhanced, and new open spaces are created and allowed to mature. The Fitzwilliam College playing field on Oxford Road attracted a number of comments from local residents, given their concerns about the potential for the loss of this site to residential accommodation.

Key Issue 4: Further Sites

- 3.32 Further sites that came forward as a result of consultation have been assessed. Those sites that met the criteria for the protection of open space are included on the maps and within the ward profiles and Appendix 2 of the Appendix B Open Space and Recreation Strategy 2011. The 19 new sites, which were assessed as a result of Members' requests at Development Plan Scrutiny Sub-Committee or through consultation responses and which met the criteria, include:

- AGS 76 Tiverton Estate Amenity Green Spaces
- AGS 77 St Thomas's Square Amenity Green Spaces
- AGS 78 Corrie Road Cut Through
- AGS 79 Abbey House
- AGS 80 Brother's Place Amenity Green Space
- AGS 81 Derwent Close Amenity Green Space
- AGS 82 Greystoke Road Amenity Green Space
- AGS 83 Kelsey Crescent Amenity Green Space
- AGS 84 Ditton Fields Amenity Green Space
- AGS 85 Centre for Mathematical Sciences
- CEM 13 Abbey Church (St Andrew-the-less or Barnwell Priory)
- CIV 01 War Memorial Square
- CIV 02 Fisher Square
- CIV 03 Market Place
- CIV 04 Cambridge Leisure Park
- NAT 39 River Cam Residential Gardens
- NAT 40 Disused Railway Line North of Ronald Rolph Court

- NAT 41 Cobbetts Corner
- P&G 57 Clare Hall Scholars Garden

With reference to NAT 39 River Cam Residential Gardens, residents have raised concerns about the designation of this series of gardens adjacent to the river as Protected Open Space. They wish to see removal of paragraph 4.19 from the strategy and to see further consultation with the residents.

- 3.33 At Development Plan Scrutiny Sub-Committee in July 2011, Councillor Znajek requested that officers consider a further number of private gardens next to the River Cam against the criteria for designation of Protected Open Space. Officers included paragraph 4.19 in the consultation document, and undertook to assess the gardens during the consultation period, including 1 and 2 The Willows, Camside, Lane End and The Moorings on Thrifts Walk, and Roebuck House on Ferry Lane.
- 3.34 On assessment, it was considered that the group of gardens met a number of the criteria for environmental importance, but did not meet the criteria for recreational importance. The gardens meet the criteria for environmental importance in terms of their contribution to the character and environmental quality of the area and their proximity to the River Cam, a site with a nature conservation designation.
- 3.35 If a site is designated as Protected Open Space of environmental importance, this has some implications for future developability of the site. In terms of redevelopment of the entire site, this would be very difficult, but not necessarily insurmountable dependent on the scheme proposed. If a householder were to wish to construct an extension to their house, consideration would need to be given to the overall impact on the area of Protected Open Space. Other policy issues such as flood risk, conservation area and listed building status would also need to be considered.
- 3.36 In terms of de-designating this area of land, if the Council were to take this approach, it would lay the Council open to the risk of loss of other Protected Open Spaces in private ownership and use, e.g. the Master's Garden for Gonville and Caius College, Finella, The Pightle and Principal's Lodge, Newnham College. In response to the residents' concerns, paragraph 4.19 has been removed from the strategy, although NAT 39 appears in the ward profile table and map for East Chesterton and in Appendix 2 of the strategy. With regard to further consultation, the consultation period cannot be extended further due to the need to move forward with the evidence base for the Local Plan Review. Residents will be able to input into the stages of consultation undertaken for the Local Plan Review.

Next Steps

- 3.37 Following adoption, the strategy will be used as a material consideration in the planning process and as part of the evidence base for the Local Plan Review.
- 3.38 In terms of its role as a material consideration, a playing field site may have been assessed in 2011 as part of the strategy. If a proposal for development came forward which might give rise to the loss of the playing field, the work included in the strategy allows the Council the opportunity to show its importance for environmental and/or recreational reasons. The case officer for the planning application would use the findings of the assessment and strategy to inform decision-making on the principle of the loss of the playing field and the quantity and qualities of publicly accessible open space to be provided on site based on deficits in the locality.
- 3.39 In relation to forming part of the evidence base for the Local Plan Review, as this strategy suggests new standards, the Cambridge Local Plan 2006 (and the Planning Obligations Strategy Supplementary Planning Document) standards will stand as the adopted standards for the time-being. The suggested new standards will be used to inform the Local Plan Review and support the Planning Obligations Strategy. Following the adoption of the next Local Plan, the strategy will be formally updated and readopted in order to ensure that the standards of the new Local Plan and strategy are aligned.

4.0 Implications

(a) Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no direct financial or procurement implications arising from this report. This document provides evidence base for the review of the Local Plan. Plans are already in place for the review of the Local Plan and bringing forward one separate Development Plan Document will mean that considerable cost savings can be achieved.

(b) Staffing Implications

- 4.2 There are no direct staffing implications arising from this report.

(c) Equal Opportunities Implications

- 4.3 There are no direct equal opportunities implications arising from this report. This strategy has not been subject to its own Equality Impact Assessment. The Local Plan Review process, for which the Open

Space and Recreation Strategy forms part of the evidence base, will be subject to detailed Equality Impact Assessment.

(d) **Environmental Implications**

4.4 The proposals contained in the strategy are considered to have a positive impact in terms of climate change as the strategy is concerned with the protection, enhancement and provision of open space. It reflects the need to balance meeting the needs of those who live, work, visit or study in the City, with the protection and enhancement of the environment. Many of the open spaces protected are multi-functional, with many providing scope for flood risk mitigation and urban cooling. Furthermore, this strategy supports the development of the new Local Plan for Cambridge, which will assist in the delivery of high quality sustainable new developments, alongside the protection and enhancement of the built and natural environments of the City. As such it is anticipated that the future Local Plan will also have a positive climate change rating, although the precise nature of this positive impact will be dependent on the detail of policy and the quality of future planning applications.

(e) **Consultation**

4.5 This consultation was in line with the standards set out in the Council's Statement of Community Involvement and was also consistent with the Council's Code of Best Practice.

(f) **Community Safety**

4.6 There are no direct community safety implications arising from this report. Community safety is an important issue, which affects the use of open space. The Strategy reflects the need to take this into account in proposals for new or improved open space.

5.0 Background papers

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- Draft Open Space and Recreation Strategy 2011;
- Open Space and Recreation Strategy 2006;
- Cambridge Local Plan 2006;
- Committee Report and Minutes of Development Plan Scrutiny Sub-Committee on 13th July 2010.

- Committee Report and Minutes of Development Plan Scrutiny Sub-Committee on 12th July 2011.

6.0 Appendices

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| Appendix A | Summary of Representations to the draft Open Space and Recreation Strategy 2011 and Officer Assessment |
| Appendix B | Revised Open Space and Recreation Strategy 2011 with tracked changes |

7.0 Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report, please contact:

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