

## Appendix 2

### **STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK**

It is important that this Parks and Open Spaces Strategy fits into a much broader strategic framework involving national, regional and local policies, visions, strategies and aims.

- **National**

A new strategy was released (March 2008) by the Local Government Association (LGA) in partnership with Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and associated Non-Departmental Public Body partners: '**A Passion for Excellence: an improvement strategy for culture and sport**' (source: DCMS website).

Central Government, through DCMS, defines culture as:

- The performing and visual arts, craft and fashion
- Libraries, literature, writing and publishing
- Museums, artefacts, archives and design
- Built heritage, architecture, landscape and archaeology
- Sports events, facilities and development
- Media, film, television, video and language
- Parks, open spaces, wildlife habitats, water environment and countryside recreation
- children's play, playgrounds and play activities
- Tourism, festivals and attractions
- Informal leisure pursuits

Culture and sport are recognised as being important in promoting strong and resilient communities. The strategy aims to make culture and sport better at delivering economic, social and environmental outcomes in local communities; to simplify support; to improve performance and address under-performance; to build capacity and leadership.

The aim of the DCMS is “to improve the quality of life for all through cultural and sporting activities, to support the pursuit of excellence and to champion the tourism, creative and leisure industries.” (source: DCMS website).

### **PPG 17 (Planning for Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation 2002)**

This advises authorities to:-

- Adopt a strategic approach and plan for the provision and enhancement of well designed recreational and sporting facilities and also open spaces
- Provide protection for open space that is, or has the potential to be, of value to the community
- Resist development which could diminish recreational provision
- Aim to ensure that sport and recreational facilities are easily accessible by a choice of modes of transport.
- Provide good quality open space and built recreational facilities as an integral part of new development in order to make them attractive and healthy places to live.

### **2002 : Urban Green Spaces Taskforce**

Local authorities should develop (or update) and implement a green space strategy, which integrates with neighbourhood renewal, regeneration, planning, housing development, community development, local health improvement, culture, children’s play and sports strategies.

### **2002 ODPM Living Places**

A strategic process considers how all aspects of local green spaces could be improved – how provision is planned, designed, managed, used and maintained

## **2006 National Audit Office Report – Enhancing Green Space**

Green space strategies play a key role in ensuring a local authority meets the expectations of national green space policy, in both its roles as community leader and planning authority.

- **Regional**

- **Regional Planning Guidance for the East Midlands (2002)**

- This guidance sets out proposals for the sustainable development of the region's economy, infrastructure, housing and other land uses. The guiding principle is to consider using previously developed land for development before using green field sites.

- Policy 38** – states that playing fields and other open spaces should be protected if there is a need, and the enhancement of these open spaces should be protected through a Leisure Strategy

- Policy 37** – states that Local Authorities should be generating policies that enhance and emphasise the contribution of recreation, sport and leisure to the health, economic and social well being of the community, recognising the needs of different groups. Mention is also made that these recreational facilities should be accessible by public transport.

In 2005 the East Midlands Development Agency (EMDA) produced its “**East Midlands Urban Action Plan**”.

This plan outlines the following key principles:

- The region must recognise and build upon the role of urban areas in the wider spatial context
- Quality design is an essential element of successful urban areas.
- The important role of culture and sport in urban renaissance is highlighted in 'Cities, Regions and Competitiveness' (DTI 2003)
- The social, environmental and economic benefit of Public Realm is now being increasingly recognised
- By making cities and towns places where people wish to live and businesses want to locate, housing pressures on protected landscapes, national parks and greenfield land will be reduced.

- **Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)**

- The RSS sets out the spatial vision for the region to 2021, and contains core policies which take a sequential approach to the location of development. This therefore reinforces the importance of urban areas as the focus for achieving sustainable patterns of development, consistent with national planning guidance.

- **County**

The Leicestershire Local Area Agreement was agreed by its partners in February 2006, and this has developed into the Leicestershire Performance Framework. Responses to surveys carried out in Leicestershire showed that residents value the high quality of their environment. The partners to the Local Area Agreement have: **‘a commitment to a safe, clean and green environment which contains specific outcomes including climate change, bio-diversity and a cleaner environment’.**

The Leicestershire Together Community Strategy also has objectives which support walking and leisure activities, the development of parks and other open spaces. There are a number of delivery mechanisms outlined within the Local Area Agreement. They are based on alignment and co-ordination of activity between Districts through the Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs). LSPs are made up of organisations brought together to improve the local quality of life and will include public, private and voluntary organisations. Councils have common issues and it is anticipated that the Leicestershire Parks, Open Spaces and Countryside Network will be enhanced to provide greater levels of co-operation. Councils will be more responsive to customer expectations and share knowledge and expertise in the spirit of partnership.

Within Leicestershire the Biodiversity Action Plan Steering Group is well established involving the Wildlife Trust, English Nature and Local Authorities and will continue to focus on delivery of the Biodiversity Action Plan. Well-established partnerships, such as Enable, will exercise leadership to promote environmental initiatives across the county. Local groups will be co-ordinated to achieve the objectives set out in the Cleaner and Greener block of the Leicestershire Performance Framework

- **District**

2006

The Harborough District Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) produced a Harborough District Community Strategy.

Harborough District Council sets out its corporate priorities in “Harborough District 2010 a Vision for South Leicestershire”. These priorities are:

Community participation  
A strong local economy with improved transport  
Affordable and decent accommodation  
A cleaner, healthier environment  
Safer, healthier lifestyles  
Responsive, efficient services  
Minimising local bureaucracy

Each year individual service plans are produced which are included in an annual Business Plan.

Other HDC plans for arts, youth, sport and recreation, community safety and tourism will have links to this Parks and Open Spaces Plan.

The Local Development Framework (LDF) is currently (2009/10) undergoing consultation and will replace the Local Development Plan

- Local  
Many parishes are producing local plans following village appraisals.