Parks and Green Spaces Strategy

Scrutiny October 3rd 2022

Parks and Green Spaces Strategy at a glance

Vision

"*A city where everyone benefits from excellent quality parks and green spaces*"

Guiding Principles

Using priorities developed through stakeholder engagement we have identified 5 building blocks that influence and underpin everything we do.

Data driven

Using spatial assessment and other data to determine how work streams are making decisions about priority and communicating the potential impact or value on corporate priorities

Partnership

Aligning the work stream with City-wide and cross-council priorities, as set out in policy, programmes, and service plans, and as such forging collaboration and shared commitment across partnerships.

Harnessing social assets

Identifying the community groups, place-based organisations, and neighbourhood resources that bring skill, passion, insight and experience to delivering change. Develop opportunities to work together.

Whole system thinking

Understand and develop the connections and intersections between the desired change in each priority theme. Create a more joined-up and holistic approach to change by using structures and frameworks where possible to integrate approaches.

Financial stewardship

Understanding the resource costs of achieving change, creating opportunities to share investment and identifying new income opportunities.

Priority Themes

Nature Recovery

Setting out the parks services response to the Ecological Emergency and managing for nature targets

Green Grid

Setting out the parks services role in delivering a blue/green infrastructure strategy

Food Growing

Setting out the parks services role in creating a more equitable food system

Climate Change

Setting out the parks services response to the Climate Emergency

Culture & Heritage

Setting out the parks services role as custodians of our inherited city and celebrating the story of Bristol

Health Inequalities

Setting out how the parks service will address health inequalities across the city

Community & shared solutions

Setting out how the parks service will create more inclusive and accessible parks with greater level of community involvement

Skills & Employment

Setting out how the parks service will address skill deficits within its service and support community groups

Financial Stewardship

Setting out a blended approach to funding the parks service

Attributes

By understanding what stakeholder see as important we have been able to create 4 attributes that make a 'quality park'. We will use these attributes to help shape our future quality standard.
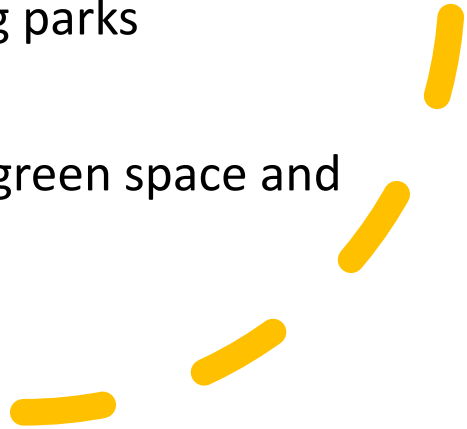
City relevant

Well maintained

Fair access

Community involved

Why Parks matter?

A graphic summarising the contribution Parks and Green Space make to strategic priorities (using data where possible):

- Community: social spaces, cohesion, civic engagement
- Health: physical, emotional, air quality , etc
- Skills and Employability: Job market, vehicle for engagement
- Nature Recovery
- Climate resilience
- Sustainable Food production
- Connectivity for nature / Green Infra structure
- Heritage
- Economy
- The COVID effect – new ways people are using parks

Message: revealing the true value of parks and green space and contribution to city priorities.
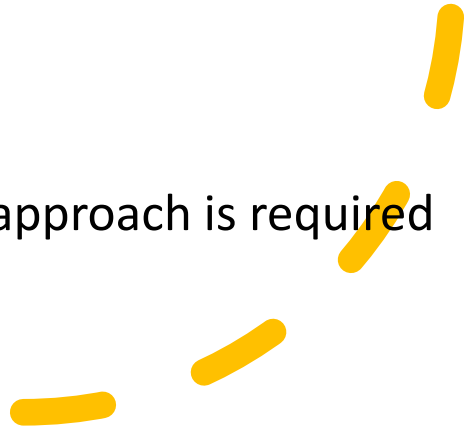
Policy context: Parks role in delivering the City's ambitions

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┌──────────────────────┐  ┌────────────┐  ┌──────────────────────┐  ┌────────────────────┐
│ 25 year Environment  │  │ Local Plan │  │ National Food        │  │ Forest of Avon Plan│
│ Bill                 │  │            │  │ Strategy             │  │                    │
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                          │ One City Plan│
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| Corporate Strategy | One City Ecological Emergency Action Plan | One City Climate Emergency Action Plan | Community Climate Action Plans |

| Good Food Plan 2030 | Safer Options Strategy | The Belonging Strategy | Bristol Equalities Strategy | Food Equalities Strategy |

Green Blue Infrastructure Strategy

Parks and Green Spaces Strategy

| Allotment Strategy | Tree and Woodland Strategy |

| Service Plans | Team Plans | Individual Objectives |

Our daily work

Why a new strategy? What has changed?

- [2008 Parks and Green Space Strategy](#) summary of achievements

- Changed Planning rules, the broken links between development and investment in Parks and the rate of development and its impacts

- Ecological emergency

- Climate emergency

- Health inequality: transformation in health system to address inequality at a local level

- Funding picture

- One City approach: the requirement for an integrated place based approach

- Economy: a move towards a more entrepreneurial service

- Disadvantage not addressed

Message: We are at a step change, a radical new approach is required

Stakeholder engagement: What we've been told

What stakeholders said:

- Greater involvement for communities
- Clear, up-to-date, accessible and easy-to-find information
- Simple permission processes and clear points of contact within the Parks Service
- Less risk-averse approach to management and more emphasis on community led solutions
- Improved diversity, equality and inclusion
- Education, training, and capacity building
- Sustainable and long-term sources of funding

Stakeholder engagement: How this has informed our approach (Quality)

By understanding what stakeholders see as important we have identified **'4 attributes'** that make a **'quality park'.** These are:

City relevant: the role parks play in achieving city ambition based on policy and programme alignment

Community organised: greater community involvement lies at the heart of a successful and quality park "parks are good for people; people are good for parks"

Fair access: parks and green spaces are accessible for all users

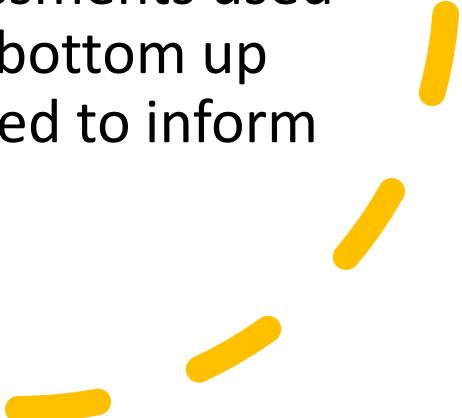**Well maintained:** safe and welcoming parks

Stakeholder engagement: How this has informed our approach (Principles)

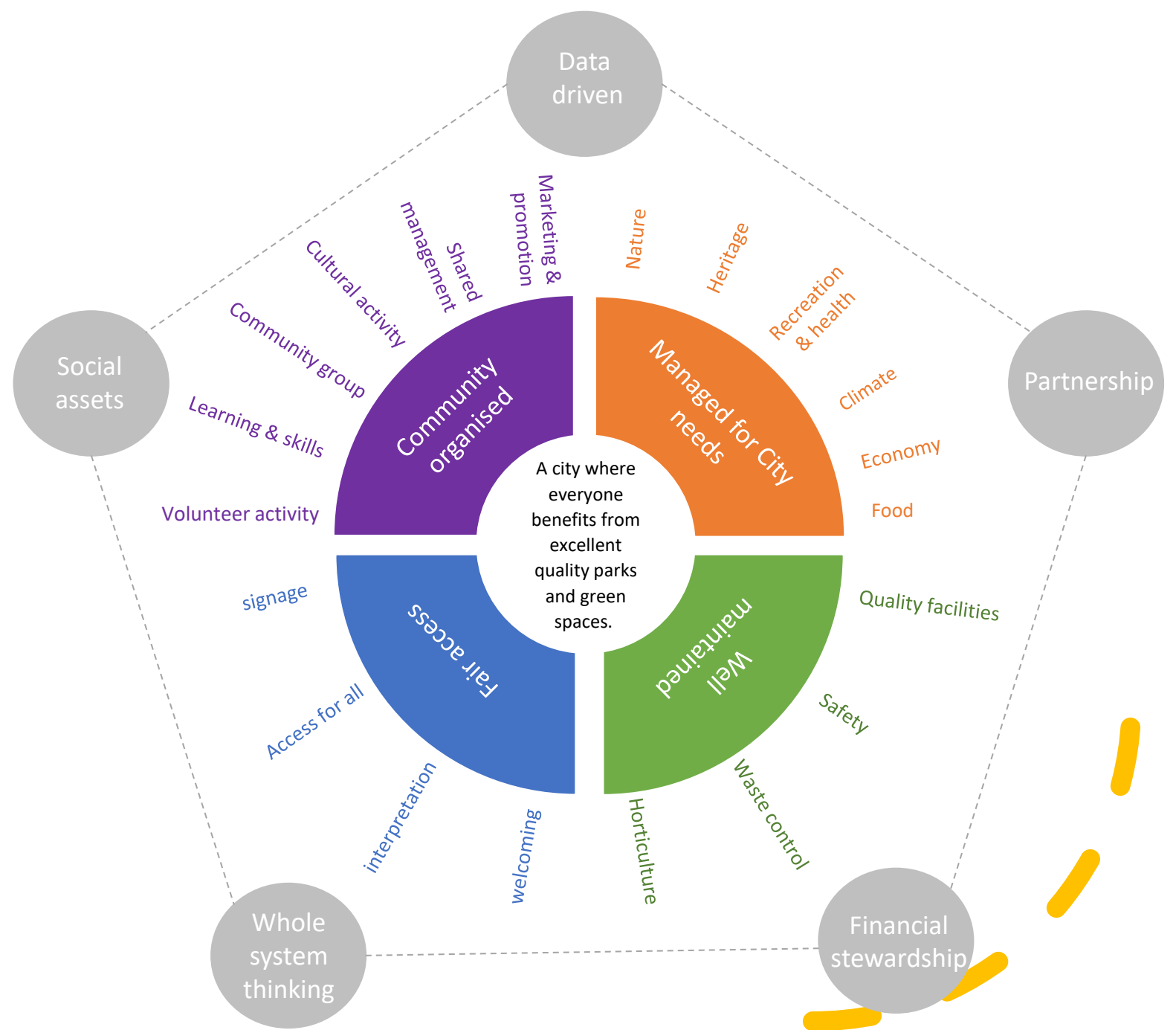**5 'guiding principles'** that influence and underpin everything we do.

- **Data driven**
- **Partnership**
- **Harnessing social assets**
- **Whole system approach**
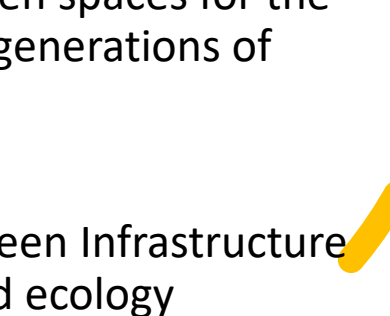- **Financial stewardship**

Our approach to quality: how are we going to measure our success?

- Quality uplift is central to the PGSS Vision
- Define and measure quality
- A clear set of benchmarks related to stated standards.
- Identify areas in need of investment
- Guide and inform priorities and management prescriptions
- Provide a context for collaboration, shared judgements, decisions and codesigned solutions.
- A shift from expert led top-down assessments used to inform planning processes towards bottom up system of collaborative judgements used to inform joined-up local action plans.
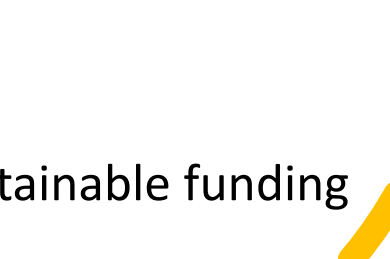
Our approach to quality: a new quality framework for parks

A city where everyone benefits from excellent quality parks and green spaces.

Priority themes

- **Nature Recovery**
  - Responding to the Ecological Emergency and setting our plans for managing more land for nature

- **Sustainable Food Growing**
  - To maximise nature-friendly, sustainably operated food growing potential on suitable land owned and managed by the BCC Parks Service and meet the demand for allotments

- **Climate Change**
  - Respond to the climate emergency by creating climate resilient parks that are fit for the future by contributing to NetZero targets and making the City a better to live in a hotter climate.

- **Heritage**
  - We will work to conserve, enhance and provide access to the historic environment within our parks and green spaces for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations of Bristol's citizens

- **Green Grid**
  - How parks will link into city's ambitions for Green Infrastructure to improve nature connectivity for citizens and ecology

Priority themes continued

- **Addressing Health Inequalities**
  - Realising the health benefits of parks by ensuring everyone in Bristol has access to a Green Flag standard park within a 10 minute walk of home

- **Community & Shared Solutions**
  - We will empower park users, volunteers, and civil society groups to engage in park management and development. Council services will work collaboratively with local partners to mobilise the capabilities, resources and knowledge of stakeholders and unlock the benefit of parks.

- **Skills and Employment**
  - Drive change in the work force and utilise parks and green spaces effectively to increase community inclusion, tackle poverty and improve health equality

- **Financial Stewardship**
  - Use a blended approach to creating a sustainable funding model for the park service
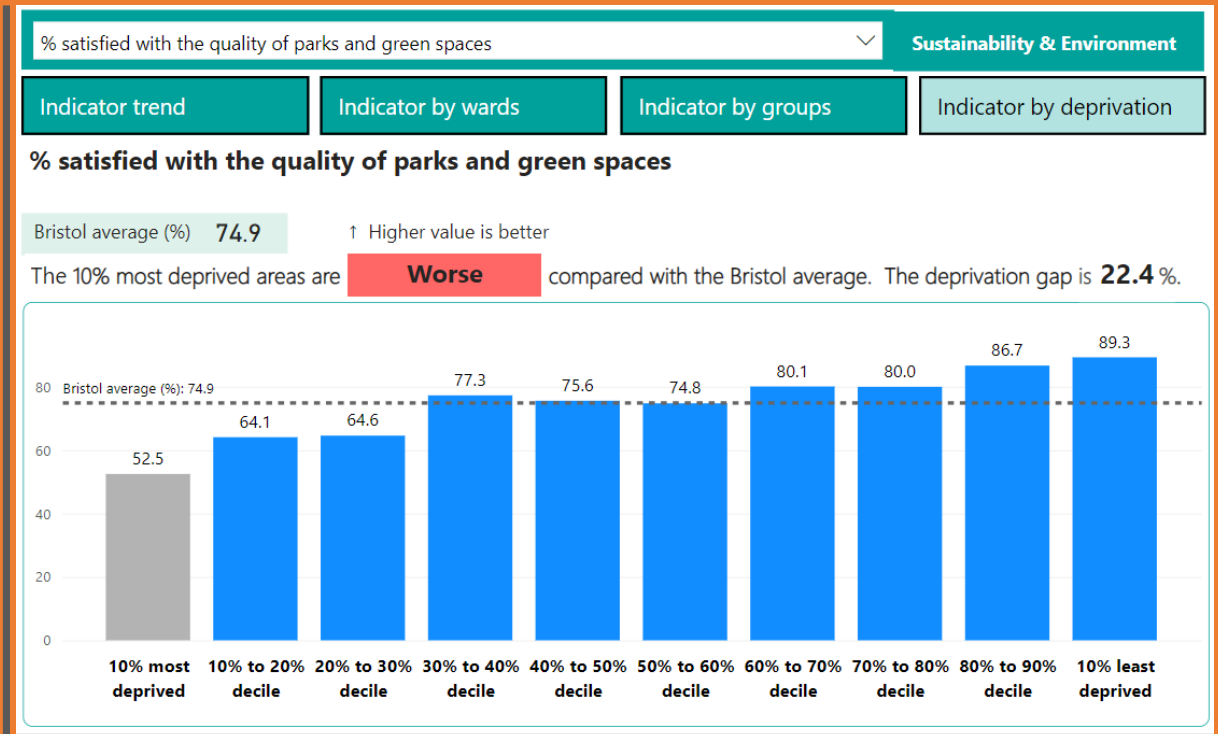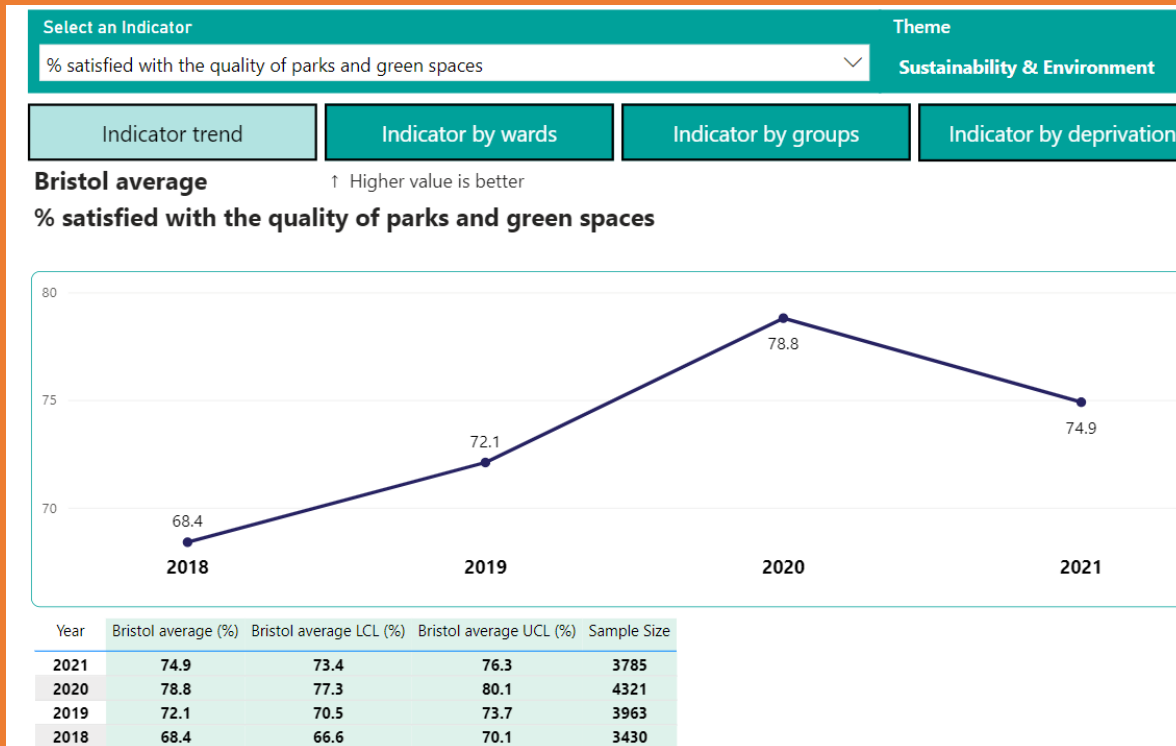
Mapping priority

Part 1: Quality of parks - baseline and need

- Data: QoL satisfaction with parks, parks access standard, population growth, health inequality and heat vulnerability.

- Identify priority based on the relationship between quality of parks and social need.

- Needs-based improvement plan
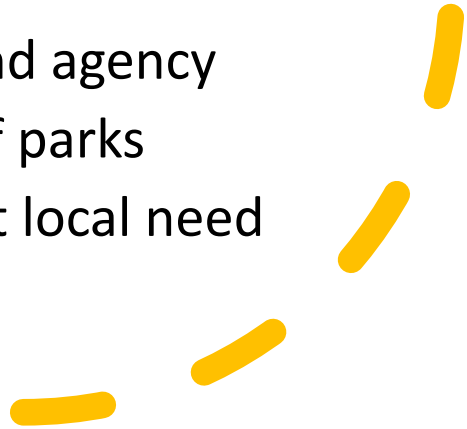
QoL data – satisfaction with Parks

68.4 — 2018
72.1 — 2019
78.8 — 2020
74.9 — 2021

Year	Bristol average (%)	Bristol average LCL (%)	Bristol average UCL (%)	Sample Size
2021	74.9	73.4	76.3	3785
2020	78.8	77.3	80.1	4321
2019	72.1	70.5	73.7	3963
2018	68.4	66.6	70.1	3430

% satisfied with the quality of parks and green spaces

Sustainability & Environment

| Indicator trend | Indicator by wards | Indicator by groups | Indicator by deprivation |

% satisfied with the quality of parks and green spaces

Bristol average (%) **74.9**   ↑ Higher value is better

The 10% most deprived areas are   **Worse**   compared with the Bristol average. The deprivation gap is **22.4** %.

Bristol average (%): 74.9

52.5 — 10% most deprived
64.1 — 10% to 20% decile
64.6 — 20% to 30% decile
77.3 — 30% to 40% decile
75.6 — 40% to 50% decile
74.8 — 50% to 60% decile
80.1 — 60% to 70% decile
80.0 — 70% to 80% decile
86.7 — 80% to 90% decile
89.3 — 10% least deprived

Mapping priority continued

Part 2: Land use assessment

Priorities for land-use based on meeting targets, supply and demand on key strategic needs (trees, food, climate, nature, access)

Each theme will set out areas of priority based on individual metrics (i.e. greatest demand for allotments or priority land for nature recovery). These will show priority and opportunity across the estate and aid:

- Improve parks management decision making (how are we going to meet council ambitions across multiple objectives / how to judge proposals from community groups and partner)

- Greater community empowerment and agency

- Demonstrate the multifunctionality of parks

- Inform developers and business about local need

Quality improvement plan

Quality improvement plan – providing access to good quality parks

❖ Prioritising most deprived neighbourhoods

❖ Costed delivery plan

❖ Case studies

Message: this is how we are going to implement the change we need to see

Timelines

Now – Nov: Mapping, writing content, cost modelling

Nov – Dec: Copywriting, design, building consultation

Jan – Feb: Consultation (6 weeks)

Feb – May: Decision pathway

May: Cabinet (date TBC)