

# Greenspace Strategy

Adopted  
Supplementary  
Planning  
Document

PART 1: Strategy





Torbay  
Local Development  
Framework  
2005 - 2026

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Adopted Supplementary Planning Document

## PART 1: Strategy

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Local Development Document LDD8

July 2007



The Greenspace Strategy is available::

- On the Torbay Council Website: [www.torbay.gov.uk/ldf](http://www.torbay.gov.uk/ldf)
- At the Torbay Council Offices at Roebuck House, or any of the Council Libraries and Connections Offices in Torquay, Paignton or Brixham.

If you would like any further information about this document or any aspect of the Torbay Local Development Framework please contact us. You can also **register your interest** in the emerging Torbay Local Development Framework (LDF). Your details will be added to our LDF consultation database and you will be kept informed about the various the Local Development Documents as they are produced.

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Other links that will provide more detailed background information on the spatial planning system include:

- Department of Local Government and Communities: Planning Policy Statement 12 - Local Development Frameworks ([www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk))
- The Planning Portal ([www.planningportal.gov.uk](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk)) is the Government's online service for planning which includes advice and information on the plan-led and emerging Local Development Framework.

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This document can be made available in a range of languages, on tape, in Braille, large print and in other formats. For further information please contact 01803 208804.



# Torbay Spaces, Quality Places

## Foreword

We are pleased to present this Strategy, which sets out our vision and plans for parks and green spaces in Torbay. We are dedicated to working with our partners to make these areas safe and attractive places to visit. We are also committed to working in partnership with residents, communities and park friends groups. Our aim is to tackle inequality of access to all our parks and green spaces and to attract more people of all ages and disabilities. We are also keen to make our parks and green spaces areas of excellence for cultural opportunities.

Our parks and green spaces are rightly valued as amongst our most precious assets. This Strategy sets out the council's strategic intentions for our green assets. The ultimate goal is to develop a thriving, vibrant and sustainable park users community to work in partnership with Torbay Council.

The Strategy is ambitious, challenging, forward thinking and above all very workable. It is a Supplementary Planning Document that forms part of the Torbay Local Development Framework.

It is very much a live document with clear objectives and will be a foundation on which Torbay's valued parks and green spaces can continue to improve in terms of quality, accessibility and meet the needs of local people.

We would urge you to take the time to read the Strategy to enable us to improve these areas and move forward together.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeanette Richards".

**Councillor Jeanette Richards**  
Cabinet Member for  
Community Services



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colin Charlwood".

**Councillor Colin Charlwood**  
Chair of the Local Development Framework  
Working Party



**Torbay Council would like to thank Natural England for its assistance with the publication of this document.**

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## **Part 2: Action Plan 2006-2011**

### **Key Terms & Abbreviations used:**

Local Development Framework (LDF)

Local Development Scheme (LDS)

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)

Sustainability Appraisal (SA)

Local Development Document (LDD)

Development Plan Document (DPD)

Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

For further information please see the Glossary.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### **The new planning system**

- 1.1 Parks and green spaces contribute to the quality of our lives, both in terms of providing a setting for our everyday activities, as an area of formal recreation or play, for informal use and it reflects degrees of public ownership and pride. The Council aims to improve the quality of green space across Torbay. It will in partnership with its strategic partners, the community and other organisations aim to deliver green spaces that fulfil public expectation, needs and aspirations.

### **Scope and Purpose**

- 1.2 This strategy has been prepared to seek the views of the community and other organisations with an interest in the provision or maintenance of green spaces throughout Torbay. The strategy identifies issues that need to be addressed and will provide an overarching statement of intent to safeguard, improve, and promote the quality and provision of green spaces in Torbay, meeting the needs and interests of both residents and visitors to the area. The strategic aims and objectives of this Green Space Strategy are set out in the next section. This Greenspace Strategy will form a key planning and management document for Torbay's green spaces over the next 20 years.

### **Assistance from CABE Space**

- 1.3 CABE Space set up a Strategic Enabling Scheme in 2003 to provide direct help and support to local authorities to develop green space strategies for managing their network of parks and green spaces.
- 1.4 The scheme was established to help local authorities to pursue much higher standards of maintenance and delivery in terms of their public spaces, by lending them individuals with a proven track record who could help them develop a robust green space strategy.
- 1.5 Torbay Council was successful its application in 2003 to become one of the first thirty local authorities in England to receive direct assistance under this scheme.

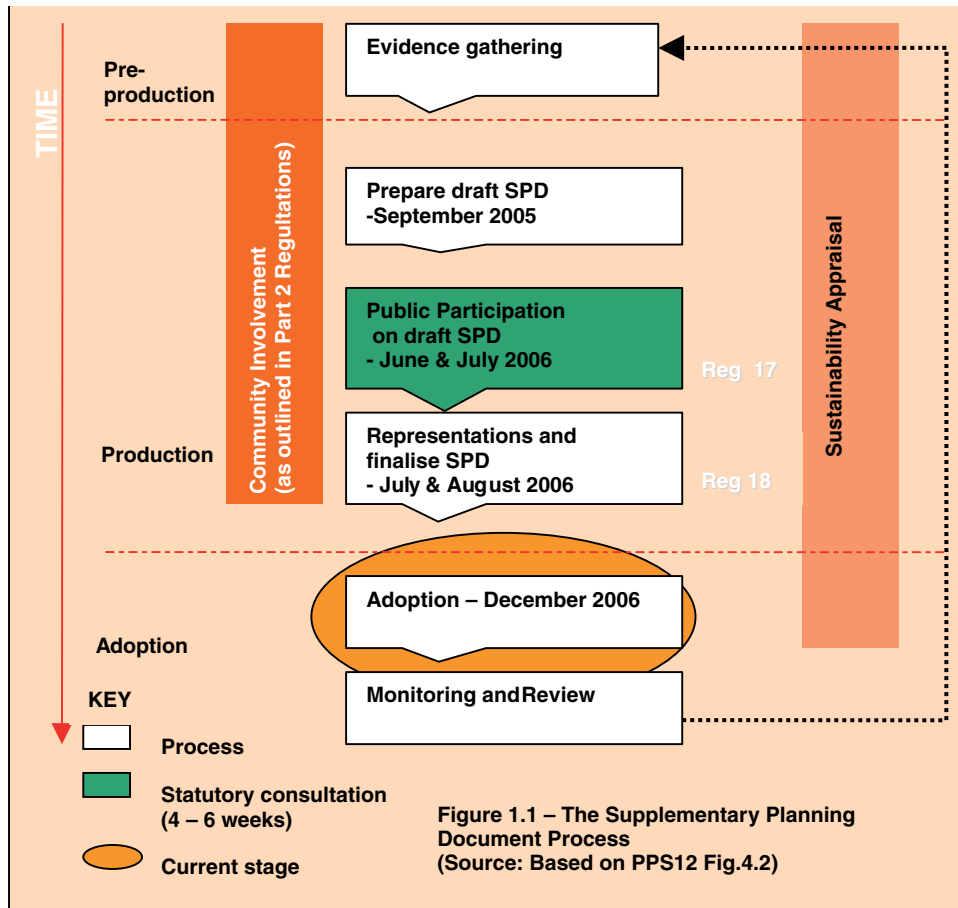
### **How to use this document**

- 1.6 This document is split into two parts. Part 1 sets out the background, vision and strategy for our green spaces over a 20 year period. Part 2, forms an Action Plan that sets out how the strategy will be put into practice and covers a 5 year time horizon which will need to be reviewed at the midway point to cover the period 2012-2016 and so forth.

### **The Development and Status of the Greenspace Strategy**

- 1.7 This document forms a Supplementary Planning Document in the emerging Local Development

Framework for Torbay (LDF) (see section 3 for further information about the links with other documents and strategies). As part of the new planning system, any SPDs adopted as part of the LDF have to go through a specific planning process. Figure 1 demonstrates the stages that



this document has been through. Any comments received during public consultation period have been fed into the preparation of this final document. Community involvement has, and will continue to run parallel to the revision of this document and associated Action Plan.

- 1.8 As the Greenspace Strategy will act as a Supplementary Planning Document under the Local Development Framework, a Sustainability Appraisal has been undertaken in parallel to the development of the Strategy. This process ensures that due consideration has been given to social, economic and environmental implications of the Greenspace Strategy. See section 3 for further details about this process.
- 1.9 The sustainability appraisal carried out in parallel to the Greenspace Strategy has demonstrated that Greenspace Strategy has the potential to address a number of sustainability issues relating to Torbay's green spaces providing an improvement on the current management of such spaces. The appraisal of the Greenspace Strategy objectives and the detailed Action Plan has been beneficial in strengthening existing sustainability issues. It has resulted in an additional objective

<sup>1</sup> See the Further Reading and References section in Appendix 3

to give greater consideration to biodiversity. It has also raised the need to address a number of sustainability issues which need greater emphasis. For example local biodiversity, cultural and heritage assets, water (consumption, flooding and coastal management), climate change, accessibility, renewable energy, social provision, obesity, mental health, social deprivation and emerging trend towards historical and ecological tourism. These issues are now covered in greater detail in both the main document and the Action Plan.

- 1.10 In particular the decision to outline the issues which should be addressed in the Management Plan in the main document has helped to ensure that a number of sustainability issues are considered on a site by site basis. This will help to draw up plans which deal with sustainability issues relating to both short term maintenance issues as well as the long term management requirements that may arise from, for example a changing climate. All the sustainability appraisal work carried out during the evolution of the Greenspace Strategy is summarised in the SA of the Regulation 19 Adoption Version. In particular the mitigation section provides further detail on how the SPD has been changed as a result of the appraisal (visit [www.torbay.gov.uk/ldf](http://www.torbay.gov.uk/ldf) - click on sustainability appraisal). This document also includes a monitoring section as it is important to ensure that the impact predictions made in this document are accurate and that any unexpected adverse effects of implementing this document are identified and addressed as soon as possible.



## 2.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 This strategy is very important because it:

- has enabled the Council to carry out an audit of all its principal parks and green spaces. This work has highlighted areas and facilities which may be lacking, where there might be an overprovision of unusable space and where there are opportunities for improvement to meet local need (some key facts and trends are outlined in the 'Developing Local Standards' section).
- will, in liaison with local communities produce an action plan to prioritise the programme for improving parks, targeting those parks and green spaces where work is needed to improve standards and/or meet gaps in provision
- Acts as an important Supplementary Planning Document in the emerging Torbay Local Development Framework and assist in the assessment of Planning Contributions (see section 3 for further details on the new development plan system)
- Identifies possible partnerships with independent groups that can make the best use of existing Council capital funds (linking with other strategies gives a greater chance of receiving external funding); and
- helps to put parks at the centre of our local communities by encouraging involvement by neighbourhoods in improving their immediate environment.

2.2 The strategy's links with key national, regional and local agencies and policies are shown in Section 3.

### The vision and objectives

2.3 Torbay Council carried out a visioning session at the start of the process in 2004 when a small group of key players established an initial vision and developed a central aim for the strategy. This is to:

**“Encourage greater use of green spaces by local people.”**

2.4 In order to achieve this, the group put forward the following seven themes or objectives for investment. Two additional objectives have subsequently been incorporated as the Strategy has progressed.

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<sup>2</sup> *The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004*

### **Strategic objectives:**

- Improving appearance of green space.
- Improving accessibility, especially for the disabled.
- Challenging people's perceptions of green spaces as areas to visit and use more often.
- Improving facilities and attractions.
- Increasing numbers of events/entertainments.
- Developing opportunities for using green spaces for learning.
- Promoting and protecting the heritage assets of Torbay's green spaces.

### **Through community involvement and the sustainability appraisal process the following objectives have been added:**

- Promoting of green spaces as drivers for economic activity.
- Recognising, protecting and enhancing the biodiversity value of green space.

## **The Greenspace Strategy and Planning Contributions**

- 2.5 The Government advocates the use of planning obligations to be used as a means to remedy local deficiencies in the quantity or quality of open space, sports and recreational provision is inadequate or under threat, or where new development increases local needs.
- 2.6 This strategy will assist and determine where future allocations of section 106 funding should be targeted. The strategy will help to determine whether the provision from a developer is in the form of land, where deficiencies occur, or a commuted sum where there is sufficient green space and existing facilities need to be improved. Depending on the size and type of Section 106 it could be both.
- 2.7 Green space provided on site should be of a suitable size and nature for its intended purpose, safely accessible and available to the general public and capable of adoption by Torbay Council. It should be in addition to formal landscaping and any amenity space provided.
- 2.8 Consideration will be given using planning conditions or Section 106 Agreements to secure unrestricted public access to any green space not to be adopted by the Council. Section 3 looks at the relationship between this document as part of the emerging Local Development Framework for Torbay.

### 3.0 LINKS WITH OTHER STRATEGIES AND POLICIES

Open spaces, sport and recreation all underpin people’s quality of life. Well designed and implemented planning policies for open space, sport and recreation are therefore fundamental to delivering broader Government objectives.’.

*ODPM: Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning For Open Space, Sport and Recreation (July 2002)*

#### The strategy context

3.1 The Greenspace strategy links to corporate, community and Local Development Framework documents and delivers key objectives from each through the provision and maintenance of public spaces. This is shown in figure 3.1 below

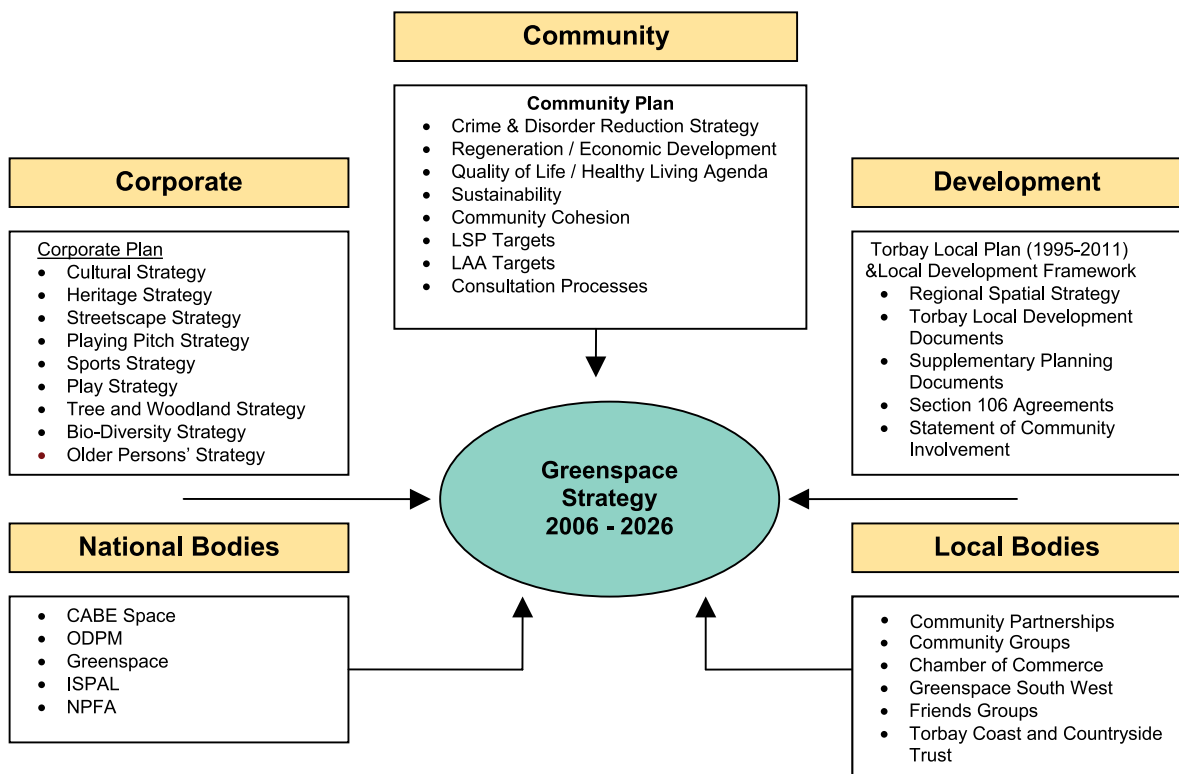


Figure 3.1 - Diagram showing links with other bodies, policies and strategies

## National

- 3.2 At a national level, the value of open spaces in terms of sustainable communities has been recognised. John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister said in October 2002 'The quality of our public space affects the quality of all our lives. It affects how we feel about where we live, where we work, and where our children play successfully, thriving and prosperous communities are characterised by streets, parks and open spaces that are clean, safe, attractive areas that local people are proud of and want to spend their time'.
- 3.3 **Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning For Open Space, Sport and Recreation (July 2002)**. This document advocates the need for local authorities to undertake robust assessments of their existing and future needs for their communities for open space, sports and recreational facilities. It also recommends that local authorities should undertake audits of existing open space, sports and recreational facilities, and opportunities for new open space and facilities.

## Regional

- 3.4 'Greenspace' is a registered charity that was set up to help those committed to the planning, design, management and use of public parks and green spaces. Greenspace are currently developing a network of regional forums to focus on promoting the sustainable planning, design, management and improvement of parks, gardens and green spaces at a local, regional and national level. 'Greenspace Southwest' was set up in 2004 to advocate for parks and green spaces in the southwest region. Torbay has been a member of this thriving organisation since its formation.'

## Local

- 3.5 The adopted **Community Plan for Torbay 'Turning the Tide for Torbay 2007-2027'**, builds on the previous plan 'Teaming up for Torbay's Future'. It outlines the Partnership's vision for Torbay to 2027, bringing together the views of representatives from the public, private, community and voluntary sectors. The LDF will provide the spatial expression of this document and will therefore relate closely to it.
- 3.6 The current Community plan identifies a vision for Torbay in which  
**Our Ambition for Torbay**  
a prosperous area known to be a great place to live and learn and grow up in  
an area where we compete on a world stage in our traditional industries of tourism and fishing  
an area where communities know and support each other and enjoy some of the best services in England  
an area that widens opportunities and provides high quality employment and retains our young people in the Bay  
an area that celebrates the differences in the three towns, builds on the strengths of these towns and brings back the feel good factor

3.7 The Greenspace Strategy contributes directly or indirectly to the key themes of the current community plan:

**Pride in the Bay**

**Learning and skills for the future**

**The New Economy**

**Stronger Communities**

3.8 A summary of the main reports, policy development and plans which demonstrate the importance and value of parks and open spaces and sets out the Government's vision for their renaissance, is given in Appendix 3.

## **Torbay's Development Plan**

3.9 The Torbay Local Plan (1995-2011) was adopted in 2004 and provides a framework for the sustainable development of Torbay up to 2011. Together with the adopted Devon Structure Plan 2001-2016 this provides the basis for land use planning over the next few years.

## **Local Development Framework**

3.10 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act came into force on September 24th 2004. This act heralds the replacement of the development plan system of structure plans and local plans with a system of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks. It is intended to equip planning departments to consider all matters that affect the use of land, rather than land use alone. This approach is called spatial planning.

3.11 The new Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the South West is a plan up to the year 2026. It will aim to protect what is highly valued about the region, at the same time making provision for sufficient new homes and jobs and retail and leisure facilities to meet the needs of a growing and increasingly affluent population. The "final" version of the RSS - as submitted to the Secretary of State has just been produced (April 2006) by the South West Regional Assembly (please visit the SWRA website for further information [www.southwest-ra.gov.uk](http://www.southwest-ra.gov.uk) )

3.12 Policy SD3 of this RSS relates to the Environment and Natural Resources in which 'The region's environment and natural resources will be protected and enhanced by:...ensuring that development respects landscape and ecological thresholds of settlements...' and '...positively planning to enhance natural environments through development, taking a holistic approach based on landscape or ecosystem scale planning';

3.13 The emerging Torbay Local Development Framework consists of a 'portfolio' of documents. Collectively these will provide and deliver the spatial planning strategy for Torbay for the period 2005 to 2026 (see the diagram in Figure 3.2).

3.14 Supplementary planning documents will be subject to formal 'Sustainability Appraisal'. As the Greenspace Strategy will act as a Supplementary Planning Document under the Local Development Framework, a Sustainability Appraisal has been undertaken in parallel to the development of the Strategy. For further information on the work carried out so far or to view the sustainability appraisal which accompanies this report please visit [www.torbay.gov.uk/ldf](http://www.torbay.gov.uk/ldf) (click on sustainability appraisal) or use the contact details inside the front cover to view a hard copy).

3.15 The Greenspace Strategy will also provide the evidence base for Section 106 contributions, (contributions paid by developers towards the provision of infrastructure required by their development) in relation to public space.

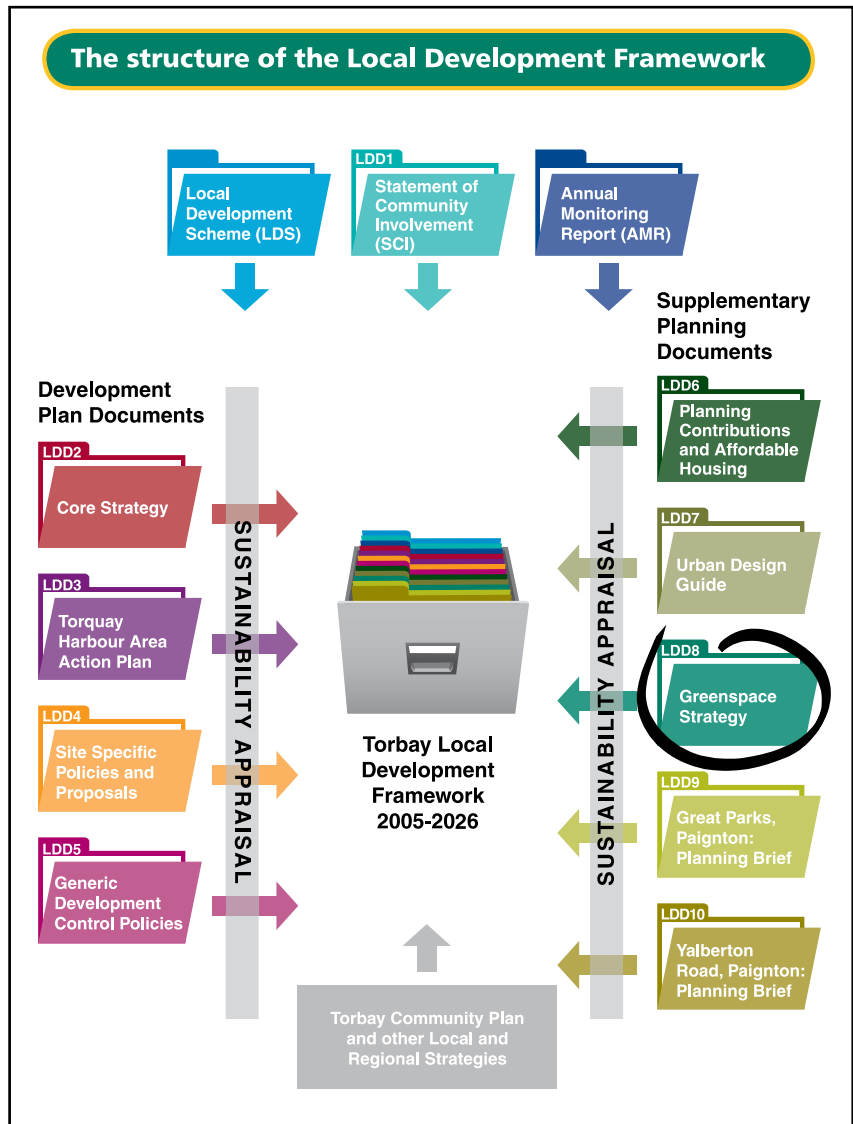


Figure 3.2

3.16 It will therefore link with the Planning Contributions and Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (LDD 6). This will seek to provide a framework for ensuring that planning obligations contribute to the sustainable development goals in Torbay. This will include the delivery of the facilities and infrastructure needed to accommodate new development linking planning obligations to Development Plan and Community Plan priorities.

### Internal and External Partnerships

3.17 We believe that strong and sustainable partnerships are the key to improving service planning and delivery and ultimately improvements to Torbay's green spaces. Partnerships with the community and other agencies are at the heart of planning and achieving better and more

accessible facilities. Partnerships with external agencies e.g. CABI Space, offer significant benefits in terms of attracting and coordinating external funding.

- 3.18 Some local people are reluctant to use parks and green spaces due to perceptions about crime and their safety. We feel that partnership working with agencies and organisations such as the Police, Safer Communities and Community Partnerships is the way forward.
- 3.19 We have formed a variety of partnerships which have generally proved to be successful. These include the creation of a significant number of 'Friends of Parks' groups. The benefits of such groups include working in partnership with the community, commitment from local people, pride and involvement in their local park or green space and the development of additional resources.
- 3.20 In order to increase the profile and usage of green spaces the parks team, based within the Cultural Services Division works with other service providers in the Cultural Services Division i.e. Arts, Museums and Sport and other Divisions such as Direct Services and Waste, Conservation and Planning and the Youth Service. The contributions offered by these services are invaluable in helping to meet the corporate priorities of the Council.

### **Cross Boundary Working**

- 3.21 Links have also been made with parks officers within Teignbridge District Council, who had previously set up a Geographical Information System (GIS) to map all Council land and data.
- 3.22 The Council plans to work with Teignbridge and South Hams District Councils and Devon County Council on mutually beneficial green space projects in the future.



## 4.0 THE CASE FOR GREEN SPACES

### The History and origin of Greenspaces and Public Parks

- 4.1 The origins of public green spaces in Britain can be traced to the seventeenth century. Owners of private residences opened their landscaped grounds to visitors of all social classes. The layout of parks during the eighteenth century was very geometric, apparently little affected by the trend towards naturalism and irregularity, which were becoming popular in the grounds of country houses.
- 4.2 The early nineteenth century saw the emergence of the urban 'middle class' park. These facilities were seen as a slice of countryside on the doorstep of wealthy citizens and admission charges were made in order to keep them exclusive. By the middle of the century, a combination of overcrowding, poor sanitation and pollution contributed to the low quality of life for the urban dweller. The reaction to these problems included calls to provide public open spaces for the urban poor from social reformers, philanthropists and the newly created public corporations.

'Mrs. Mirvan says we are not to walk in [St. James's] Park again next Sunday ... because there is better company in Kensington Gardens; but really, if you had seen how every body was dressed, you would not think that possible'.

*Frances Burney (1752–1840), British author (1778).*

- 4.3 In some areas, civic pride lay behind the creation of intricate bedding displays, floral clocks, winter gardens and pavilions which acted as venues for receiving the town's special guests. The open spaces were seen as the jewel in the crown of public corporations and resources supported many skilled horticulturalists and park superintendents.
- 4.4 However, the general perception now is that green spaces and public parks in Britain have undergone a gentle decline since the Second World War, a period during which many facilities lost their railings for the 'war effort' and others were temporarily ploughed up for food production. It is inevitable that greater prosperity and mobility since that time should have given the average citizen a wider choice of leisure pursuit. The countryside became more accessible.
- 4.5 It is strange that one hundred and fifty years after the majority of municipal parks were created we are now using the same logic and arguments to justify their retention, improvement and expansion. Whilst very few, if any responsible citizens would ever consider advocating the

demise of sanitation and acceptable housing, it seems that society has been willing to stand by whilst our parks and green spaces have been neglected and subjected to decline over the last thirty years.

- 4.6 Nevertheless Torbay residents are still very protective of their parks and green spaces. This confirms the need for local residents to be near green spaces, a need which seems to grow rather than diminish with time.

## **The importance and benefits of our green spaces**

- 4.7 The provision of green spaces is of vital importance to the community. They contribute significantly to health, prosperity and well being. This importance and its benefits can be underestimated and this strategy sets out to reinforce the need for good green space and how it may be achieved. These benefits include:

- Provision of an attractive environment in which to live, work and play.
- The promotion of health and well being through active and passive recreation in the form of organised, casual sport, walking and social interaction. This could help address issues about obesity.
- The space to relax, enjoy the outdoors or just to escape briefly to tranquillity from the work environment.
- Improvement or creation of green space can lead to the regeneration of communities and areas.
- The reduction of anti social behaviour in youths through the provision of good and relevant play and informal sports areas in appropriate locations.
- Educational provision both formally and informally.
- The conservation and protection of Torbay's natural and varied beauty.
- Green space provide the focal points for events, both community led which increases cohesion of the area and commercial which provide revenue income.
- High quality floral provision in a tourist resort increases its reputation as a place to visit and has an impact on the areas economy.
- Provision of green space gives the opportunity for communities to become involved in their own environment and identity.
- The provision of high quality green space generates a feeling of civic pride.
- The openness of green space contributes to social inclusion.
- Allotments can provide a value to well being in a number of ways. They are recognised by the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners for their contribution to therapeutic, educational, health, community development and healthy eating qualities. They also serve an important function for nature conservation and bio-diversity.

## 5.0 METHODOLOGY

### Background development of the Greenspace Strategy approach and outputs.

5.1 A structured approach was taken to the development of the strategy, involving the key players from within Torbay Council and its partners. The work was undertaken in three stages:

- Stage 1: Preliminary Activities
- Stage 2: Information Gathering & Analysis
- Stage 3: Strategy Production

<b>Stage/Task</b>	
<b>Stage 1: Preliminary Activities</b>	
<b>Activities</b> Establish political support Establish a strategy group Establish arrangements for cross boundary working Review previous work/existing data Define a preliminary vision Define the scope of works and programme Identify resources	<b>Outputs</b>  Preliminary Vision Strategy framework report Scope of work/brief
<b>Stage 2: Information Gathering and Analysis</b>	
<b>Activities</b> Review national, regional and local policy Analyse demographic characteristics of the area Establish landscape/townscape/visual and ecological characteristics of the strategy area Establish the spatial planning context of parks and green space Assessment of supply including site audits and assessments Identify local standards Definition of priorities	<b>Outputs</b>  Area profile  Site Audits Local Standards Priority projects
<b>Stage 3: Strategy Production</b>	
<b>Activities</b> Update preliminary vision statement Prepare green space framework plan Prepare draft policies and plan recommendations Preparation of implementation plan Consultation on draft strategy	<b>Outputs</b>  Framework plan Draft strategy Implementation plan Final strategy
<b>Review and Sign Off</b>	

## **CABE Space-Strategic Enabling Scheme and CABE Space's ongoing involvement**

- 5.2 As noted in the introduction, CABE Space set up the Strategic Enabling Scheme in 2003 to provide direct help and support to local authorities to develop green space strategies for managing their network of parks and green spaces. Torbay Council was successful in its application in 2003 to become one of the first thirty local authorities in England to receive direct assistance under this scheme.
- 5.3 CABE Space offered assistance to oversee the strategy process through to completion. Len Croney was appointed as Torbay's principal strategic enabler aided by Jacky Bennett on quality assurance issues.

## **Torbay's Greenspace Strategy Project**

### **Project set up**

- 5.4 Torbay was determined to be part of the CABE Space strategy development process. The reasons included:
- Park quality had fallen.
  - Local people valued parks.
  - Corporate Performance Inspection (CPA) was due.
  - Community safety identified as a key issue.
  - Groundwork Plymouth had a dedicated staff member to work in partnership with the Council on green space issues.
  - Torbay Council due to hold the high profile Institute of Leisure and Amenity Management's Parks Conference in 2005.
  - Grounds maintenance contracts were due to be re-tendered.
- 5.5 At a very early stage of the strategy process it was agreed that a small group of key players would meet to establish the vision, main objectives and operational targets for the strategy.
- 5.6 **Status and Scope of Strategy** - The strategy would sit below the Community Plan document and would be an important addition to a number of related Torbay strategies i.e. Tree and Woodland, Playing Pitch, Sports, Play, Beaches and Cultural Strategies. The green space strategy would not seek to encompass areas already addressed but would take account of the existing policies to ensure a joined up approach to strategic planning in Torbay.

## Structural Arrangements

5.7 A project management approach was adopted to deliver the strategy with all involved having specific roles and responsibilities. These included an elected member sponsor who provided the political context, the Project Director who was ultimately accountable for the project, the Project Manager, responsible for running the project on a day to day basis and the Delivery Team-The project team who ultimately delivered the strategy.

## Political Support

5.8 The Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader and member for the Environment gave full political backing to the strategy following a meeting with the principal Strategic Enabler, Len Croney.

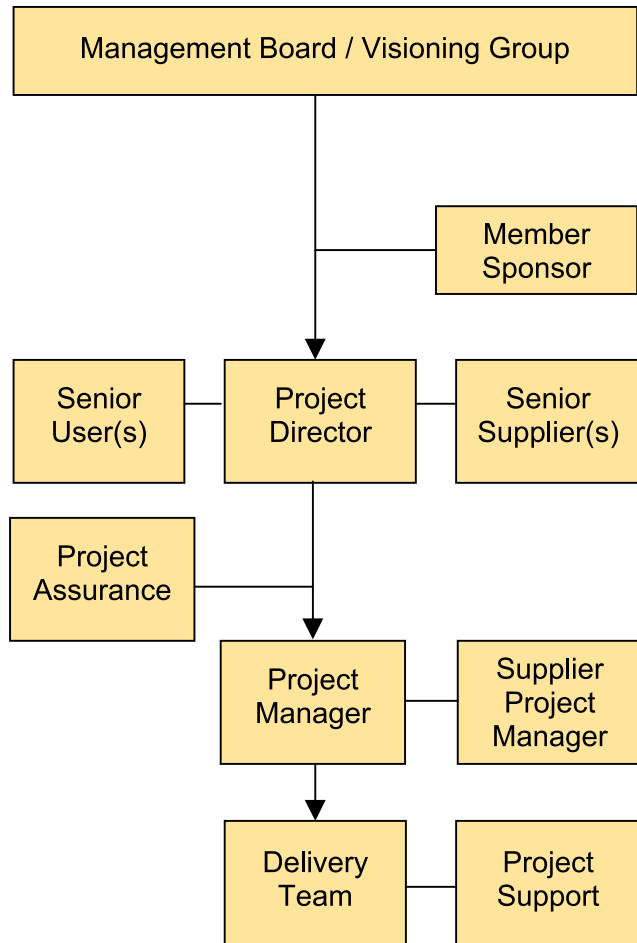
## Background to the Project

- 5.9 The outline of the approach to the strategy had been established and one of the key tasks identified was to establish a vision for Torbay's green spaces which would help to focus the work of the Strategy Group.
- 5.10 To achieve this aim a small group of key people who have a knowledge and interest in Torbay's green spaces were assembled to discuss and deliver a 'Vision' for the future on which the strategy could be based.
- 5.11 After considering a number of possible generic issues it was decided that the main theme supporting the strategy would be

**"Getting more use from green space by local people."**

5.12 This theme would tie in with the following Council's corporate aims:

- Safety
- Appearance
- Perception
- Addressing neglect



5.13 The visionary group felt that **'Appearance'** would be paramount to encouraging future use of green space and that the strategy should give priority to actions that supported this.

5.14 The main focus for the strategy should be **Local People**, with a balanced approach to all types of users i.e. young people, dog walkers, older people, tourists, families and school parties.

5.15 Specific strategic objectives would be:

- Improving appearance of green space.
- Improving accessibility, especially for the disabled.
- Challenging people's perceptions of green spaces as areas to visit and use more often.
- Improving facilities and attractions.
- Develop opportunities for using green spaces for learning.
- Exploit the heritage aspects of Torbay's green spaces.

5.16 A full account of the visioning exercise is given in Appendix 1.

## 6.0 BACKGROUND TO GREEN SPACES IN TORBAY

### The Special Case for Parks and Green Spaces in Torbay

- 6.1 For centuries Torbay has been famed for its glorious landscape, mild climate and its fascinating horticultural heritage. Torbay itself is in the shape of a horseshoe facing south east, making it a perfect suntrap. The heights of Dartmoor, immediately to the North West protect the resort from the prevailing winds and the Gulf Stream brings in warmer waters. The end result is a climate that is much milder than the rest of the UK; the winters are mild and short, giving way to the flower filled warmth of an early spring.
- 6.2 Winter temperatures rarely fall below zero, gardeners can cultivate plants which can be grown in few others parts of the country. All kinds of exotica survive and thrive in our parks and green spaces, not to mention an array of other wildflowers not seen in other parts of the country.
- 6.3 Many plants imported by the Victorian plant hunters from places such as Australia, New Zealand and South Africa flourish within Torbay. A wide range of exotics are quite at home including chusan palms, agaves, echiums, brugmansia, olive and lemon trees.
- 6.4 Torbay covers an area of just under 25 square miles and has approximately 22 miles of coast line with 20 public beaches. It has everything from formal knot gardens at Oldway Mansion, swathes of summer bedding on its seafronts, to carpets of bluebells and orchids in its spring woodlands. English Nature (now called Natural England), the Government's official conservation watchdog rates Torbay as one of the six sites in the country for rare plants (see figure 6.2 below).
- 6.5 Many of Torbay's green spaces provide an important function for biodiversity which should be recognised when planning their management. Torbay is part of the South Devon Natural Area (defined at the time by English Nature) where the varied geology produces a diversity of coastal and inland habitats. This has led to recognition by Natural England that the area is one of the seven most important areas in England and Wales for rare plant species[1]. Many of these provide some form of public open space and need to be managed in order to serve its function as an open space without compromising its nature conservation value. Managed public access to these areas is encouraged by Natural England who are keen to increase people's appreciation of Torbay's variety of habitats. Where possible the management of such areas should provide some educational material to publicise the value of these resources.
- 6.6 Habitats of particular interest in Torbay are listed in table 6.1 outlining their importance, where they are found, problems identified with the sites and any management requirements which may be required. Careful consideration should be given to these requirements and issues when considering management of green spaces.



6.7 In addition to these habitats mentioned above there are a large number of designated sites in Torbay, many of which are on green spaces which are recognised for their individual nature conservation value. These are outlined below:

- Local (LWS) and County Wildlife Sites (CWS): There are 45 LWS and 28 County Wildlife Sites which provide public with opportunities to have access to and learn about wildlife. Many of these sites require some form of scrub clearance and some are being lost to pressure for development.
- Local Nature Reserves (LNR): These are located at Ocombe Valley Woods, Ocombe Farm, Scadson Woods and Saltern Cove. These should be maintained to provide opportunities for people to study, learn and enjoy areas of local wildlife and geological features.
- Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS): There are 6 of these sites in Torbay recognised for their geological interest including Quarry Woods Quarry (Cockington), Chapel Hill (Torre).
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest: Torbay has 12 of these sites which are in good condition compared to Devon and South West. These areas are designated under Section 218 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 by English Nature as being of interest by reason of their flora, fauna, geological or physiographical features.
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC): Torbay has one SAC at Berry Head which is protected under the European Habitats Directive. It is designated on the presence of the Greater Horseshoe Bat and the presence of the Annex 1 Habitat (European dry heath and semi-natural grasslands and scrub facies). These sites are of high nature conservation value. The site can be impacted upon by eutrophication (including dog fouling), loss of winter grazing land in the vicinity, disruption of the mosaic of hedgerows on and in the vicinity of the site and disturbance of bat flights paths through introduction of new lighting. These issues are considered in the Appropriate Assessment work which has been carried out alongside this SPD. (Please see [www.torbay.gov.uk](http://www.torbay.gov.uk) and go to the sustainability appraisal page). Any new planning applications proposed on or near the SAC will need to be discussed with Natural England to assess their impact on the site (particularly those within a 6km of the feeding area for bats).
- National Nature Reserve: Torbay has one National Nature Reserve at Berry Head. This designation reflects the importance of wildlife and geological formations.

6.8 The locations of these areas of nature conservation are outlined in Figure 6.2. Because many of these areas of high nature conservation value are located in green spaces it is imperative that they are correctly managed in order to retain these important assets\*. It is essential that information on nature conservation is fed into the Management Plans as discussed in this section.

*\* The Local Biodiversity and Geodiversity Action Plan 'The Nature of Torbay 2006 - 2016' has been produced (February 2007) which seeks to focus resources to conserve and enhance biodiversity by translating national and regional priorities into local action (This document is available to download from the Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust website [www.countryside-trust.org.uk](http://www.countryside-trust.org.uk))*

**Table 6.1 Key habitats in Torbay and their importance**

Habitat	Importance of habitat	Where found	Problems	Management requirements
Calcareous grasslands	The most extensive stands of calcareous grasslands in Devon stretching from Sharkham Point to north of Watcombe	The most extensive areas are noted in particular at Walls Hill and Berry Head, both of which are protected by SSSI's.	Species which characterise calcareous grasslands can tolerate very low nutrient levels so are particularly vulnerable to boost of nutrients by, for example dog fouling which has, in addition to trampling caused degradation in areas such as Walls Hill.	Maintain and enhance resources of species-rich grasslands plants and invertebrate communities through appropriate management and development control (English Nature (1998) South Devon Natural Areas)
Seacliff and cliff tops	Varied geology and mild climate results in a number of coastal plant and animal communities with Mediterranean affinities. One of England's most natural habitats. Home to one of the highest concentrations of breeding sea birds in the South Devon Natural Area.	Berry Head	Recreational pressures and loss of habitat to development  Disturbance of the Guillemot colony at Berry Head during the breeding season	Encourage the restoration of degraded or neglected sites to their former glory
Heathland	One patch of heathland in Torbay of exceptional nature conservation value.	Berry Head	Considered to be in unfavourable condition and contracting in size due to gorse invasion	Scrub clearance and recreation of open heathland
Farmland and hedgerows	Ancient hedgerows and green lanes provide important links for flora and fauna, refuge and opportunity for recolonisation	Network across Torbay	National trends towards loss of hedgerows for agricultural or development purposes.	Retention of hedgerows/banks wherever possible Encourage management of arable margins to benefit rare plants and declining farmland birds Achieve favourable management of all species-rich hedgebanks through publicity and provision of advice Foster public understanding and enjoyment of farmland wildlife
Woodland	All woodland hold a unique value for recreation. Torbay has 40 Ha of ancient woodland of the highest ecological value.  Torbay also has an unusual woodland which is exceptional to Devon of ash/maple woodlands growing on limestone soil.	Ancient woodlands are found in Clennon Valley, Occombe Woods, Lupton Park and the Grove	Degraded condition has arisen through invasion of alien species, encroachment from neighbouring developments and intensive recreational use	Maintain and enhance areas of ancient woodlands through appropriate management Encourage the expansion and linking together of woodlands through the planting of new areas, where this does not damage the existing habitat of nature conservation importance Retain veteran trees and ensure the long term continuity of this habitats
Urban Habitats	Allotments, pockets of woodland, gardens, pond and dwellings provide important ecological value	All allotments, gardens, ponds and woodland	Intensive use of pesticides has reduce the value of gardens and number of species feeding on invertebrates.  Intensive recreational pressures, fragmentation and over-intensive management of public open spaces and highways and the development of open spaces	Ensure no further loss of semi-natural habitats in urban areas and that new development allows for areas of green space of value to wildlife Enhance quality of existing urban wildlife habitats Encourage creation of new wildlife habitats, including wildlife corridors within urban areas Improve opportunities for the public to enjoy and appreciate the natural world within urban areas

6.9 The important climate and horticultural heritage within Torbay's parks and green spaces. should be preserved for future generations.

### **Torbay's Landscape Designations**

- 6.10 The combination of seascapes, urban and rural landscapes is fundamental in Torbay's role as an attractive tourist resort. Torbay is currently classified as falling within the Character Area 'Tourist Riviera', which stretches from Dawlish Warren to Berry Head. Amongst other features such as resort development and coastal cliffs this Character Area is typified by elegant seafront parks, promenades, palms, pines and white Riviera buildings. This acts to re emphasis the importance of the formal gardens and parks as an integral component of Torbay's landscape not just for tourists but as a component of local distinctiveness.
- 6.11 Torbay contains and is surrounded by landscapes of high recreation and nature conservation value which, due to Torbay's largely urban nature, provide a vital function for amenity and recreation (see figure 6.2 below). Many of these areas, in addition to some urban landscapes are designated in recognition of their need for their preservation. It is therefore essential that such areas which face such high recreational pressures are correctly managed to ensure their preservation whilst allowing people to enjoy them. Table 6.2 and Figure 6.1 below show these in more detail. A landscape Character Assessment will be carried out as part of the evidence task for the emerging Local Development Framework.
- 6.12 An important component in Torbay's landscape is the role of trees in providing amenity and aesthetic value. Their functions are broad and include the provision of screening unwanted views, softening of the built environment, complementing historic buildings and providing features such as avenues, vistas and focal points. They act to reinforce local character and distinctiveness and provide a sense of place. Trees also provide shade in parks and green spaces. Shade will become increasingly important as temperatures rise and other climate changes take place in the years ahead.
- 6.13 The distribution of trees in parks and green spaces is variable throughout Torbay. There are a number of older parks and green spaces with populations of mature trees in contrast to the newer trees with a developing tree population. There is a recognised need to ensure that new developments, in particular have sufficient provision of trees and green space.

**Table 6.2 Torbay's Landscape Designation**

<b>Designation</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Management requirements</b>
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Designated for their nationally important landscape quality. Conserve and enhance scenic beauty of the landscape and protect special qualities.	Protection against creeping urbanisation and new development, particularly around Brixham which could erode the distinctive character of the area. Also concern over increased traffic, lighting, noise and pollution.
Area of Great Landscape Value	High land or part of valley systems with a distinctive local character.	Retention of unspoilt areas including retention of historic and traditional buildings complementary to the natural landscape.
Coastal Preservation Areas	Designed to safeguard unspoilt stretches of coastline.	Protect these areas which are substantially unaffected by development and which is generally visible from cliff tops, beaches the sea or which forms part of the view from the South West Coast Path or other public access/ view points.
Countryside Zones	Prevent merging of urban areas of settlements.	Safeguard from urban sprawl and inappropriate development to retain existing rural character.
Urban Landscape Protection Areas	46 designated in Torbay. They can be vantage points, amenity open spaces or landmarks.	Protect the essential landscape features of these areas.

Figure 6.1 Torbay's Landscape Designations

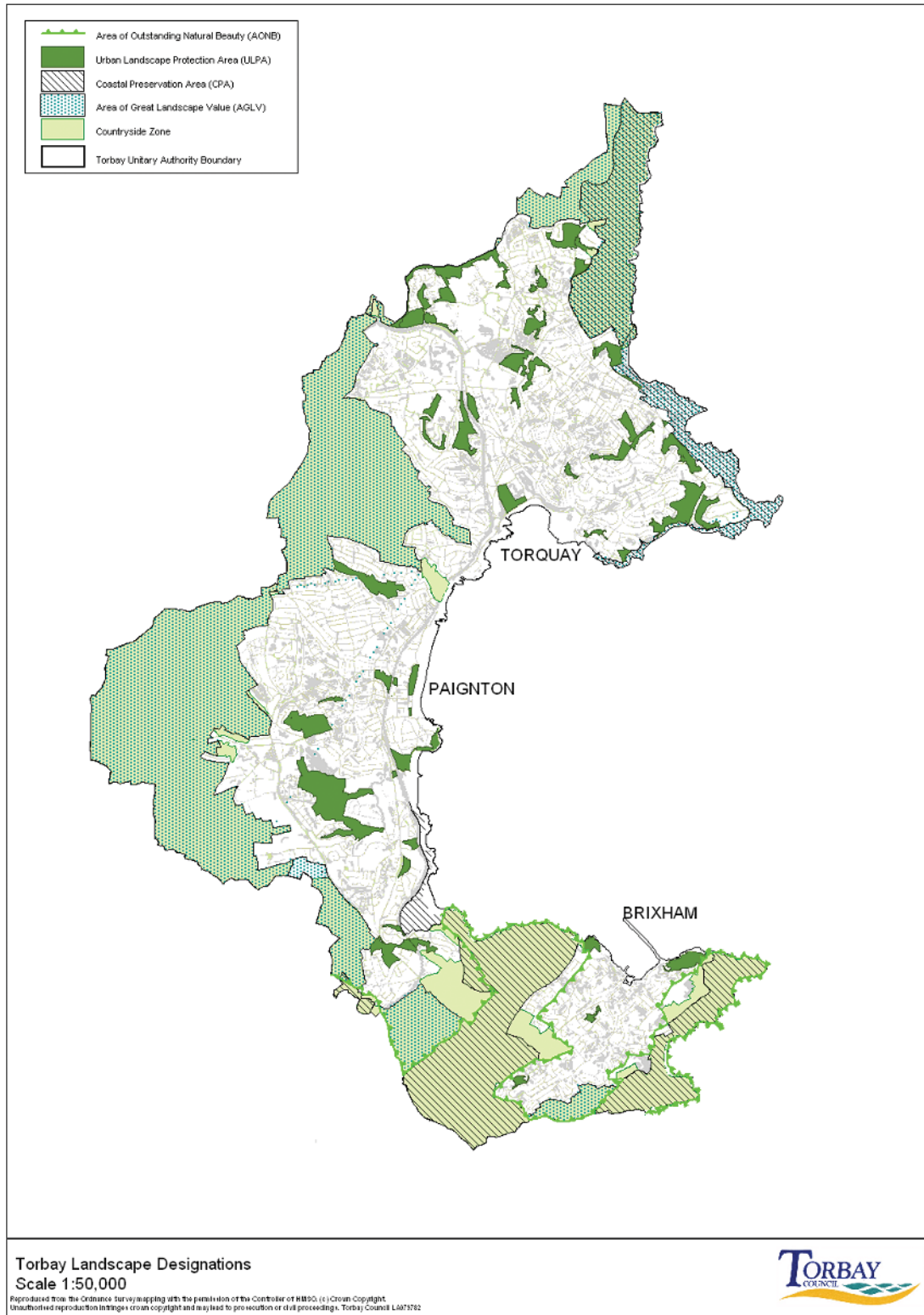
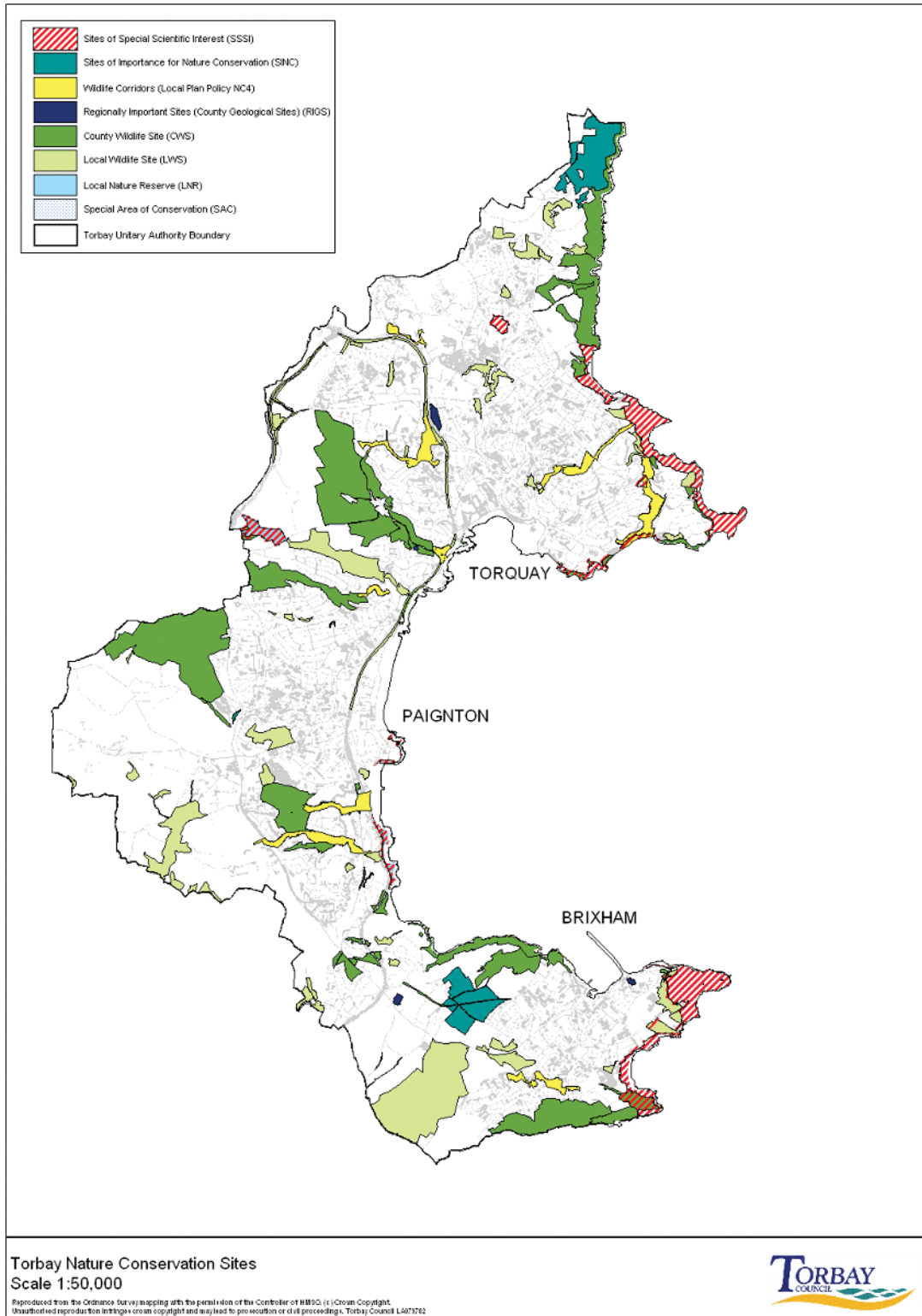


Figure 6.2 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance in Torbay



## **The nature of our green spaces and existing green space provision**

- 6.14 Torbay has over 1000 hectares of green space, ranging from county parks managed by Torbay Coast and Countryside to small areas of amenity green space. Areas include 798 hectares of countryside, 64 hectares of parks & gardens, and 93 hectares of amenity greenspace. There are also outdoor sport areas, playing fields, allotments, cemeteries and burial grounds. Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust manage over 650 hectares of land and Torbay Council manages over 380 hectares of land.
- 6.15 There are currently 53 play areas and various areas for young people (including skate parks, BMX tracks, Multi used games areas, football and basketball courts).

## **Maintenance of Greenspace**

- 6.16 All green space areas (excluding countryside parks and coastal countryside areas), except those in Torquay North contract area are managed by the Council's Direct Services and Waste Division. The Torquay North area is maintained by Plandscape, an external contractor.
- 6.17 Countryside Parks, Coastal Countryside areas and nature reserves are managed by Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust, a registered charity formed in 1999.

## **Background to the need for greenspace**

### **Demographic Profile of Torbay**

- 6.18 The following section will look at the development of local standards. The promotion of well planned and maintained open spaces and good quality sports and recreational facilities can play a major part in improving people's sense of well being in the place they live it is therefore worth assessing the nature of Torbay's population:
- 6.19 Torbay's key facts:
- Torbay covers an area of just under 25 square miles.
  - Has approximately 22 miles of coast line with 20 public beaches.
  - The average age of residents in Torbay is 43.2 years. This is higher than the national average of 38.6 years.
  - Around 20% of Torbay's resident population lives within an area in the top quartile most deprived in England.
  - Torbay is the tenth most populated local authority in the south west, whilst being the eighth smallest in area.
  - The proportion of people from ethnic groups other than 'white British' is 3.1%.
  - 25.8 % of the population are of pensionable age. This is higher than the national average of 18.4%.



- Torbay has seen a population increase of 6.6% since 1991, compared to 5.2% across the South West Region.
- Tourism increases the population predominantly in the summer months. Currently it is predicted that 1.45 million visitors come to Torbay each year.
- 2.7% of Torbay's resident working population claimed Job Seekers Allowance on 10th February 2005. This is compared to 2.4% for the UK and 1.6% for the South West Region. Torbay is seen by many as a traditional English seaside resort and therefore the economy is very much dependant on the service sector.

6.20 The latest population estimate shows that Torquay's population has continued to grow, with a 0.91% increase between 2003 to 2004. This compares to an England and Wales increase of just 0.48%. Torbay's total population is estimated to be 132,000.

6.21 The following population pyramid (figure 6.3) illustrates how the Torbay population structure differs to the England and Wales structure. It is clear to see the deficit of young adults and the abundance of older people in the population.

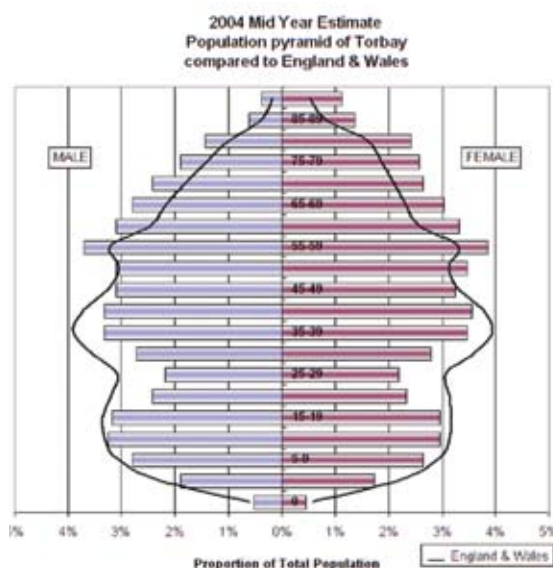


Figure 6.3 2004 Mid Year Estimate Population Pyramid

## District Level

6.22 The Indices of Deprivation indicate that:

- The 'Average Rank' places Torbay as the 86th most deprived local authority in England. Just outside the top quartile.
- Torbay is ranked as the 94th most deprived local authority in England in the Rank of average scores.
- Torbay is one of only two authorities in Devon in the top 100 most deprived local authorities in England for the rank of average scores.

## Super Output Areas (SOA's)

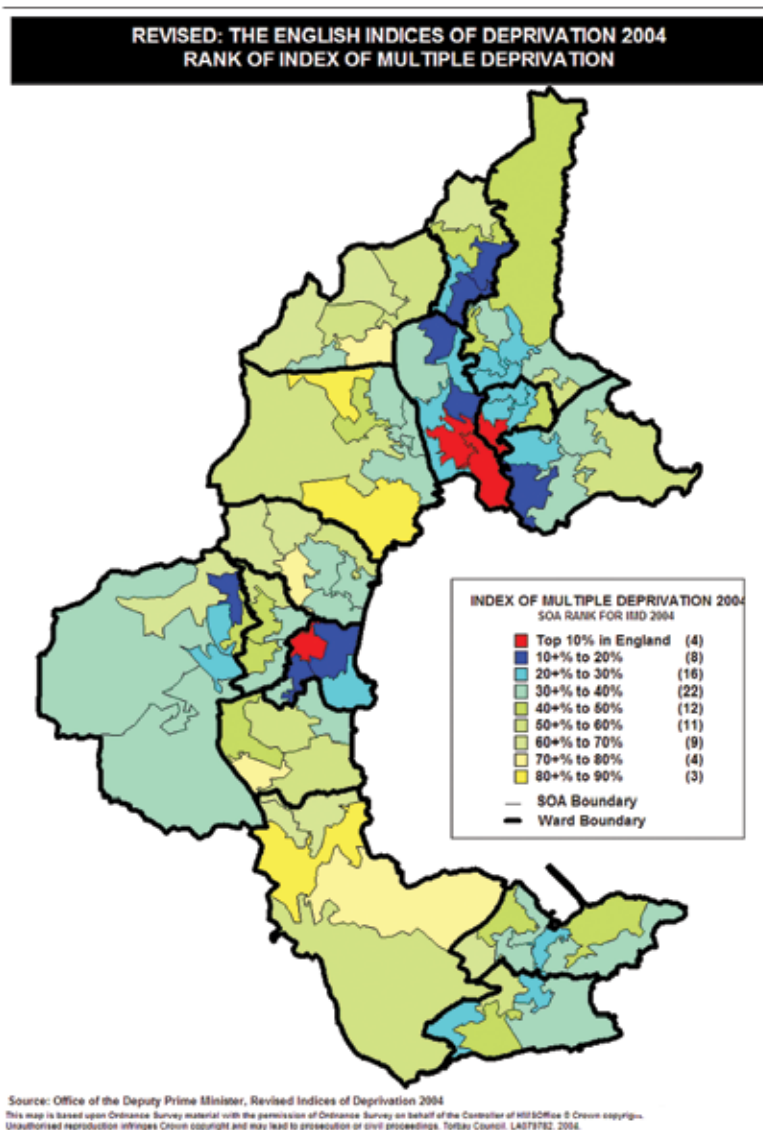
6.23 Super Output Areas are based on population and households contained within. The average population for each SOA is 1,500 persons and the average number of households per SOA is 645. There are 89 SOA's. It should be noted that SOA's do not reflect neighbourhoods. SOA's enable pockets of deprivation to be highlighted that would be lost at ward level. A future breakdown is the Output Area (OA's). An OA averages 280 people with approx 124 dwellings.

6.24 Key findings at SOA level are summarised as follows:

- 12 SOA's within Torbay are ranked in the top 20% most deprived SOA's in England. Of the twelve, four are ranked in the top 105 most deprived in England.
- 14 SOA's within Torbay are ranked in the top 20% most income deprived SOA's in England. Of the fourteen, six are ranked in the top 10% most deprived in England.
- Over one quarter (27.8%) of Torbay's population live within the top 205 most deprived in England for employment deprivation.
- Over 28,300 (21.9% of the Torbay population) persons live in an area that is within the top 10% most deprived in England for the Living England deprivation. This includes over 13,000 household.

6.25 Torbay has Objective 2 status as a result of the above.

Figure 6.3 2004 Mid Year Estimate Population Pyramid



## 7.0 DEVELOPING LOCAL STANDARDS OF PROVISION

### 7.1 Introduction

7.2 Planning Policy Guidance 17-Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation sets out a framework whereby the following can be achieved with regard to open space:

- Networks of high quality open spaces and sport and recreation facilities, in both urban and rural areas, which meet the needs of residents and visitors, are fit for the purpose and economically and environmentally sustainable.
- An appropriate balance between new provision and the enhancement of existing provision.
- Clarity and reasonable certainty for developers and land owners in relation to the requirements and expectations of local authorities in respect of open space and sport and recreation provision.

7.3 In 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities' The Companion Guide to PPG17', the following 5 step approach is advocated:

Step 1: Identify Local Needs

Step 2: Audit Local Provision

Step 3: Set Provision Standards

Step 4: Apply the Provision Standards

Step 5: Draft policies

7.4 This strategy is primarily concerned with Steps 3 and 4, namely:

### Step 3 Set Provision Standards

- Determine quantity, quality and accessibility standards
- Determine minimum acceptable size and design standards
- Determine hierarchy of open space provision
- Determine normalised costs

### Step 4 Apply Provision Standards

- Identify deficiencies against accessibility, quality and quantity standards

7.5 In this Strategy, our Greenspace Standards were informed by a robust assessment of needs and

opportunities. PPG makes reference to the fact that standards of provision should be developed with regards to:

- Accessibility
- Quality
- Quantity

7.6 These are three of the five attributes of open space, as set out in the Companion Guide to PPG17, the others being multi functionality and primary purpose. Accessibility and quantity are delivered and protected primarily by the planning system, because they relate to the location and use of land, but sustained by good management and maintenance. Accessibility is also maintained by other local authority strategies and initiatives, such as those relating to sustainable transport and community safety.

7.7 Quality, multi functionality and primary purpose are delivered initially through good design, but also sustained and protected by good management and maintenance, for which resources generated through planning agreements or developer contributions will be essential.

## **Torbay's Green Space Typologies**

7.8 Torbay has many and varied open spaces. In order to set standards for provision and for maintaining these, we have classified them into the following types;

- a) Country Parks - Strategic areas of open space servicing a significant part of the district, typically over fifteen hectares. They contain a range and diversity of facilities, have controlled car parking and are managed by Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust.
- b) Coastal Amenity Green Space - These are open spaces which compliment the beaches and coastline of Torbay.
- c) Strategic Green Space - Areas of green space of importance to the landscape.
- d) Town Parks - Formal parks and gardens with planting, seating and often other features such as ponds, children's play areas, informal kickabout areas and formal pitches. They generally serve the whole town rather than the immediate surrounding community.
- e) Community Parks - These serve the immediate surrounding population with an emphasis on informal recreation for all ages and active play for all children. They may have equipped play areas, kickabout areas, a pitch, seating and access paths. These areas may also include woodland.
- f) Other Amenity Green Space - These are generally small areas of green space, possibly with few facilities. They may also be areas of mown grass or other land which receives little or no direct maintenance and may have a seat and/or a litter bin.
- g) Space for Young People - These include equipped play areas with facilities for toddlers/younger children, facilities for young people which may include skate parks, basketball, Multi Use Games Areas, BMX tracks and teenage shelters.

- h) Allotments - These are areas containing allotment plots which are wholly or mainly cultivated by the occupier for the purpose of producing fruit or vegetables for consumption by themselves or others.
  - i) Outdoor Sports Areas & Playing Fields - These areas include cricket, football and rugby pitches, tennis courts, bowling greens and putting facilities.
  - j) Cemeteries and Churchyards\* - Their primary function is as a place of burial. They are important places for contemplation and often have biodiversity interests.
  - k) Woodlands - These are areas of coniferous, deciduous or mixed trees and scrubland.
  - l) Schools Green space\* - This is open space within the grounds of schools which may or may not be accessible to the public outside of school hours.
- All of these typologies will contribute towards the setting of Torbay's local standards (\*Note: with the exception of those asterisked).

7.9 Maps indicating the provision of these green spaces are shown in Appendix 5.

## Accessibility

7.10 Accessibility is very important. If a particular green space or facility is inaccessible it will be irrelevant to those who may want to use it. Nevertheless, inaccessible green spaces can still contribute to the appearance, environmental quality, biodiversity and amenity of an area. It is important to ensure that residents are able to access green spaces within a reasonable distance of their home. Appropriate thresholds should relate to the size and range of facilities offered at any particular site.

## Distance Thresholds and Catchment Areas

7.11 Accessibility can be expressed through distance thresholds. The maximum distance that typical users can reasonably be expected to travel to each type of provision using different modes of transport.

7.12 For the purpose of setting distance thresholds, the measurements are taken to be the pedestrian walking time. For the purpose of plotting catchment areas this is translated into a straight walk (60% of 'pedestrian route'). There is also a recognition that barriers to access may exist and that a circle for a catchment area is not realistic.

### Distance from home:

Pedestrian walk time	Pedestrian route	Straight line/walk (60%)
1 minute	100m	60m
5 minute	400m	240m
10 minute	800m	480m
15 minute	1000m	600m
20 minute	1500m	900m

7.13 The table below shows the catchment and approximate walking time for each of the green space typologies.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Catchment</b>	<b>Approx. walking time</b>
Country Parks	900m	20 mins
Coastal Amenity Green space	900m	20 mins
Strategic Green space	900m	20 mins
Town Parks	600m	15 mins
Community Parks	480m	10 mins
Other Amenity Green space	480m	10 mins
Space for Children	480m	10 mins
Space for Young People	600m	10 mins
Allotment Areas	600m	15 mins
Playing Fields	600m	15 mins
Outdoor Sports Facilities	600m	15 mins
Woodland	900m	20 mins
School's Green space	480m	10 mins

7.14 These distance thresholds have been plotted for Torbay around all identified green spaces to help us decide the distance thresholds which the strategy will adopt. We have made an informed judgement on how far we understand people are prepared to travel from their homes. This was an amalgam of:

- Results from other studies.
- Mapping of distance thresholds which shows layout on the ground and suggested realistic and effective distances.
- Our findings from consultation/focus groups.

7.15 Research has shown that people are often recognise that not all types of green space can be provided close to their homes and that they would be prepared to travel some distance to reach them.

## **Hierarchy of Provision**

7.16 In addition, to be able to use distance thresholds in a meaningful way to develop accessibility thresholds they should be related to the various levels within a hierarchy of provision, as this recognises that some green space will cater for more needs and for a larger catchment area than others.

7.17 See Typology layers in para 7.13.

## Working Hierarchy

- Country Park – Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust Managed, mix of facilities. E.g. Berry Head & Cockington
- Coastal Amenity Open Space – Passive recreation, Natural Wildlife, forms part of (coastal) green space corridor network
- Other / Strategic Green space – Large, urban landscape open space as (no 2) but not coastal
- Town Parks – Formal, features e.g. ponds. Serve town + visitors
- Community Parks – Serve immediate population. Emphasis on informal recreation, active play for children, Kickabout areas, small area of amenity open space with facilities and/or with community group
- Other Amenity Open Space – Grass area possibly with few facilities
- Provision for Children – Children’s play areas
- Provision for Young People – Facilities such as skateparks & BMX track’s
- Allotments
- Outdoor Sports Areas e.g. multi use games areas-
- Playing Fields e.g football and rugby pitches.
- Cemeteries & Churchyards\*
- Woodland
- School Green space\*

*(Note: All of these typologies will contribute towards the setting of local standards with the exception of those asterisked).*

All sites on the GIS database were assigned to a level within the hierarchy.

GIS Layer	Details
Space for Children	Area for younger children – equipment and/or adventure play.
Space for Young People	Area for older children/Young people – BMX track, Skate Parks, multi used games areas (MUGA)
Parks & Gardens	Public parks, ornamental gardens may have features such as ponds & fountains. Princess Gardens (Coastal Amenity Greenspace), Abbey Park (Town Park), Tessier Gardens (Community Park)
Countryside	Wildlife areas and Nature reserves. Berry Head (Coastal Amenity Greenspace) managed by TCCT. Great Parks (Strategic Open Space)
Amenity Greenspace	Small areas of greenspace, village greens, incidental open space
Playing Fields	Pitches for sport use that has community access e.g. Torre Valley North
Outdoor Sports Facilities	Multi used game areas and grass courts e.g. Upton Park
Woodland	Areas of woodland e.g. Chapel Woods

7.18 The table below gives the following information for each ward

- Hectares of Greenspace
- Population
- Square Meters (Sqm) for Key Typologies

Ward	Hec-tare	Pop.	Space for Children (sqm)	Space for Young People (sqm)	Parks & Gardens (sqm)	Country -side (sqm)	Amenity Green Space (sqm)	Play -ing fields (sqm)	Out-door Sport facilities (sqm)	Wood-lands (sqm)
St.Marychurch	559	11,351	8,229	37,789	29,921	1,490,864	144,120	17,933	6,564	0
Ellacombe	96	7,358	4,105	1,276	12,901	61,075	8,656	0	1,412	0
Clifton with Maidenway	143	7,043	980	0	0	8,821	14,001	0	0	1,567
Preston	319	10,281	1,183	0	36,098	1,015,535	53,414	0	0	16,928
Cockington with Chelston	742	11,116	2,140	136	202,217	1,895,024	140,195	49,200	2,013	62,525
Shiphay with the Willows	415	8,252	5,154	0	7,256	267,352	25,253	0	0	0
Tormohun	302	10,934	1,065	3,023	114,198	110,414	63,825	22,168	50,377	0
Wellswood	406	7,621		0	12,898	889,472	70,467	0	0	3,209
Watcombe	196	7,359	5,951	0	0	121,890	51,114	7,842	0	0
Berry Head with Furze-ham	339	10,157	2,411	0	33,056	466,773	42,567	23,776	10,411	2,800
St.Marys with Summer-combe	295	7,302	1,268	0	30,964	156,540	32,283	0	10,055	0
Churston with Galmpton	1005	6,793	3,961	0	0	1,075,834	19,932	21,387	496,461	0
Goodrington with Roselands	319	6,873	725	0	37,225	215,893	229,253	0	54,005	6,642
Blatchcombe	1103	10,165	7,132	0	0	207,128	30,452	0	3,166	0
Roundham with Hyde	155	7096	1,540	1,984	126,078	0	8,306	23,778	8,671	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6,394</b>	<b>129,701</b>	<b>45,844</b>	<b>44,208</b>	<b>642,812</b>	<b>7,982,615</b>	<b>933,838</b>	<b>166,084</b>	<b>643,135</b>	<b>93,671</b>

## Further Components of Accessibility Standards

### The Cost of Using Facilities

7.19 The acceptable cost of using a facility can vary and depends on factors such as the nature of the facility, individual's personal circumstances and how much they have to pay to travel to do it. It is therefore very difficult to come to a general view of when cost is acceptable and when it is not.

### The Minimum Acceptable Size Component

7.20 Including a minimum size within provision standards provides a transparent policy based way of



deciding whether to require a developer to make on site or contribute to off site provision. This can help to prevent provision which will be too small to be of benefit to local communities, or unnecessarily expensive to maintain. There may need to be a site multiplier which converts the actual activity area (children's play areas and pitches) into a land area.

7.21 Those responsible for future maintenance and management have a key role to play in determining the minimum acceptable size for different forms of provision. There is no point in the planning system requiring developers to make provision which is too small to be of unnecessarily expensive to manage and maintain.

7.22 There may also need to be a site multiplier which converts the actual activity area (children's play areas and pitches) into a land area.

## **Quality**

### **Qualitative Standards**

7.23 PPG 17 says that local qualitative standards should be established for each type of open space, based on the following approaches:

- Measuring quality against recognised national standards, such as the NPFA standards for children's play areas (LEAP's and NEAP's etc).
- Undertaking a local audit and assessment based on local derived criteria to meet objectives for a Green Space Strategy.

7.24 Before undertaking the qualitative audit in Torbay consideration was also given to the following:

- Criteria for assessment could be developed from a modified Green Flag Award Scheme, as this seems to be the way forward advocated by leading agencies in the field.
- The inclusion of certain sites already mentioned in surveys as being in need or worthy of improvement, repair, better maintenance etc. The comments give an indication of the elements which people set most store on, and can be used to develop a local audit and assessment form.
- Criteria should include indicators that relate directly to Torbay's Vision for green spaces and aims and objectives to achieve them.
- Weighting of criteria should relate to most important aspects of green space according to local residents and Torbay Council's corporate objectives for green space.

7.25 The quality standard for each form of provision should derive from the analysis of quality in the audit in the light of community views, the agreed vision and a judgement as to the quality it will be desirable to set as an objective and possible to deliver. It should be noted that quality and

value are fundamentally different and can be completely unrelated. For example, a high quality or green space may be located where it is inaccessible and therefore of little value. While if a run down or derelict facility is the only one in the area it may be of immense value to the local community.

## **Site Assessments**

- 7.26 Quality site assessments were carried out on 96 principal green spaces across Torbay. The sites selected demonstrated a varied range of quality and typologies. These included town parks, community parks, countryside sites managed by Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust, recreational areas and playgrounds. Sites chosen were evenly spread throughout Torbay.
- 7.27 The Green Flag criteria was chosen for the site quality assessments, primarily because Green Flag has become the recognised quality standard for parks and green spaces. The Green Flag's eight main criteria are:
- A) welcoming place
  - B) healthy, safe and secure
  - C) clean and well maintained
  - D) sustainability
  - E) education, conservation and heritage
  - F) community involvement
  - G) marketing
  - H) management
- 7.28 A site quality audit questionnaire containing fifty-seven questions was devised and agreed by the strategy project group. Each question was placed into the relevant Green Flag criteria section.
- 7.29 A prescriptive and detailed methodology was developed to undertake the quality assessment. This would allow for consistency of professional judgement and impartiality in the analysis of each site.
- 7.30 A scoring system using a scoring ratio of 1-5 was used to record the quality ratings against each of the fifty seven questions.
- 7.31 No scores were inserted for any sites where any of the questions were deemed not to be relevant.
- 7.32 All scores were collated and an average given for each site.

7.33 See Appendix 6 for the full quality assessment report and plan and quality assessment summary.

7.34 A weighting system was developed, taking into account the strategy's vision and objectives. The healthy, safe and secure and clean and well-maintained sections were given a weighting factor of x 2. See example below.

*The working out of the index and overall scores(%)*

### Example: Abbey Park

7.35 The interpretation of the final weighted scores is given below:

Question	Weighting	Score	Maximum Score	Index
A	10	3.33	50	33.3
B	20	4.30	100	86
C	20	3.80	100	76
D	10	4.25	50	42.5
E	10	3.43	50	34.3
F	10	3.75	50	37.5
G	10	3.75	50	37.5
H	10	3.75	50	37.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3.75</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>384.6</b>

Percentage Score = 76.92

The Percentage

Total Index Score '384.6' out of a maximum score '500' gives a percentage of 76.92 (384.6/500\*100)

Park Name	Index out of 500	% Score
Abbey Park	384.6	76.92

7.36 The table is an assessment of the average scores carried out on 96 parks and green spaces.

The original assessment is the average score taken from the 57 questions. However a greater importance, weighting was given to questions B (Healthy, Safe & Secure) and C (Clean and Well Maintained). Therefore a new score was calculated and a percentage score was given. The list runs in alphabetical order with the ranking indicating the position of the park if the list was to run in order of score, 96 being the best and 1 being the worst.

Quality Description	Score	Summarised as	Count
Poor quality with fundamental issues	0.0 - 1.99	Failing	7
Poor quality with problems	2.0 - 2.79	Failing	56
Adequate	2.8 - 3.49	Borderline	25
Good quality	3.5 - 5.0	Good	8

<b>Quality Description</b>	<b>Weighted Score</b>	<b>Summarised as</b>	<b>Count</b>
Poor quality with fundamental issues	0 - 39.99	Failing	14
Poor quality with problems	40 - 55.99	Failing	57
Adequate	56 - 69.99	Borderline	19
Good quality	70 - 100	Good	6

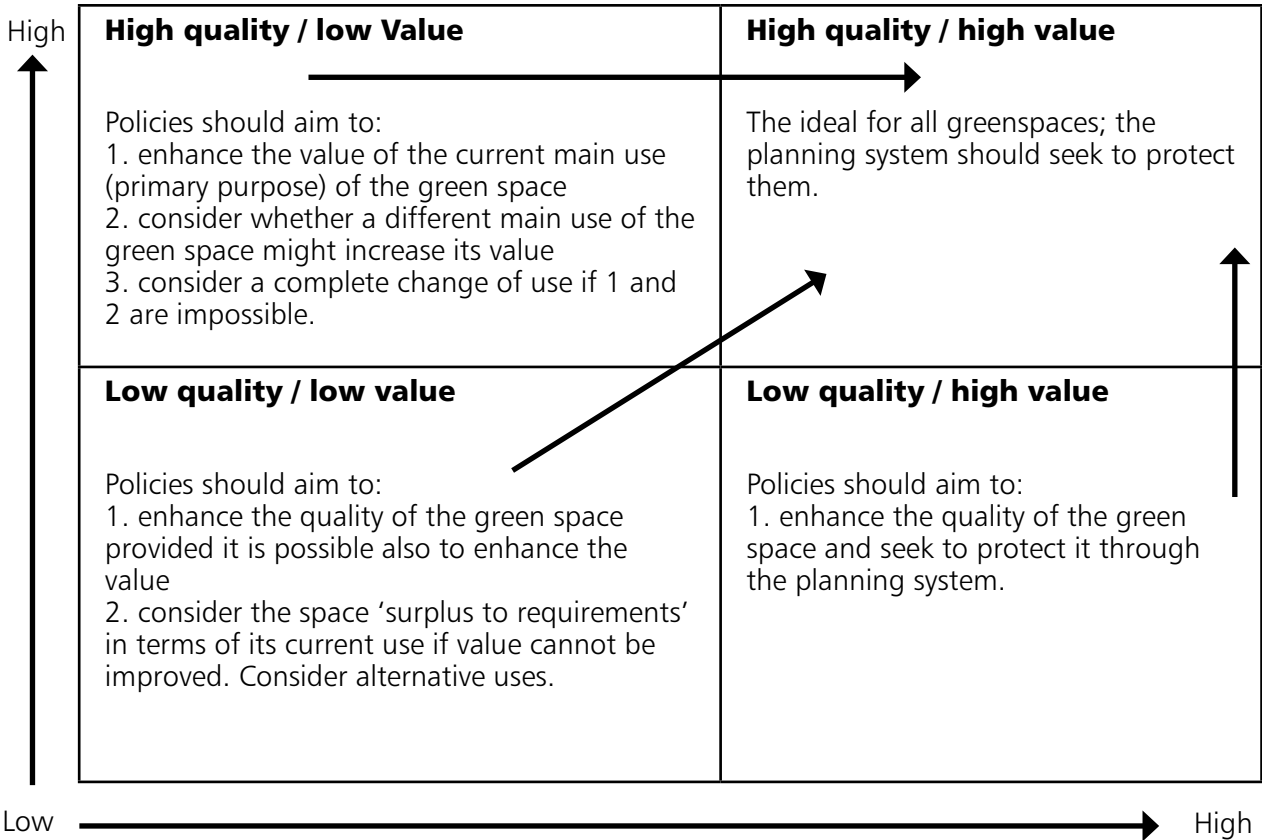
7.37 Assessing the quality and value of green space is fundamental to identifying those green spaces, which should be given the highest level of protection by the planning system and those which require enhancement.

Table 7.3 Park and Greenspace Scores

Original assessment			Weighted assessment			
Rank	Name	Overall Ave	Rank	Name	Index	Score %
94	Abbey Park	3.75	90	Abbey Park	347	69.39
78	Armanda Park	3.10	80	Armanda Park	307	61.36
37	Astley Park	2.49	25	Astley Park	218	43.60
79	Babbacombe Downs	3.14	79	Babbacombe Downs	296	59.27
19	Babbacombe Downs Road Park	2.21	16	Babbacombe Downs Road Park	204	40.86
49	Barton Downs RG	2.63	34	Barton Downs RG	228	45.55
85	Battery Gardens	3.37	88	Battery Gardens	339	67.70
91	Berry Head Country Park	3.71	93	Berry Head Country Park	391	78.17
39	Bonsey Garden	2.56	43	Bonsey Garden	240	48.06
13	Borough Road OS	2.09	18	Borough Road OS	206	41.16
83	Brewery Park	3.35	85	Brewery Park	323	64.68
88	Brunel Woods	3.49	91	Brunel Woods	372	74.47
60	Cary Park 1	2.77	57	Cary Park 1	254	50.77
40	Cary Park 2	2.57	47	Cary Park 2	242	48.34
66	Cary Park Sports Complex	2.88	61	Cary Park Sports Complex	259	51.78
10	Castle Gardens	2.04	11	Castle Gardens	193	38.58
12	Chapel Woods	2.09	13	Chapel Woods	196	39.25
18	Churston Ferrers O/S	2.20	22	Churston Ferrers O/S	213	42.68
5	Claylands OS	1.85	3	Claylands OS	169	33.80
82	Clennon Valley	3.30	82	Clennon Valley	313	62.69
41	Cliff Gardens	2.57	35	Cliff Gardens	232	46.49
95	Cockington Country Park	3.96	95	Cockington Country Park	415	83.09
96	Cockington Park	4.44	96	Cockington Park	449	89.76
11	Coombe Park	2.09	10	Coombe Park	193	38.50
69	Corbyn Head	2.91	70	Corbyn Head	274	54.89
54	Coronation Park	2.73	52	Coronation Park	248	49.63
71	Cricketfield Road RG	3.00	69	Cricketfield Road RG	274	54.82
46	Crownhill Park	2.60	42	Crownhill Park	239	47.84
70	Daddyhole Plain	2.94	64	Daddyhole Plain	264	52.88
34	Davis Avenue Play Area	2.45	28	Davis Avenue Play Area	223	44.53
8	Easterfield R/G	2.00	7	Easterfield R/G	187	37.35
52	Elberry Headland/Pitch and Putt	2.72	51	Elberry Headland/Pitch and Putt	246	49.29
42	Ellacombe Park	2.57	45	Ellacombe Park	241	48.11
21	Furzeham Middle Green	2.29	21	Furzeham Middle Green	213	42.56
55	Furzeham R/G	2.75	38	Furzeham R/G	236	47.11
61	Galmpton Common	2.78	56	Galmpton Common	252	50.47
93	Goodrington Park	3.72	87	Goodrington Park	336	67.27
57	Goodrington Village Green	2.77	65	Goodrington Village Green	268	53.51
58	Grange Fields	2.77	66	Grange Fields	273	54.50
3	Great Parks	1.75	4	Great Parks	170	34.10
90	Grove Woods	3.61	92	Grove Woods	385	77.08
68	Hampton Lands	2.89	75	Hampton Lands	286	57.14
38	Hartop OS	2.52	36	Hartop OS	234	46.82
17	Haytor Road Play Area	2.18	15	Haytor Road Play Area	200	40.03
23	Hollicombe Park	2.37	30	Hollicombe Park	226	45.16
30	Ilsham Valley R/G	2.41	37	Ilsham Valley R/G	235	46.96
51	King George VI RG	2.68	49	King George VI RG	244	48.72
32	Kings Gardens	2.43	26	Kings Gardens	219	43.71

Original assessment			Weighted assessment			
Rank	Name	Overall Ave	Rank	Name	Index	Score %
24	Kitson Park	2.37	29	Kitson Park	226	45.13
80	Memorial Gardens	3.17	77	Memorial Gardens	292	58.44
2	Monastery Woods	1.66	1	Monastery Woods	155	30.95
92	Occombe Woods	3.71	94	Occombe Woods	393	78.53
67	Oldway Gardens	2.89	58	Oldway Gardens	255	51.04
84	Paignton Green	3.36	81	Paignton Green	310	62.06
86	Palace Avenue Gardens	3.43	84	Palace Avenue Gardens	319	63.87
59	Parkfield Gardens	2.77	60	Parkfield Gardens	257	51.44
1	Parkham Park	1.55	2	Parkham Park	156	31.30
15	Petitor OS	2.13	17	Petitor OS	205	40.91
7	Preston Down Park	1.98	9	Preston Down Park	192	38.36
81	Preston Green	3.18	73	Preston Green	285	57.05
16	Preston House Gardens	2.17	14	Preston House Gardens	198	39.51
22	Preston Park	2.35	24	Preston Park	215	42.90
29	Primley park	2.41	32	Primley park	227	45.36
87	Princess Gardens	3.45	83	Princess Gardens	318	63.60
33	Queens Park	2.44	19	Queens Park	208	41.60
45	Ravenswood/Wickham Gardens	2.58	50	Ravenswood/Wickham Gardens	244	48.88
50	Rock Walk	2.67	46	Rock Walk	241	48.23
53	Rocombe Close OS	2.73	76	Rocombe Close OS	286	57.27
62	Roundham Gardens	2.79	59	Roundham Gardens	257	51.42
25	Scadson Woods	2.39	48	Scadson Woods	242	48.44
75	Sharkham Point	3.05	86	Sharkham Point	327	65.36
72	Sherwell Park	3.00	78	Sherwell Park	296	59.25
26	Shiphay Park	2.39	27	Shiphay Park	221	44.19
47	Shoalstone OS	2.60	41	Shoalstone OS	238	47.66
27	Smallcombe Play Area	2.39	31	Smallcombe Play Area	226	45.21
63	St Mary's Park	2.80	55	St Mary's Park	250	50.03
35	St Matthew's Field	2.47	33	St Matthew's Field	227	45.38
4	St Michael's RG	1.81	5	St Michael's RG	171	34.18
14	Stanley Gardens	2.12	12	Stanley Gardens	195	39.07
9	Starpitten Green	2.00	6	Starpitten Green	178	35.54
20	Steps Cross RG	2.23	20	Steps Cross RG	209	41.72
31	Stoodley Knowle RG	2.43	23	Stoodley Knowle RG	214	42.83
43	Sugarloaf	2.57	53	Sugarloaf	249	49.85
6	Summerfield Court Open Space	1.98	8	Summerfield Court Open Space	190	38.00
77	Tessier Gardens	3.07	72	Tessier Gardens	285	57.00
28	Three Beaches	2.40	39	Three Beaches	236	47.29
64	Torbay Park	2.82	63	Torbay Park	260	52.09
89	Torquay Crematorium	3.60	89	Torquay Crematorium	344	68.87
44	Torre Valley North	2.58	40	Torre Valley North	238	47.61
56	Torwood Gardens	2.76	62	Torwood Gardens	259	51.82
48	Two Parks	2.61	54	Two Parks	250	49.95
76	Upton Park	3.06	67	Upton Park	273	54.67
73	Victoria Park, Chelston	3.00	68	Victoria Park, Chelston	274	54.82
74	Victoria Park, Paignton	3.02	74	Victoria Park, Paignton	286	57.10
36	White Rock R/C	2.49	44	White Rock R/C	240	48.07
65	Windmill Hill RG	2.88	71	Windmill Hill RG	280	55.97

7.38 The Companion guide to PPG17 recommends using the simple high/low classification to provide a means of determining the most appropriate policy to each green space. It also provides a basis for linking, planning, design and maintenance.



7.39 All of the significant parks and green spaces were assessed. These are placed in their high/low classifications below.

7.40 The outcome of the quality assessment for the green spaces and the resultant local standards will be the driver for future investment priorities during the life of this strategy.

Table 7.4 Torbay Parks Quality Value Matrix

<b>High Quality / Low Value</b>	<b>High Quality / High Value</b>
Babbacombe Downs Coronation Park Cricket Road Recreation Ground Galmpton Common Grange Fields Hampton Lands King's Drive Memorial Gardens Paignton Green Sherwell Park	Abbey Park Berry Head Country Park Cockington Country Park Cockington Park Occombe Woods Tessier Gardens

<b>Low Quality / Low Value</b>	<b>Low Quality / High Value</b>
Babbacombe Downs Road Park Borough Road Open Space Castle Gardens Chapel Woods Claylands Open Space Coombe Park Crownhill Park Daddyhole Plain Davies Avenue Playground Easterfield Recreation Ground Ferrers Green Goodrington Village Green Great Parks Hartop Open Space Haytor Playground Monastery Woods Parkfield Park Parkham Park Preston Down Park Primley Park Ravenswood / Wickham Gardens Rocombe Open Space Shiphay Park St Matthew's Field St Michael's Recreation Ground Stanley Gardens Starpitten Green Steps Cross Summercourt Way Three Beaches Torre Valley North	Armada Park Astley Park Barton Downs Recreation Ground Battery Grounds Bonsey Gardens Brewery Park Brunel Woods Cary Park 1 Cary Park 2 Cary Park Sports Complex Clennon Valley Cliff Gardens Corbyn Head Elberry Headland Ellacombe Park Furzham Middle Green Furzham Recreation Ground Goodrington Park Groove Woods Hollicombe Park Ilsham Valley Recreation Ground King George V Recreation Ground Kitson Park Oldway Palace Avenue Gardens Petitor Open Space Preston House Gardens Preston Green Preston Park Princess Gardens Queens Park Rock Walk Roundham Gardens Scadson Woods Sharkham Point Shoalstone Pool Open Space Smallcombe Play Area St Mary's Park Stoodley Knowle Recreation Ground Sugarloaf Torbay Park Torquay Crematorium Torwood Gardens Two Parks Upton Park Victoria Park, Chelston Victoria Park, Paignton White Rock Recreation Ground Windmill Hill Recreation Ground



7.41 Evaluation of Site Quality Assessments.

7.42 The main findings of the site assessments were:

- Many community green spaces suffer from dog problems.
- Majority of sites have potential for cultural activities.
- There are very few facilities for teenagers.
- Only a few council managed sites have interpretation information.
- Majority of seats are in poor condition and not well maintained.
- There is an absence of lighting in most green spaces.
- There is an inadequate number of litter bins. Existing litter bins are often in a poor condition and incorrectly located.
- Generally poor compliance with Disability, Discrimination Act.
- Many Greenspaces have litter problems.
- Very few sites have community involvement.

7.43 A full summary of the quality site assessments findings is given in Appendix 6.

### **Local green space standards**

7.44 In accordance with PPG17 the Council is continuing to undertake robust assessments of the existing and future needs of its communities for green space, sport and recreation. The standards, which are summarised below represent the minimum standards of the different types of green space, included sport and recreation that should be available to meet the needs of people across Torbay as a whole.

### **Hectares per thousand**

<b>Playing Pitches</b>	<b>Multi use Games Areas</b>	<b>Equipped Facilities for children and young people</b>	<b>Greenspace</b>
<b>1.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>2.5</b>

7.45 The standards as set out above form the basis for assessing the amount of public open space, sport and recreation facilities per thousand population and will be interpreted on a pro rata basis based on the number of residents expected from any particular development. The table below converts the overall standards to equivalent square metre per person.

## Open Space Requirements Per Person

Type of Open Space	Hectares per thousand population	Square metres per person
Playing Pitches	1.2	12
Multi use Games Area	0.2	2
Equipped facilities for children and young people	0.2	2
Green space	2.5	25

7.46 We audited some of the green spaces available in Torbay according to the typologies listed above. These are set out as square metres per person below:

Type of Green Space (see typologies in para 7.8)	Size (sqm)	Size (ha)	Square metres per person (area/population)
Community Parks	337,342	33.7	2.66
Town Parks	174,131	17.4	1.37
Coastal Amenity Greenspace	3,317,711	331.8	26.19
Country Parks	3,374,995	337.5	26.64
Space For Children	45,844	4.6	0.36
Space For Young People	44,208	4.4	0.35

Note: Torbay's population 126,700. 2001 census

7.47 However, these standards are only the starting point in negotiations with developers and will not be applied in a mechanical manner. The exact requirement will depend on local circumstances including:

- The quality, quantity, type and existing provision in a particular locality.
- The economic viability of a scheme.
- The type of development.

## Planning Contributions and Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (LDD6)

7.48 This strategy will assist and determine where future allocations of Section 106 funding should be targeted. The strategy will help to determine whether the provision from a developer is in the form of land, where deficiencies occur, or a commuted sum where there is sufficient green space and existing facilities need to be improved. Depending on the size and type of Section

106 it could be both. The scope of Section 106 Agreements is set out in Circular 5/2005. This indicates that planning obligations may be sought to:

- Prescribe the nature of development
- Mitigate the impact of development
- Compensate for loss or damage caused by development.

Planning contributions should help us ensure that development achieves the Government's Sustainable Communities objectives.

7.49 Green space provided on site should be of a suitable size and nature for its intended purpose, safely accessible and available to the general public and capable of adoption by Torbay Council. It should be in addition to formal landscaping and any amenity space provided.

7.50 Consideration will be given using planning conditions or Section 106 Agreements to secure unrestricted public access to any green space not to be adopted by the Council.

### **Priorities for Section 106 Agreements**

In priority order Section 106 monies will be used to improve or provide the following:

- Refurbishment of children's play areas.
- Provision of Youth facilities.
- Provision of lighting in parks and green spaces.
- Enhancement of existing parks and green spaces.
- Improvements to country parks and local nature reserves.
- Improvements to sports pitches and changing accommodation facilities.
- Maintenance of woodlands.
- Improvements to council owned allotment sites.

<b>Type</b>	<b>Planning obligation provision</b>
Formal Green Space	This covers playing fields, town parks and large green spaces which are considered on a Torbay wide basis. It is likely that provision will be in the form of a commuted sum. The sum will be used to provide or improve pitches, town parks or green spaces and other appropriate facilities to benefit residents across Torbay.
Informal Green Space	This covers recreational green space, including small green spaces, landscaped areas and woodlands. Provision on site will depend on:  the size and character of the proposed development, its location in relation to existing green space, the character of the surrounding area. Any shortfall in on site provision will be met through a commuted sum. This will be used to provide and/or improve existing informal green space in the locality and/or elsewhere which benefits residents throughout Torbay.
Children's Play Areas	Consideration of the provision of children's play areas should be carried out in consultation with Torbay Council. This will depend on:  The size and character of the proposed development, its location in relation to adjacent housing and existing green space.  Opportunities for creating or improving children's play areas nearby, landscape considerations.  Committed sums are to cover the maintenance and management of any public open space provided on site for twenty years.

## 8.0 CONCLUSIONS - Consultation Feedback and Review

### The Way Forward

#### Delivery and co-ordination

8.1 The Council will be the primary deliverer of the strategy. It is important that the Council and its partners with responsibility for green spaces are in a position to help deliver the strategy effectively and that any skills shortages are addressed. It is also essential for the successful delivery of the strategy that it is supported and championed by the Mayor, Councillors and senior officers in all departments.

#### Management Plans and Design Guidelines

8.2 Management Plans for individual green space sites are the key to the successful development of our green spaces. Most of our sites do not currently benefit from a management plan. It is important that management plans are developed for all key sites in line with the following principles:

- To be developed and implemented where possible with community participation.
- To be developed in line with available resources.
- To be developed for all appropriate sites in line with the typologies of green spaces.

8.3 Management Plans should be drafted for all sites, where appropriate by the end of the strategy timeframe.

8.4 Design Guidelines are useful tools in order to improve and maintain the quality of green spaces. Attractive, well designed and well maintained green spaces of all types are key elements of good urban design and fundamentally important to delivering places in which people will want to live.

8.5 Carefully developed urban and landscape design guidelines can help to ensure that green space, land managers and developers take full account of the need for 'place-making' and do not simply seek to produce designs at the lowest possible cost.

#### Management Plan Content

8.6 In addition to horticultural and ground maintenance fixed term management plans should address the following:

- The needs of the elderly.
- Climate Change (carry out risk assessments on threat to coastal green spaces including aspects such as sea-level rise, erosion, flooding and need for additional shading i.e. planting of more trees 4)

- Buildings at risk.
- Implementing water efficient systems to reduce water consumption.
- Monitoring of water quality.
- Maximising the benefits of green spaces for addressing mental health and obesity concerns.
- Avoidance of damage or disturbance to cultural, historical and biodiversity assets, especially when planning crime prevention initiatives (and the removal of inappropriate development).
- Biodiversity, to recognise, protect and enhance the value of green spaces (especially green spaces surrounding Berry Head which has SAC status and is important for Horseshoe Bats which are a protected species in which surrounding green spaces are important flight paths and foraging grounds - particular care is also required to appropriately maintain corridors such as hedgerows to prevent the fragmentation of habitats).
- The need to recycle green waste and the separation of litter bin waste.
- Measures to discourage unwanted occupation of green spaces by travellers.
- Provision of youth facilities.
- Reduction on the reliance of pesticides.
- Increased use of mulches.
- Infrastructure maintenance and improvements.
- Provision of lighting for play , recreation and crime prevention.
- Provision of signage and interpretation.

### **Green Flag and Green Pennant Award Schemes.**

- 8.7 We have showed how the Green Flag Award scheme was used to develop the quality audit and assessment of Torbay's parks and green spaces. The scheme represents the national standards for quality parks and green spaces and provides a benchmark against which the quality of freely accessible provision can be measured.
- 8.8 It is based on eight broad criteria that were defined after extensive consultation with organisations concerned with nature conservation, public safety, community health, education and children's play. They are that parks should:
- Be welcoming
  - Be health, safe and secure
  - Be managed in a sustainable manner
  - Promote the conservation of wildlife and the built heritage
  - Reflect community needs and promote community involvement

- Be well marketed in accordance with a marketing plan
- Be well managed in accordance with a clear management plan

8.9 As the criteria have been used in the formulation of this strategy the Council should seek to gain accreditation as a measure of its intent to improve its green spaces.

8.10 The Green Pennant Award applies in a similar way to community gardens, allotments and green spaces managed by community groups.

### **Current Document**

8.11 The final Greenspace Strategy was adopted in on 14 December 2006. However we welcome your views on this current document, particularly with regard to the vision, aims and objectives set out in Section 2. Your views and other relevant information will be carefully considered in the review of this Strategy and the accompanying Action Plan in Part 2.

### **Performance Monitoring and Review**

8.12 The strategy is very much a live document with clear objectives and will be a foundation upon which Torbay's valued green spaces should improve in the next ten to twenty years. A monitoring framework by which to monitor progress in, and the effectiveness of this documents implementation will be monitored by:

- Reviewing the implementation of the Strategy on an annual basis, involving officers and partners.
- Monitor progress by means of assessing the action plan targets and time scales.
- Consultations and surveys with a range of individuals and groups.

## GLOSSARY

### **CABE Space**

CABE Space was set up with funding from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), as a response to the recommendations of the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce Report 'Green Spaces, Better Spaces'. As set out in the ODPM's published response to the task force, Living Spaces, CABE Space was set up with six main objectives;

- Act as national champion for urban parks and green spaces, highlighting their role in improving quality of life and delivering the urban renaissance.
- Work closely with relevant public sector and other bodies to develop strategies, programmes and action.
- Champion the need for higher funding priority to influence funding decisions at all levels of government and provide advice on funding sources.
- Stimulate greater involvement by the private sector, local groups and voluntary organisations through new and existing partnerships. Promote and develop skills and training.
- Undertake research and develop information, quality standards and good practice.

### **DCLG & ODPM**

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) was created on 5 May 2006 with a powerful remit to promote community cohesion and equality, as well as responsibility for housing, urban regeneration, planning and local government. The DCLG has a powerful new remit to promote community cohesion and equality, as well as responsibility for housing, urban regeneration, planning and local government. It unites the communities and Civil Renewal functions previously undertaken by the Home Office, with responsibility for regeneration, neighbourhood renewal and local government (previously held by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister). The new web address domain name is: [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

### **Local Standards: Areas per person**

These figures are useful but there are other factors to take into account. For example large wards include farmland where often there is country walks and areas where the public can access.

### **Local Standards: Super Output Areas**

These are made up from an average population or household. There are some large Super Output Areas but the majority of housing is compacted



into one section and the rest of the Super Output Area is made up of farmland or public land. This is particularly evident in the Blatchcombe, Cockington with Chelston and Churston with Galmpton wards.

**Local Standards:  
The Total Public Space** This figure includes space for children e.g playgrounds, skates and multi use games areas.

**Local Standards:  
Density figures** The density figure equates to the number of people per hectare.

**MUGA** MUGA-Multi Use Games Area

**Section 106  
agreements** S106 Agreements are legal undertakings by a developer to provide infrastructure or pay a sum of money relating to the granting of planning permission. The scope of S106 Agreements is set out in Circular 5/2005.

## References

- ODPM: Assessing needs and opportunities: A companion guide to PPG17(July 2002)  
ODPM: Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning For Open Space, Sport and Recreation (July 2002)  
CABE Space : Green Space strategies, a good practice guide 01 May 2004

## APPENDIX 1: VISIONING EXERCISE

### Background

The outline of the approach to the strategy had been established and one of the key tasks identified was to establish a vision for Torbay's green spaces which would help to focus the work of the Strategy Group.

To achieve this aim a small group of key people who have a knowledge and interest in Torbay's green spaces were assembled to discuss and deliver a 'Vision' for the future on which the strategy could be based.

Members of the group were:

Len Croney- CABE Space Strategic Enabler

Richard Taylor-Project Manager

Councillor Mrs J. Cope

Councillor C. Charlwood

Councillor I. Doggett

Tim Eley, Chair, Bay Blooms

Paul Osborne, Senior Landscape Architect

Tracy Brooks, Strategic Planner

Dominic Acland, Director, Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust

Alison Waldren, Groundwork, Plymouth

After considering a number of possible generic issues it was decided that the main theme supporting the strategy would be

*'Getting more use from green space by local people'*

This theme would tie in with the following Council's corporate aims:

- Safety
- Appearance
- Perception
- Addressing neglect

The visionary group felt that 'Appearance' would be paramount to encouraging future use of green space and that the strategy should give priority to actions that supported this.

The main focus for the strategy should be Local People, with a balanced approach to all types of users i.e. Young people, dog walkers, older people, tourists, families and school parties.

## **Priorities for Action**

- Undertake a Quality /Character Assessment to establish a wider picture of the green space estate. Produce a data base to include information on accessibility.
- Identify individual green spaces with specific usage potential to provide areas of 'Specialist' provision, in accordance with the potential of green spaces to meet particular needs.
- Establish a bay wide development plan for green spaces identifying potential for improving appearance, with particular reference to how maintenance is undertaken.
- Establish a coherent network of user groups. Engage these in encouraging more use from green spaces.
- Run a public relations campaign extolling the value of green space in Torbay. To encourage involvement and elicit feedback on public aspirations for their green spaces.
- Improve signage and interpretation.
- Develop a coordinated approach to running events in green spaces, including encouraging events where little happens at present and engaging local communities in running events.
- Identify particular green spaces that have the potential to significantly increase usage for development bids.
- Develop a set of generic improvements that could be applied to green spaces to encourage use e.g. lighting, public art.

The strategy would cover a 20 year period with a 5 year action plan and tie in with the emerging Local Development Framework timescale.

## **Vision Process Key Points**

- Very early on in strategy process.
- Diverse and influential.
- Small group of key players.
- A lot of political discussion and involvement from outset.
- Very corporate.
- Well facilitated. Achieved a great deal.
- Some outcomes probably not what was expected.
- Challenged existing thinking and expectations right at the beginning. Made it feel as though the strategy could be the instrument of major change.
- Has helped to shape strategy audit work i.e. could customise Green flag criteria.

## APPENDIX 2: OUTLINE OF SUPPORTING STRATEGIES

### Community Plan

The adopted **Community Plan for Torbay 'Turning the Tide for Torbay 2007-2027'**, builds on the previous plan 'Teaming up for Torbay's Future'. It outlines the Partnership's vision for Torbay to 2027, bringing together the views of representatives from the public, private, community and voluntary sectors. The LDF will provide the spatial expression of this document and will therefore relate closely to it.

The current Community plan identifies a vision for Torbay in which

#### Our Ambition for Torbay

a prosperous area known to be a great place to live and learn and grow up in

an area where we compete on a world stage in our traditional industries of tourism and fishing

an area where communities know and support each other and enjoy some of the best services in England

an area that widens opportunities and provides high quality employment and retains our young people in the Bay

an area that celebrates the differences in the three towns, builds on the strengths of these towns and brings back the feel good factor

The Greenspace Strategy contributes directly or indirectly to the key themes of the current community plan:

**Pride in the Bay**

**Learning and skills for the future**

**The New Economy**

**Stronger Communities**

Our core values are:

### Customer Focus

- We are committed to putting the customer at the centre of all our services.
- We will seek the views of the people of Torbay so that we can better meet their needs.
- We will celebrate diversity and promote equal opportunities in our service delivery, our employment practices and through our partnerships.
- We will ensure that we are transparent in our decision making.

### Service Delivery

- We will consider community and environmental impact when making decisions.
- We will aim to continuously improve our services, particularly those which are our priorities

and seek to be more efficient.

- We will work with all our partners to deliver better quality services. We will value the contribution that staff make to services and ensure that they are well trained and effective in their jobs.

## **Heritage Strategy**

This strategy identifies all of the heritage assets in Council ownership and assesses their condition and needs. From this process all of the assets were placed in a Heritage Priority List. Rock Walk and Princess Gardens are identified as the Council's first and third priorities for developing heritage projects in relation to Historic Gardens. Brunel Park, Watcombe, Cockington, Park, Cockington Coastal walks, Lupton Park, South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty around Brixham and Torre Abbey Gardens are also included in the Landscapes, Parks and Gardens Heritage Action Plan.

The strategy objectives are:

- To protect and enhance historic buildings, archaeology, biodiversity, geology, landscapes and museum collections of national and international significance for the benefit of future generations.
- To protect and enhance locally and regionally important heritage features including our social heritage and oral history.
- To create strong partnerships between the public, private and voluntary sectors and a coordinated programme to protect and enhance our heritage. locally, regionally and nationally.
- To encourage educational establishments and programmes to provide learning opportunities related to our heritage.
- To support organisations applying for funding and maximise the opportunities for external funding to benefit our heritage.

## **Cultural Strategy**

The strategy's vision is 'To create a more vibrant and diverse mix of cultural activities in Torbay's outstanding location which are recognised, valued, and taken up by local people and visitors alike'.

The strategy priorities are:

- Aim to meet the cultural needs of the community.
- Increase the range of cultural opportunities especially by meeting the needs of Torbay's young people, and those traditionally excluded and by developing an environment to encourage sustainable cultural industries.

- Giving culture a higher profile.
- To increase people's access to and understanding of cultural opportunities and to improve the quality of what is currently available.
- Celebrate Torbay's Cultural successes.
- To raise awareness of and celebrate Torbay's cultural achievements and cultural Heritage.

The strategy feeds directly into the Greenspace Strategy's vision through its aims to increase activities in parks and use them as spaces for learning.

## **Streetscape Strategy**

The provision of high quality public spaces in the centre of our towns and in the neighbourhoods surrounding these areas, is essential to improve the quality of life of all the people who use these spaces.

Well designed, well ordered and well maintained streets and public areas are an expression of a confident and caring community. This, in turn, engenders public pride and economic confidence. Spaces that are user friendly, easy to get around and secure are well used. This is particularly important in Torbay, as our towns and public spaces are a shop window to our visitors. Providing high quality places will encourage visitors to stay, linger and return to Torbay.

The twenty seven local centre and numerous local open spaces, will need to be carefully assessed and improved through management regimes and local interventions. Community will be essential to ensure that these community spaces are successful and meet the needs and aspirations of the people that use them. Environmental improvements in these areas should be carefully developed.

Good quality urban and landscape design must be an essential component of all street and public open space improvements, which must form part of an overall urban design strategy that promotes high quality throughout the built environment. If these spaces are then not properly maintained, the improvements are likely to be very short lived.

## **Play Strategy**

The need for a Play Strategy was identified as part of the Community Plan Action Plan and the Cultural Strategy. These plans identified the need for play provision and that are accessible for all. The strategy consultation identified the need to have play facilities and services close to main residential areas. The area demographics were mapped to ensure that play provision is focused in the areas where these are needed most.

The review of the current provision through demographic profiling shows opportunities to rationalise the more formal play areas now located in inappropriate areas, and identifying new natural environment informal spaces close to high populated areas. Torbay is rich in natural environment

spaces and this offers Torbay opportunities to develop new innovative play spaces often lacking in more urban areas.

## **Playing Pitch Strategy**

In 2003 a specialist sport and leisure consultancy were appointed to provide an assessment of the adequacy of Torbay's playing pitches. The sports taken into account were:

- Football
- Rugby
- Cricket
- Hockey

The strategy recommendations included:

- Develop firm policies in the Local Plan to ensure that public open space is secured and prevent further loss of grass pitches.
- Investigate the potential of securing dual use of school pitches to address shortfall of pitches.
- Examine the potential for developing new football pitches and a cricket pitch at Barton Valley (designated in Local plan).
- Improve changing facilities at playing fields across the district.
- Maintain all sites in the district to ensure that provision does not deteriorate and to allow for rest and recovery of existing pitches.
- Examine the potential of converting adult football pitches to junior football pitches.
- Examine the potential of developing new junior football and rugby pitches.
- Examine the potential for securing new pitches in Brixham for junior football and rugby through Section 106 agreements.

The future provision of pitches should be balanced to meet the needs of the community and protected for future generations. It is essential that all partners work together to meet the needs and recommendations of the strategy.

## **Sports Strategy**

In 2003 Torbay developed its first Sports Strategy after a period of extensive consultation. Torbay's Sports Strategy 2007 - 2013 'A Plan for Sport' aims to review the actions achieved since the development of the strategy and identifies the future priorities in sport across a range of organisations. This will take into account the new priorities identified in the community plan and the new Local Area Agreement for Torbay.

The Strategy's vision for Sport is to make Torbay...

'a place where the majority of people, of all ages and backgrounds, regularly take part in physical activity; where local people achieve sporting success at their chosen level; where incidences of ill-health are much lower than the national average, and where the range and quality of sports' facilities and opportunities attracts inward investment'

The Strategy's aims/priorities over the next 5 years are to:

- Increase the health and well being of people in Torbay.
- Increase the numbers of volunteers involved in sport
- Increase access to good quality sports facilities and activities at all levels
- Raising the profile of sport

The Strategy's objectives are:

- To develop, in partnership, a range of quality sports facilities improving access.
- To increase the percentage of 5 - 16 year olds engaged in two hours a week minimum of high quality PE and school sport within and beyond the curriculum.
- To develop targeted consultation with all six strands of the equality and diversity sectors including those on low incomes to ensure their needs are met.
- Under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, address issues through the provision of sport as identified by the Community Safety Partnership.
- To increase the percentage of adults in Torbay participating in at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity sport and active recreation (including walking) on 3 or more days a week by 1% year on year.
- To assist partners to create and sustain opportunities for all people to participate in sport at whatever level they wish.
- To create a clear pathway for individuals or teams from Torbay to reach sporting success on a regional, national and/or international level.
- To support coach education and development programmes.
- To support the voluntary and club sector to deliver sports activities at a range of levels.
- To maximise external, and grant funding for the provision of sports facilities as identified in Torbay's needs analysis (attached in appendix 1)
- To raise the profile of sport in Torbay.

## **Tree and Woodland Strategy**

The strategy covers the period from 2003-2008.

Many trees are long lived, offering enjoyment and a diversity of benefits to residents and visitors both today and in the future. To ensure their huge contribution to the urban landscape continues it is essential that their needs and requirements are understood and planned for.



The aim for amenity tree management is to provide a sustainable amenity for the benefit of the residents of Torbay. Where large trees exist their visual and historical importance effect should be maintained as long as they are safe. A planned new and replacement planting is necessary to retain and improve upon the current tree resources.

The Council aim to establish and encourage new individual and urban tree planting.

All relevant trees in parks and green spaces will be surveyed to prioritise replacement planting of declining tree populations. Replacement trees are to be species of varieties to maintain and enhance the design and character of the park or green space.

By developing a strategic approach to tree management it will be possible to identify those resources required to implement action and also to maximise grant and other income.

There is also a recognised need to increase public education of the importance of trees in our in our environment and involve residents in decisions on trees in their area.

## **The Older Persons' Strategy**

An Older Persons' Strategy is currently being developed. This will be a framework document to ensure a networked approach to planning and delivering services that impact on the lives of older people. Successful implementation of the strategy will enable the following outcomes to be achieved:

- Increased independence, engagement, and choice in more inclusive communities.
- More healthy, active living.
- Fairness in work and later life.
- Increased economic well being.
- Higher quality, dignified support and care when needed.

The strategy shares facts, ideas and a proposed framework that links the Community Plan, other plans and new ways of doing things. It suggests a new role for the Older Persons Partnership Board and Local Strategic Partnership.

The aim of the strategy is to create a framework that enables older people to unlock the potential for them to play an even greater role, recognising and valuing the vital contribution older people can make. It also aims to enable all of us to prepare more effectively for new horizons, expectations and opportunities in later life and, if and when help is needed, that services offer higher quality, dignified support and care.

A range of initiatives and plans already exist in Torbay which impact on the quality and well being of older people e.g. Cultural Strategy The Older Persons Strategy will contain many which will link with and have an impact on this strategy

## **APPENDIX 3: SUMMARY OF THE MAIN NATIONAL POLICIES ON GREENSPACE**

### **Planning Policy Guidance (PPG17): Planning for Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation ODPM (July 2002)**

Planning Policy Guidance notes set out the Government's national policies on different aspects of planning. This document replaces Planning Policy Guidance Note 17, published in 1991. This document stresses the importance of Local Authorities undertaking robust open space audits and needs assessments to identify open space that should be protected and identifying where there is a need for additional or improvements to open space.

### **Assessing needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17, ODPM (2002)**

This guide reflects the Government's policy objectives for open spaces, sport and recreation, as set out in PPG17. The guide:

- Seeks to build on examples of existing good planning practice, whilst also taking account of the recommendations of the Government's Urban Green Spaces taskforce and the requirement for local authorities to prepare community strategies.
- Sets out how Local Authorities can use the planning system to help deliver accessible high quality and sustainable open access and sport and recreational facilities which meet local needs and are valued by local communities
- Relates directly to the Best Value regime and the management and maintenance of publicly owned open spaces and sport and recreation facilities.

### **Green Spaces, Better Places, Final Report of the Green Spaces Taskforce, DTLR (2002)**

This report has four parts:

- Parks and open spaces and urban life (the benefits urban parks and green spaces bring).
- Challenges and responses (how problems affecting urban parks and green spaces can be overcome).
- Creating green space networks (good practice examples).
- Making it happen (delivering a wider vision for 'liveable', sustainable modern towns and cities).

### **Living Places- Cleaner, Safer, Greener ODPM (October 2002)**

This white paper sets out the government's approach to delivering cleaner, safer, greener public spaces. It explains why public spaces are important and maps the policies of the departments

responsible for public space. It sets out the role and responsibilities of local authorities and the measures the government will take to deliver this agenda.

In the light of the new national agenda a range of funding streams have become available for local authorities and local communities to bid for in order to provide new open spaces and restore existing ones.

## APPENDIX 4: WARD PROFILES

### Greenspace Strategy



## TORQUAY

### 1. Watcombe

Population: 7,359  
Hectares: 196  
Space for Children: 5,951  
Total Public Space: 186,797  
Density: 37.5  
% of Public Green Space: 9.53

#### Greenspace

Barton Downs Recreation Ground \*(46)  
Brunel woods \*(74)  
Firlands Road open space  
Golden Park  
Rocombe Close open space \*(57)  
Seymour Lane open space  
Starpitten Green \*(36)  
Steps Cross Recreation Ground \*(42)

#### Playgrounds

Barton Downs  
Starpitten  
Salisbury Avenue  
Steps Cross  
Sutherland Drive MUGA

### 2. Shiphay with the Willows

Population: 8,252  
Hectares: 415  
Space for Children; 5,154  
Total public space: 305,015  
Density: 19.88  
% of public green space: 7.35

#### Greenspace

Brown Bridge  
Glebeland Way Open Space  
Kitson Park \*(45)  
Shiphay Park \*(44)  
Torquay Crematorium \*(69)

#### Playgrounds

Centenary Way

Condor Drive, the Willows  
Exe Hill  
Glebeland Way  
Huntacott Way  
Kitson Park  
Shiphay Park  
South Park

### 3. St Marychurch

Population: 11,351  
Hectares: 559  
Space for Children: 8229  
Total Public Space: 1,735,420  
Density: 20.31  
% of Public Green space: 31.05

#### Greenspace

Babbacombe Downs \*(59)  
Babbacombe Downs Road Park \*(41)  
Cary Park 1 \*(51)  
Cary Park 2 \*(48)  
Cary Park Sports complex \*(52)  
Coronation Park \*(50)  
Easterfield Recreation Ground \*(37)  
Happway Road Open Space  
Hampton Lands \*(57)  
Hartop Open Space \*(47)  
King George V Recreation Ground \*(49)  
Petitor Open Space \*(41)  
Quinta Road  
Tessier Gardens \*(57)  
Valley of Rocks  
Williams Field

#### Playgrounds

Cary Park  
Haytor \*(40)  
Happaway Road  
Plainmoor

## 4. Ellacombe

Population: 7,358  
Hectares: 96  
Space for Children: 4,105  
Total public space: 89,425  
Density: 76.65  
% of public green space: 9.32

### Greenspace

Brewery Park \*(65)  
Belmont Park  
Castle Gardens \*(39)  
Ellacombe Green  
Ellacombe Green \*(48)  
Stentiford Hill  
Woodlands at Stentiford Hill  
Warberry Copse

### Playgrounds

Alpine Road  
Brewery Park  
Ellacombe Green  
Stentiford Hill

## 5. Cockington with Chelston

Population: 11,116  
Hectares: 742  
Space for Children: 2,140  
Total Public Space: 2,365,224  
Density: 14.98  
% of public green space: 31.88

### Greenspace

Ashfield Green  
Armada Park \*(61)  
Cockington Country Park \*(83)  
Cockington Park \*(89)  
Corbyn Head \*(55)  
Crownhill Park \*(48)  
Kings Gardens \*(44)  
Markham Plantation  
Mallock Road  
Preston park \*(43)

Sherwell Park \*(59)  
St Matthew's Field \*(45)  
Two Parks \*(50)  
Torquay Recreation Ground  
Torre Station/ Rowcroft land  
Torre Valley North \*(48)  
Torre Valley South  
Victoria Park \*(55)

### Playgrounds

Armada Park  
Broadpark  
Mallock Road  
Victoria Park

## 6. Wellswood

Population: 7,621  
Hectares: 405  
Space for Children: 0  
Total Public Space; 976,046  
Density: 18.77  
% of Public Green space: 24.04

### Greenspace

Bishops Walk  
Daddyhole coastal woods  
Daddyhole Plain \*(53)  
Hopes Nose  
Ilsham Marine Drive  
Ilsham Valley Recreation Ground \*(47)  
Lincombe Woods  
Manor Gardens  
Marine Drive Coastal land  
Oxlea Copse  
Rock End Walk/Peaktor Gardens  
St Johns Wood  
Stoodley Knowle Recreation Ground \*(43)  
Thatcher Point  
Torwood gardens \*(52)  
Wellswood Park

## 7. Tormohun

Population: 10,934  
Hectares: 302  
Space for Children: 1,065  
Total Public Space: 365,070  
Density: 36.21  
% of Public Green space: 12.09

### Greenspace

Abbey Park \*(69)  
Abbey Meadows  
Brunswick Square  
Cricketfield Road \*(65.14)  
Chapel Woods \*(43.8)  
Daison Woods  
Memorial Gardens \*(64.86)  
Princess Gardens \*(73.34)  
Rock Walk \*(54.94)  
Stantaway Hill  
Tor Abbey Education Gardens  
Upton Park \*(62.16)  
Windmill Hill Recreation Ground \*(59.04)

### Playgrounds

Stentiford Hill  
Upton Park  
Windmill Hill Skatepark

## PAIGNTON

### 8. Preston

Population 10,281  
Hectares: 319  
Space for Children: 1,183  
Total Public Space: 1,152,120  
Density: 32.23  
% of public green space: 36.12

### Greenspace

Coombe Park \*(39)  
Hollicombe Headland  
Occombe Woods \*(79)  
Preston House Gardens \*(40)

Oldway \*(51)  
Parkfield \*(51)  
Preston Green \*(57)  
Preston Park \*(43)  
Scadson Woods \*(48)  
Shorton Valley Woods

### Playgrounds

Wills Avenue

## 9. Clifton with Maidenway

Population: 7,043  
Hectares: 143  
Space for Children: 980  
Total Public Space: 29,303  
Density: 49.25  
% of public green space: 2.05

### Greenspace

Monastery Woods \*(31)  
Primley Woods  
Primley Park (on boundary with Blatchcombe ward)  
Stanley Gardens \*(39)

### Playgrounds

Berry Drive  
Stanley Gardens

## 10. Roundham with Hyde

Population: 7,096  
Hectares: 155  
Space for Children  
Total public space: 1,984  
Total public space: 170.357  
Density: 45.78  
% of public green space: 10.99

### Greenspace

Cliff Gardens \*(56)  
Queens Park \*(42)  
Palace Avenue Gardens \*(64)  
Roundham Gardens \*(51)

Victoria Park \*(57)  
St Michael's Recreation Ground \*(34)  
Wickham / Ravenswood Gardens \*(49)

### **Playgrounds**

St Michael's Recreation Ground  
Victoria Park

## **11. Blatchcombe**

Population: 10,165  
Hectares: 1103  
Space for children: 7,132  
Total Public green space: 273,854  
Density: 9.22  
% of public green space: 2.48

### **Greenspace**

Borough Road \*(41)  
Blackthorn Way  
Collaton St Mary  
Claylands

Great Parks \*(34)  
Primley Park \*(45)  
Ramshill Road

### **Playgrounds**

Borough Road  
Great Parks  
Mulberry Close  
Queen Elizabeth Drive  
Primley Park  
Redwell Road  
Smallcombe Road

## **12. Goodrington with Roselands**

Population: 6,873  
Hectares: 319  
Space for Children: 725  
Total Public Space: 273,854  
Density: 21.55  
% of public green space: 17.05

### **Greenspace**

Claylands \*(34)  
Clennon Valley \*(63)  
Goodrington Park \*(67)  
Goodrington Village Green \*(54)  
Grange Fields \*(55)  
Land at Lancaster Drive  
Three Beaches \*(47)

### **Playgrounds**

Claylands  
Haytor Drive  
Lancaster Drive

## **13. Churston with Galmpton**

Population: 6,793  
Hectares: 1005  
Space for Children; 3,961  
Total Public Space: 1,617,575  
Density: 6.76  
% of public green space: 16.10

### **Greenspace**

Churston War Memorial Fields  
Elberry Headland \*(49)  
Churston Ferrers Green \*(43)  
Goodrington Quarry  
Grove Woodlands \*(77)  
Sugarloaf \*(50)  
Waterside  
White Rock Recreation Ground \*(48)

### **Playgrounds**

Cherrybrook  
Davies Avenue \*(45)  
Hookhills/hound Tor  
Hookhills/Freshwater Drive



## **BRIXHAM**

### **14. Berry Head with Furzeham**

Population: 10,157

Hectares: 339

Space for Children Space: 2,421 sqm

Total Public Space: 611,673 sqm

Density: 29.96

% of public green space: 18.04

#### **Greenspace**

Astley Park \*(44)

Battery Gardens \*(68)

Berry Head Country Park \*(78)

Bonsey Gardens \*(48)

Brixham Rugby Football Club

Furzeham Middle Green \*(43)

Furzeham Recreation Ground \*(47)

Parkham Park \*(31)

#### **Playgrounds**

Astley Park

North Boundary Road

Shoalstone open space \*(48)

Washbourne Close

### **15. St Mary's with Summercombe**

Population: 7,302

Hectares: 295

Space for Children: 1,268

Total public space: 231,110

Density: 24.75

% of public green space: 7.83

#### **Greenspace**

St Mary's Park \*(50)

Sharkham Point \*(65)

Summercourt Way \*(38)

#### **Playgrounds**

Rowan Way

St Mary's Park

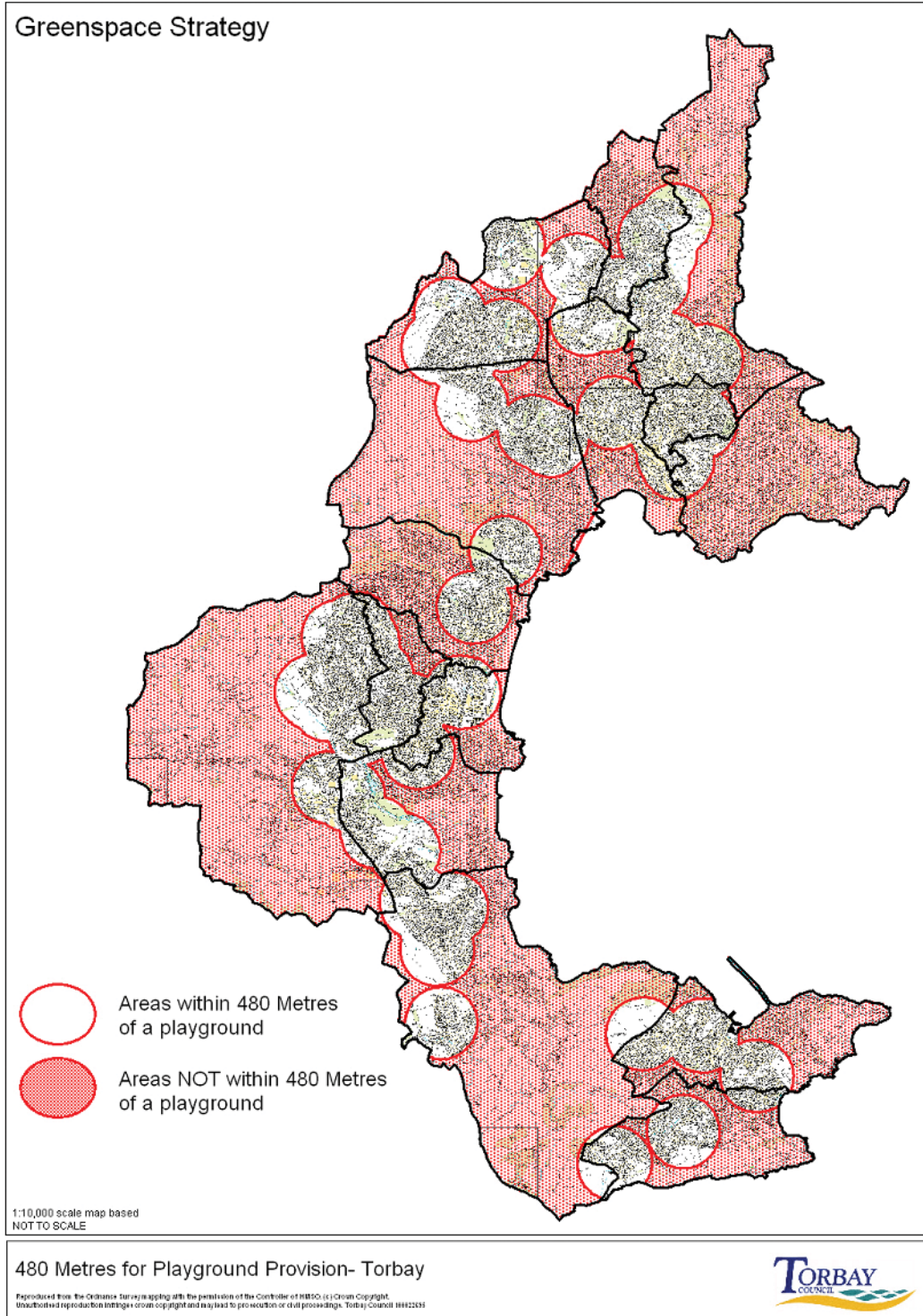
#### Notes

An asterisk (\*) indicates the weighted score where a site assessment audit had been carried out.

The density figure is the population of the ward divided by the size (hectares).

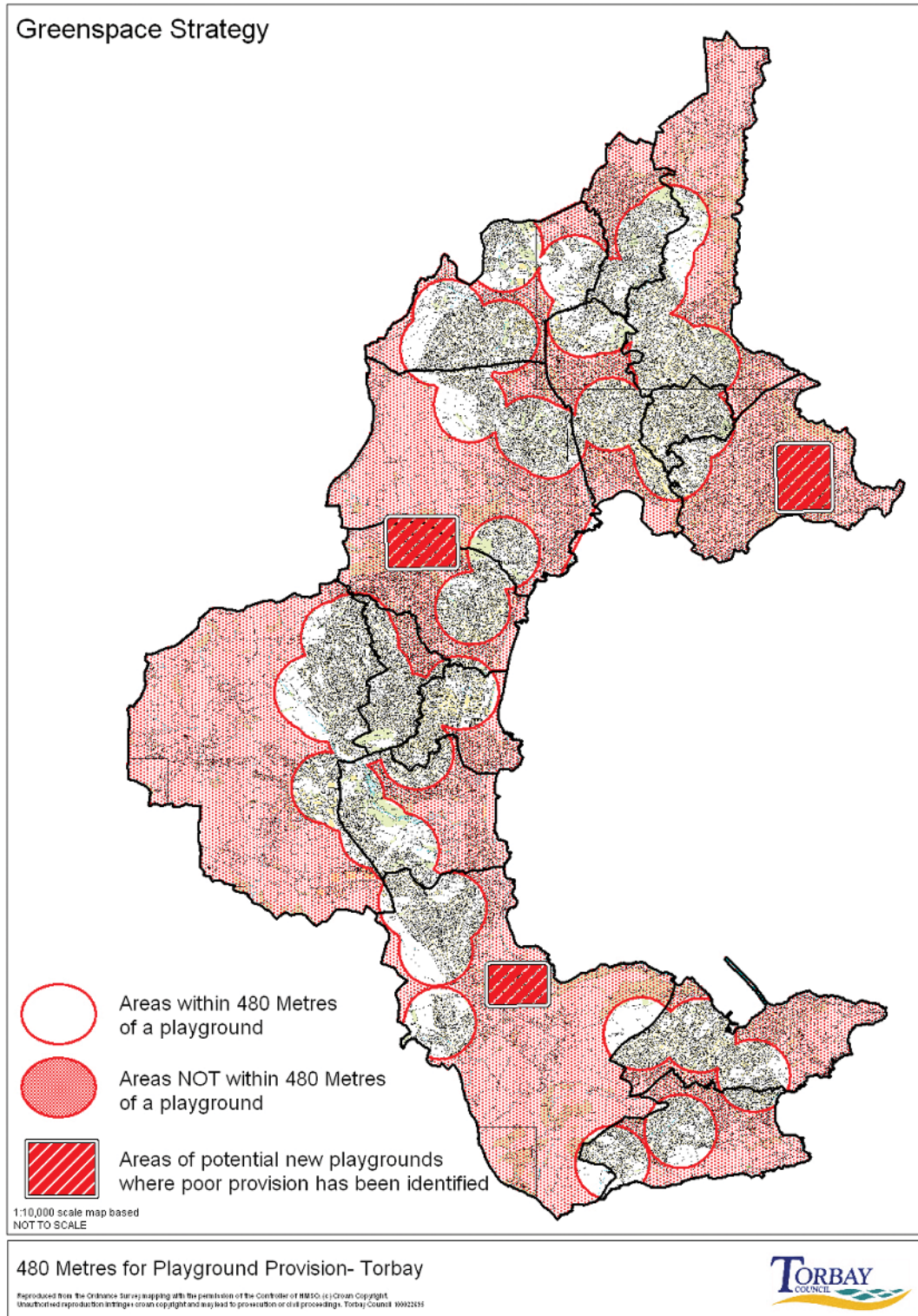
## APPENDIX 5: PROVISION MAPS

### Playground Provision



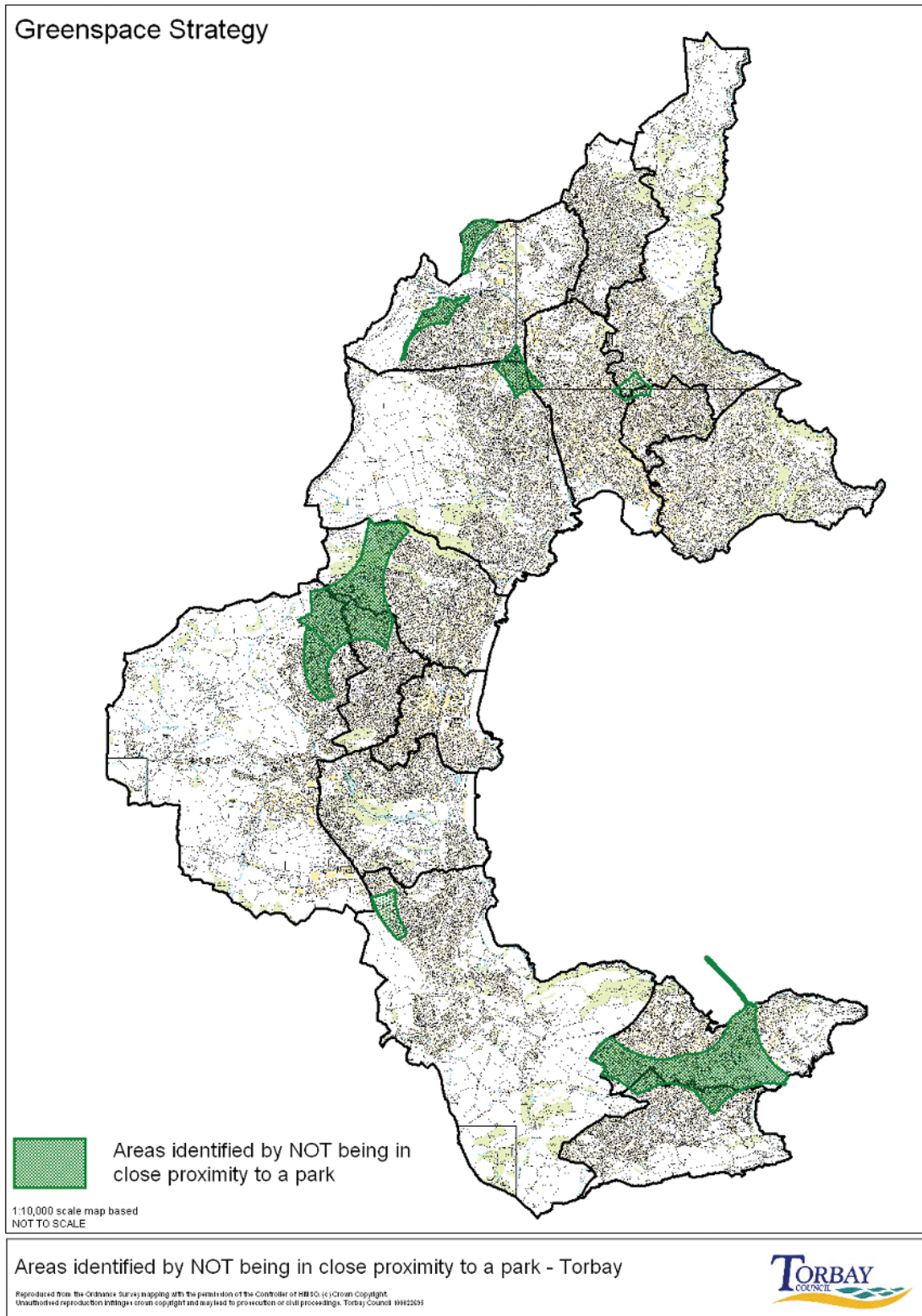
## Playground Provision & Potential New Sites

Map highlighting playground provision along with potential new playgrounds where there is identified insufficient facilities.



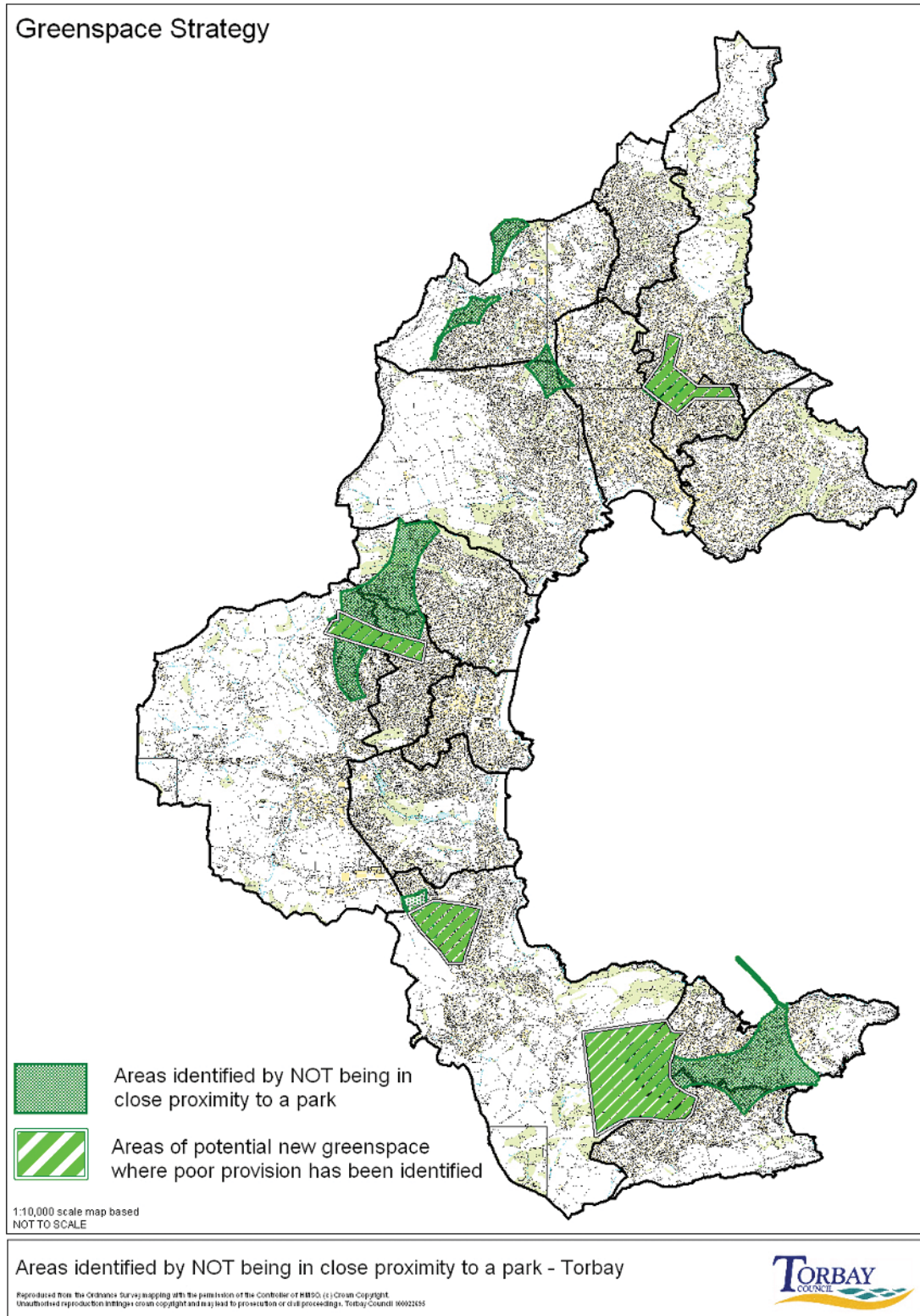


## Insufficient Greenspace



## Insufficient Greenspace & Potential New Areas

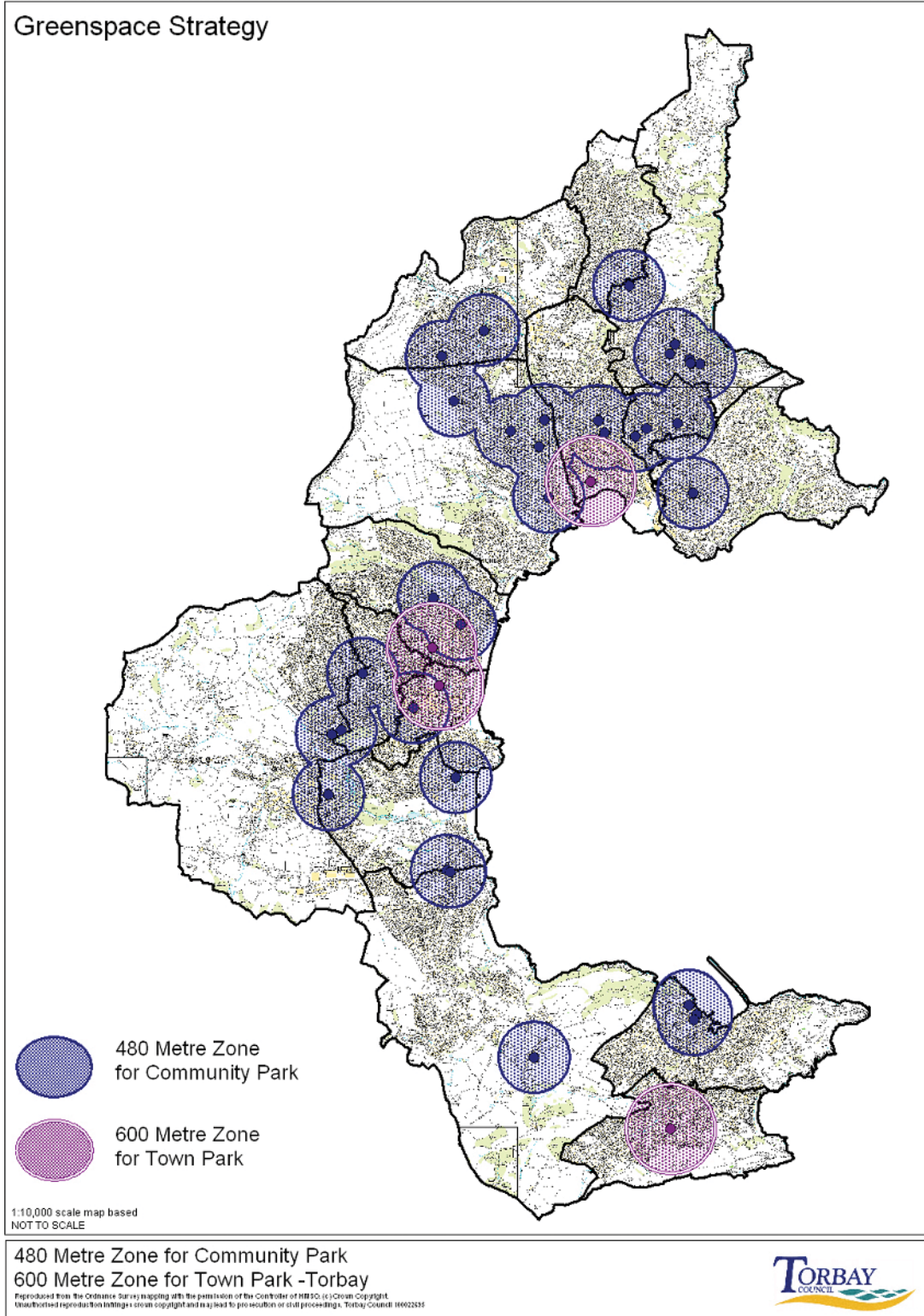
Map highlighting areas not in close proximity to a park along with potential new sites.





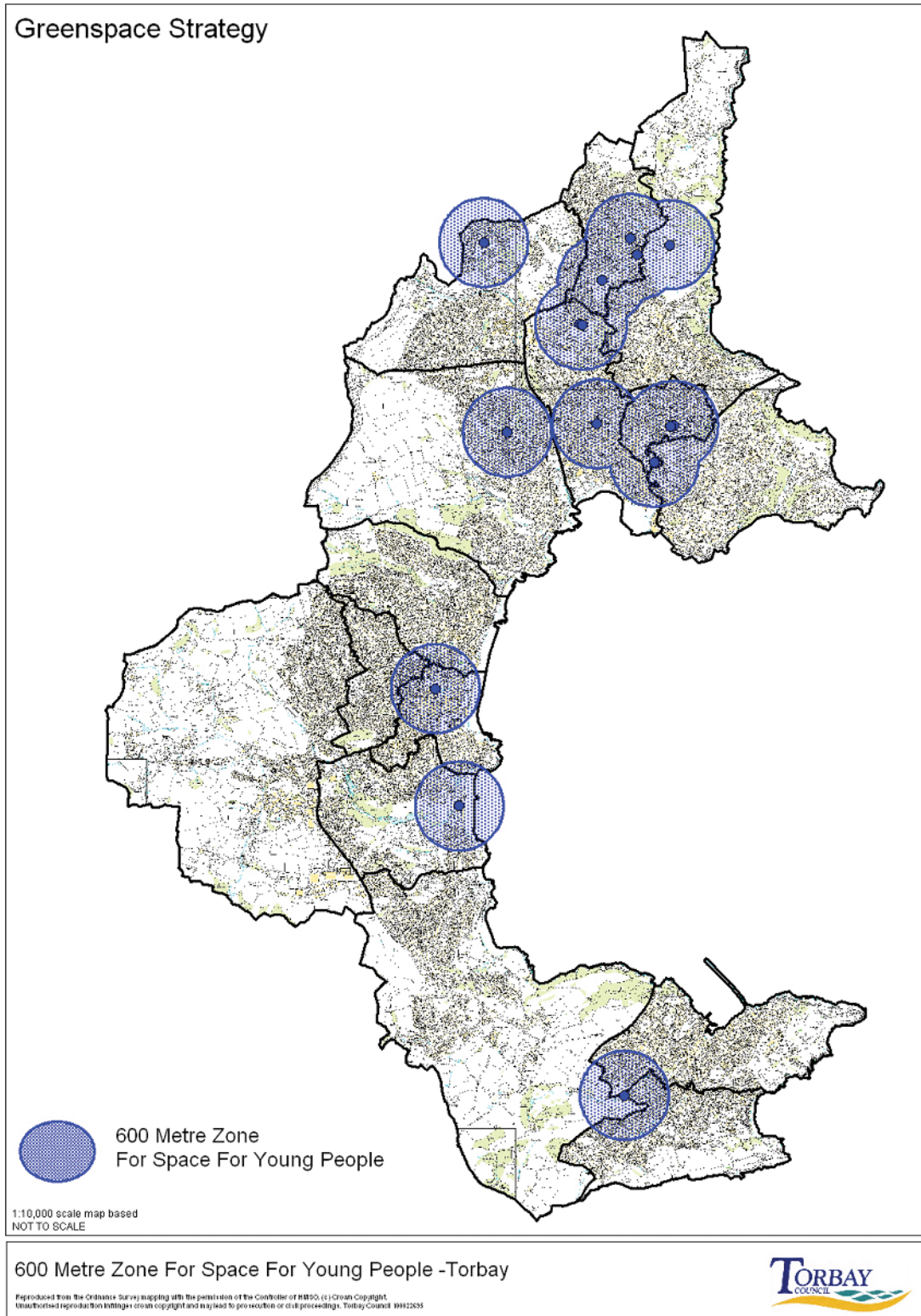
### Community and Town Park Provision Map

Map showing 480-metre buffer zone around community parks and 600-metre buffer zone around town parks.



## Space for Young People Provision Map

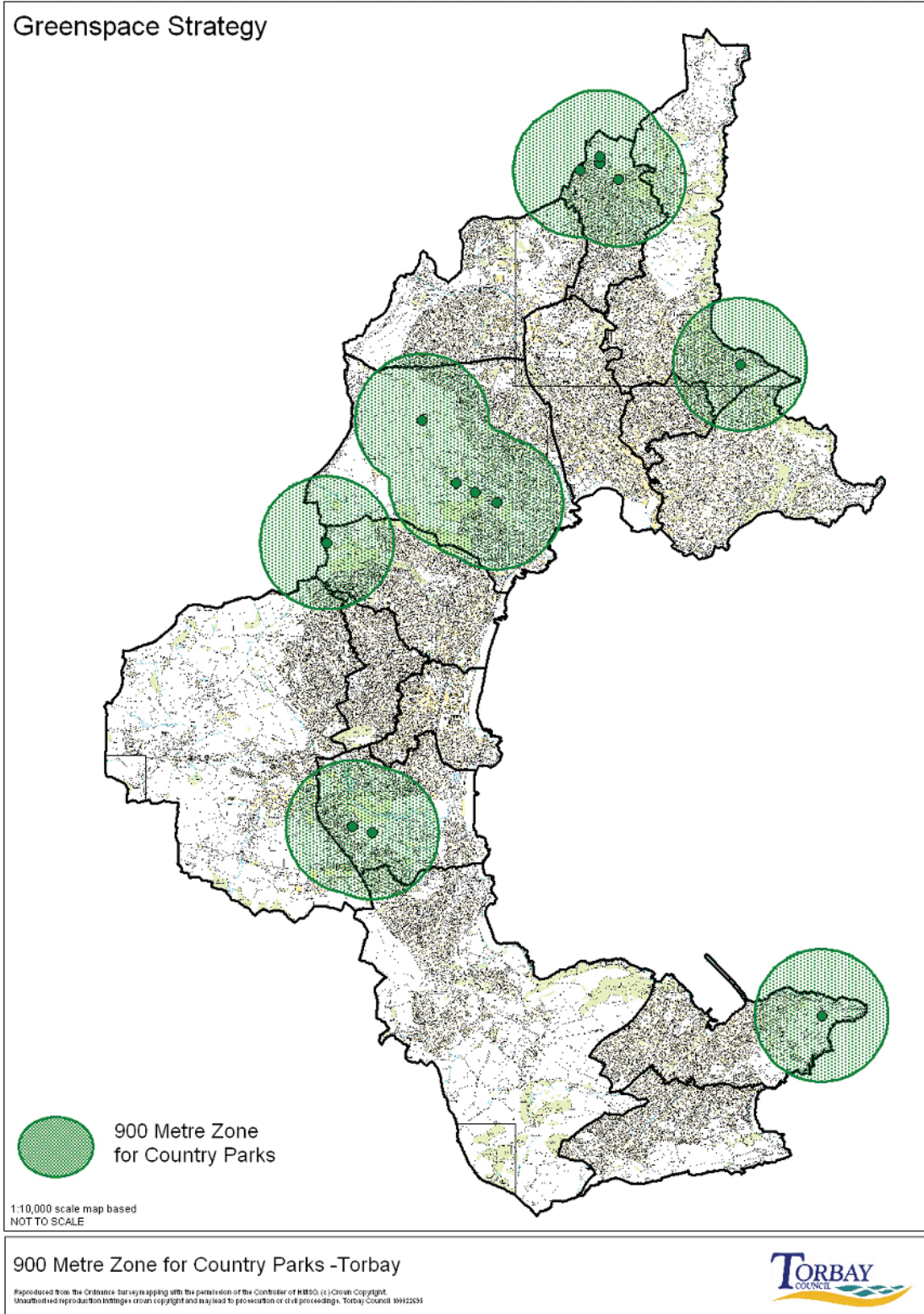
Map showing 600-metre buffer zone where there is provision for young people.





### Country Park Provision Map

Map showing 900-metre buffer zone for country parks.





## **APPENDIX 6: 96 PARKS WHERE AUDIT CARRIED OUT**



# The structure of the Local Development Framework

