



## **AGENDA ITEM**

**8**

# **Review of the Open Space Strategy and Parks Development Plan**

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**Falkirk Council**

**Title:** Review of the Open Space Strategy and Parks Development Plan  
**Meeting:** Executive  
**Date:** 18 October 2016  
**Submitted By:** Director of Development Services

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to agree a set of changes to the Consultative Draft Open Space Strategy in response to issues raised through public consultation and adopt the finalised document as Council policy.

**2. Recommendations**

**2.1 It is recommended that the Executive:-**

- 1) agrees the proposed responses to comments received during consultation and consequential changes to the draft Open Space Strategy outlined in appendix 1; and
- 2) agrees to adopt the finalised Open Space Strategy shown at appendix 2 as Council policy.

**3. Background**

- 3.1 Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) requires Councils to take a strategic and long term approach to managing the open space in their areas, assessing both current and future needs and protecting all spaces which can help to meet them. SPP requires the preparation of an Open Space Strategy to achieve this. The Council's first Open Space Strategy was approved in April 2010.
- 3.2 On 19 August 2014 the Executive established a Policy Development Panel (the Panel) with the remit to review the Falkirk Council Open Space Strategy and Parks Development Plan. Following an extensive policy development process the Panel recommended that the consultative draft Open Space Strategy incorporating a Parks Development Plan be presented to the Council's Executive seeking approval to publish the document for public consultation.
- 3.3 On 20 October 2015 the Executive instructed officers to:-
- 1) publish the consultative draft Open Space Strategy and Parks Development Plan and to carry out public consultation on it; and

- 2) report back the findings of the public consultation and present a finalised Open Space Strategy and Parks Development Plan which has been amended to address issues raised during the consultation to a future meeting of the Executive.
- 3.4 Following the conclusion of the consultation exercise, officers presented a consultation report to a meeting of the Panel on 26 August 2016. The Panel recommended that officers prepare a finalised Open Space Strategy and Parks Development Plan for presentation to the Executive seeking approval to adopt the document as Council policy. A note of this meeting of the Panel is outlined at appendix 3.

#### **4. Considerations**

- 4.1 The Strategy's themes are interlinked and aim to make parks and open spaces better, fairer and more connected to the communities at their heart whilst reducing the overall costs of maintenance and improvement and generating money for further investment.
- 4.2 Crucially, the improvements which the Strategy aims to make will not be able to be delivered if the efficiencies, savings and income it aims to generate cannot be found. This fundamental point has shaped the way in which we have altered the Strategy to address concerns raised during the community consultation.

#### **5. Consultation**

##### Introduction

- 5.1 Consultation on the draft Open Space Strategy and Parks Development Plan was launched on 7th December 2015 with the draft Strategy made available on the Council's website and in Council offices, one stop shops and libraries. The main consultation tool was an online consultation survey which was designed to take people step by step through the important issues raised in the Strategy and gauge their response to the way the consultative draft Strategy addresses these issues.
- 5.2 The consultation was widely publicised as follows:
  - An article appeared in the Falkirk Council News (which was distributed to Council residents on 7th Dec 2015);
  - An advert was placed in the Falkirk Herald and the Bo'ness Journal;
  - A poster advertising the draft Strategy consultation was placed in Council offices, one stop shops and libraries;
  - A targeted list of stakeholders (including all Friends Groups and Community Councils) were written to directly informing them about the consultation process;
  - Community Councils were offered the opportunity to have a Council officer attend one of their meetings to explain what the Strategy proposes for their local area and answer questions about how the Strategy might affect their community. Seven Community Councils took up this offer;

- The consultation was promoted through the Council's official twitter feed; and
  - The consultation was promoted through the Local Development Plan team's Facebook page.
- 5.3 The consultation officially closed on 7th March 2016 (having been extended for a further week at the request of Larbert, Stenhousemuir and Torwood Community Council).
- 5.4 In total we received 238 responses to the online survey together with a number of written responses from national and local organisations. Organisations responding were:
- National – Scottish Natural Heritage, Sportscotland, Forestry Commission Scotland & RSPB Scotland
  - Community Councils – Airth Parish; Avonbridge and Standburn; Banknock, Hags and Longcroft; Bonnybridge; Brightons; and Larbert, Stenhousemuir and Torwood
  - Local – Friends of Dollar Park; Community Green Initiative; Communities Along the Carron Association; Polmont Woodlands Group; Falkirk Tryst Golf Club; and Grangemouth Rovers Football Club

#### Online Survey

- 5.5 The findings of the online survey indicate that the public appear to broadly support the approach to open space investment set out in the Open Space Strategy. The public appear to be comfortable with the Strategy's proposals to: actively encourage the increased involvement of community groups in the management and improvement of parks and open space; and commercialise appropriate parts of the park and open space resource to generate income for improvements.
- 5.6 In particular, the Strategy's proposals to: invest in our poorer quality open spaces where there is no better quality alternative provision nearby; and to make investment decisions which aim to increase the percentage of households which meet the Strategy's various accessibility standards have a high level of public support.
- 5.7 The online survey asked participants how they felt about the Strategy's proposed minimum walking distance thresholds to different functions of open space which are that people should live no more than:
- 400m (5 minute walk) from a good quality open space;
  - 400m (5 minute walk) from a reasonably sized public park or greenspace;
  - 800m (10 minute walk) from an open space containing a playspace;
  - 1200m (15 minute walk) from an open containing sports area; and
  - 1200m (15 minute walk) from a natural/semi natural open space.
- 5.8 A minimum of 85% of participants felt that all of the proposed walking distance thresholds were either a reasonable distance to travel or that they would happily travel further. A practical implication of accepting these walking distance thresholds is that there will be certain open space facilities which are

no longer needed to maintain the level of households with access to open space within the prescribed walking distances. These open space facilities (69 playspaces and 18 sports areas) were highlighted as “potentially surplus” within the Strategy.

- 5.9 It appears that participants aren’t supportive of the concept of losing play spaces and sports areas but they appear to be content with the thought that they will be able to walk to an open space containing these facilities within 10 minutes and 15 minutes respectively.
- 5.10 To address these concerns we propose that, once the Strategy has been approved, a comprehensive review of the 69 potentially surplus playspaces identified within the Strategy should be carried out recommending which of them should be confirmed as surplus to operational requirements. Further consultation with communities on the results of this exercise would then be carried out before finalisation.
- 5.11 The findings of the online survey indicate that the public neither supports the sale of surplus open spaces nor letting them return to nature. The costs of continuing to maintain all current Council owned open space is unsustainable in a climate of a reducing overall Council budget, therefore, the Strategy proposes to generate money for investment in park and open space improvement through seeking appropriate alternative uses for parks and open spaces which are no longer needed. To achieve this the Strategy proposes that an exercise to identify surpluses at a settlement wide level is carried out once the factors to be considered in the exercise have been ratified through Strategy approval. As part of this exercise further consultation would be carried out with local communities to ensure that their concerns about the loss of any specific open space have been fully taken into account.
- 5.12 Once surplus open spaces have been identified through this exercise further reports will be brought before the Executive seeking approval to officially declare them as surplus to operational requirements. Additional consultation with local Members and portfolio holders would be carried out as part of this process.
- 5.13 The planning process will be used as the vehicle for capturing money from the sale of surplus open space for reinvestment in the wider open space resource. Policy INF03 of the Local Development Plan (LDP) requires development involving the loss of open space to pay compensation towards improving the quality of open space elsewhere. In general the park and open space improvement projects funded by compensatory payments should be of some benefit to the community who have lost the surplus open space.
- 5.14 Whilst the public’s lack of support for the sale of surplus open space is noted, the Strategy provides for ample further public consultation to be carried out before any site is officially declared surplus to operational requirements to ensure that the public’s concerns are fully taken into account. Additionally the Council’s Local Development Plan contains a mechanism which will ensure that any community which loses open space as a result of development will see commensurate open space improvements carried out in their local area as compensation for the loss. It is also worth noting that surplus open spaces are less likely to be identified in communities with lower levels of open space.

### Online Survey – Area Strategies

- 5.15 Participants generally agreed that the 14 parks and open spaces identified as key open space assets in the draft Open Space Strategy were appropriate and that park masterplans should be prepared for each of them where they do not already exist.
- 5.16 The Friends of Dollar Park requested that Dollar Park should also have a park masterplan drawn up for it and asked us to explain the rationale behind not identifying this park as a key open space asset. The reason for not identifying Dollar Park as a key open space asset was partly because of the recent improvement work which has taken place there and partly because Falkirk already has 3 key open space assets identified at Callendar Park and Wood, the Falkirk Wheel and the Helix. The Strategy indicates that we will support community groups at a reasonable and sustainable level, therefore, if the Friends of Dollar Park, or any other community group, wish to prepare their own park masterplan to support future funding bids, then we will provide them with a reasonable level of officer support to assist this.
- 5.17 Participants gave a huge amount of feedback through the online survey providing an insight into which projects identified within the various Area Strategies were their top local priorities. The finalised Strategy contains an indication of these top local priorities and this will prove very useful when programming the implementation of the Strategy in future years.

### Written Responses

- 5.18 Scottish Natural Heritage suggested that it would be good to see allotments as a theme within the Strategy.
- 5.19 Allotments are primarily dealt with by Falkirk Greenspace – A Strategy for our Green Network which contains a number of priority actions under the theme of “Community Growing” and a related objective “to review allotment provision and other community growing opportunities within Falkirk Council area.” The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 also places a duty on the Council to prepare a food growing strategy for the area which identifies the land the Council considers may be used as allotments. In these circumstances we consider that it would be inappropriate for the Open Space Strategy to pre-empt the proposed review of allotment provision and the preparation of the food growing strategy.
- 5.20 Sportscotland sought clarification of the status of the Strategy relative to the Council’s Local Development Plan. They asked whether the Open Space Strategy is intended to act as the Council’s pitch strategy and whether it will be relied on to provide justification for development involving the loss of playing fields or sports pitches. Sportscotland noted that they would not support the Council if they intended to use the Open Space Strategy for this purpose as it does not conform to the methodology set out in their document “Guide to the preparation of sports pitch strategies” i.e. it is not based on an analysis of supply versus demand for sports pitches, and has not been prepared in consultation with the relevant sports users.

- 5.21 The Open Space Strategy is not intended to act as the strategy for outdoor sports facilities as set out in criterion 4 of policy INF03(2) of the LDP. It does however establish the Council's intention to reduce the overall amount of sports pitches and to encourage the development of a network of strategic sports pitch sites. We recognise that there is still a strategic need to prepare a pitch strategy to better articulate the Council's intentions and to provide a policy framework for decision making when dealing with development proposals which involve the loss of playing fields or sports pitches; and to inform any exercise to identify surplus open spaces. A new paragraph is proposed for inclusion in the finalised Strategy to address this issue.

## **6. Implications**

### **Financial**

- 6.1 Resources to implement the Strategy will come from existing capital and revenue budgets (which are constrained) as well as from developer contributions and external partnership funding. Implementing the Strategy could result in an increase in the amount of external partnership funding secured and an increase in the amount of developer contributions secured.
- 6.2 Implementing the Strategy should result in an overall reduction in the cost of maintaining our parks and open spaces and could result in capital receipts from the sale of surplus open space land.

### **Resources**

- 6.3 Whilst much can be achieved with existing resources there may be discrete projects which will require temporary additional resources.
- 6.4 Implementing the Strategy could result in a reduction in the amount of open space land owned by the Council.

### **Legal**

- 6.5 Scottish Planning Policy strongly encourages the preparation of relevant, up to date audits, strategies and actions plans covering green infrastructure's multiple functions. The preparation of the Strategy helps to fulfil this requirement.
- 6.6 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires that an environmental report be prepared alongside the consultative draft Strategy. An environmental report was consequently published alongside the consultative draft Strategy to meet the requirements of the Act. The Act also requires that a post adoption statement setting out how environmental considerations have been incorporated into the Strategy is prepared as soon as reasonably practicable after Strategy adoption.

### **Risk**

- 6.4 None.

## **Equalities**

- 6.5 An Equality and Poverty Impact Assessment of the consultative draft Strategy has been carried out. It found that in general the negative effects of the consultative draft Strategy can be suitably mitigated, however it also found that the proposal to increase walking distance standards to playspaces and sports areas would have an adverse impact on: very young people and their parents and guardians; older people who are less able to walk longer distances due to health related reasons; people who are less able to walk longer distances due to disability related reasons; and pregnant women and mothers with very young children.
- 6.6 Changing the walking distance thresholds will allow the Council to concentrate investment on improving the quality of a smaller number of playspaces and sports areas. This should improve overall play/ sports development value and have regard to financial constraints. This is considered to be sufficient justification for the identified negative impact on diverse communities.
- 6.7 There are no changes proposed within the finalised Strategy which would change the conclusions of the initial EPIA.

## **Sustainability/Environmental Impact**

- 6.8 The Environmental Report published alongside the consultative draft Strategy noted that likely significant positive environmental effects of implementing the consultative draft Strategy are:
- the ecological value of our parks and open spaces should improve;
  - the number of households within an acceptable walking distance of different types of open space should improve;
  - the number of households within an acceptable walking distance of “fit for purpose” open space should improve;
  - participation in outdoor recreation should increase;
  - the health and wellbeing quality of our parks and open spaces should improve;
  - the connectivity of the open space network and the active travel network should improve;
  - our ability to mitigate increased flood risk caused by a changing climate should improve; and
  - the design and aesthetic quality of our parks and open spaces should improve.
- 6.9 The likely significant negative effects of implementing the consultative draft Strategy are:
- the overall rate of open space provision across the Council area (which is measured as the number of hectares per 1000 people) is likely to reduce;
  - the average walking distance to open spaces containing a playspace or a sports area may increase; and
  - the overall quality of regional, settlement and neighbourhood level open spaces could decrease.



- 6.10 Consultation of the Environmental Report has been carried out. Scottish Natural Heritage indicated that they had some concerns that because environmental assessment of the individual area strategies and the actions within them had not been carried out as part of the Environmental Report, some actions which have the potential to impact on the Firth of Forth Special Protection Area (SPA) or the Slamannan Plateau SPA, in particular by causing disturbance to migratory birds, will require further assessment.
- 6.11 Further assessment has since identified that the following actions have the potential to disturb migratory birds associated with the Firth of Forth SPA or bean geese associated with the Slamannan Plateau SPA:
- MVAL.02 – Expand the Kinneil Estate Masterplan to incorporate Bo'ness Foreshore and Kinneil Foreshore;
  - MNATREG.05 – Improve the quality of Bo'ness Foreshore East;
  - MNATREG.07 – Consider temporary greening at Bo'ness Foreshore West;
  - MGNT.05 – Carry out landscape and access improvements along the length of the John Muir Way;
  - MGNT.22 – Create new habitat along the coastline to the north of the River Carron to support Firth of Forth SPA species;
  - MGNT.31 – Create a missing link in the Round the Forth Foreshore Path between Airth Sewage Works and Dunmore;
  - MGNT.33 – Improve the access network along the River Avon upstream from Avonbridge to Slamannan;
  - MGNT.35 – Create new greenspace specifically managed for bean geese at Hillend Farm, Slamannan; and
  - MQUAL.36 – Improve the quality of the open space at Ferry Road, South Alloa
- 6.12 A Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) has subsequently been carried out which demonstrates that the Open Space Strategy will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the Firth of Forth SPA or the Slamannan Plateau SPA provided that the following mitigation measures are implemented:
- Works are restricted to ensure that they don't coincide with the bird wintering period;
  - Appropriate Assessment is carried out on the expanded masterplan for Kinneil Estate which demonstrates that proposals can be implemented without causing adverse effects on the integrity of the Firth of Forth SPA either alone or in combination with other plans or projects; and
  - Action MQUAL.36 is deleted.
- 6.13 SNH have been consulted and have confirmed that they agree with the conclusion of the HRA.

## **7. Conclusions**

- 7.1 The Open Space Strategy has been prepared through an extensive policy development process and has been subject to a wide ranging public consultation. A number of minor changes to the Strategy have been suggested

in response to comments received during the consultation process. The Executive are asked to adopt the finalised Strategy as Council policy.

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Date: 6 October 2016

## **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1: Comments received during consultation on the draft Open Space Strategy with proposed responses and consequential changes to the draft Strategy.

Appendix 2: Finalised Open Space Strategy

Appendix 3: Open Space Strategy and Parks Development Plan Policy Development Panel – Note of Meeting 26 August 2016

### **List of Background Papers:**

**The following papers were relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:**

- Falkirk Council Open Space Strategy 2015 – Consultative Draft
- Falkirk Council Open Space Strategy – Strategic Environmental Assessment – Environmental Report
- Falkirk Council Open Space Strategy – Habitats Regulations Appraisal Record

## **Appendix 1**

Comments received during consultation on the draft Open Space Strategy with proposed responses and consequential changes to the draft Strategy.

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)	Vision	We endorse the new vision for Falkirk's Open Spaces as it emphasises connectivity, well-being and environmental significance.	Support welcomed	None
Larbert Stenhousemuir and Torwood Community Council (LST CC)	Vision	There can be no doubt that the vision put forward is laudable. The improvement of health, enriching lives, significant ecological value, and mitigation of the effects of climate change are all very suitable for the strategy. What is not seen as a vision in the strategy is protecting the existing open spaces and improving them. The strategy identifies modernisation of parks and open spaces. That might be taken as protecting them but that is not specifically said. Larbert, Stenhousemuir and Torwood are areas that do not appear to be well endowed with open spaces. Indeed, Torwood has no open space. What open space there is, is often not accessible to the general public.	The Strategy doesn't seek to protect or improve all of our parks and open spaces. It would be misleading to revise the Strategy's vision to include these concepts if that was not what we were proposing.	None
LST CC	Delivering the Vision	We would not like to see local spaces being sold or neglected to further enhance national and regional parks. While the benefit to tourists may be high, raising the profile of this area, many locals do not have the time or the transport to get to them.	<p>The online survey revealed that 81% of respondents agreed that the Council should prioritise spending in certain areas to ensure every household has a good quality park or open space nearby. It also revealed that 36% of respondents agreed that the Council should concentrate on maintaining the quality of the parks and open spaces which are tourist attractions.</p> <p>The Strategy proposes that investment is spread between both improvement of poor quality local parks where there is no better quality alternative provision nearby and maintaining the quality of high profile open spaces which perform a tourism function.</p>	None
LST CC	Delivering the Vision	There are a number of useful proposals in the strategy. Any proposal to actually proceed would be very welcome. However, realism supports the view that unless outside agencies see the opportunity to profit from any of the proposals, Falkirk Council will not be in a position to progress them, principally due to lack of funds.	Comment noted. We will seek external funding to augment the improvements which can be made within our own budgets. This approach is in line with our proposals to generate money for investment in parks and open space by building on our impressive track record of partnership funding to lever grant funding from other organisations.	None
Online respondent	Delivering the Vision	I feel communities would be stronger if the council would invest in them instead of pouring all the funds into bigger parks such as the helix etc which are not accessible to families without travel or transport. Local parks could be improved in individual ways to a standard where people would travel to visit them and bring some revenue to each community.	<p>The online survey revealed that 81% of respondents agreed that the Council should prioritise spending in certain areas to ensure every household has a good quality park or open space nearby. It also revealed that 36% of respondents agreed that the Council should concentrate on maintaining the quality of the parks and open spaces which are tourist attractions.</p> <p>The Strategy proposes that investment is spread between both improvement of poor quality local parks where there is no better quality alternative provision nearby and maintaining the quality of high profile open spaces which perform a tourism function.</p>	None.
LST CC	Modernising our Parks and Open Spaces	At the end of the day, it is perhaps unfortunate to note that many open sites are not used due to the amount of dog waste. The local community has a lot to answer for when they fail to pick up their dog waste. Clearly it reduces the enjoyment of places for others and is a major blot on our area. While we are not alone, it is	Action MUSE.01 within the Parks Development Plan is to tackle dog fouling.	None

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
		disappointing to record that dog waste is such a major issue.		
Community Green Initiative (CGI)	Modernising our parks and open spaces	We consider that the Council should provide good quality parks whenever possible and should not reduce access to sports areas.	<p>Comment noted. The Strategy proposes to improve the quality of poor quality open spaces where there isn't better quality alternative provision nearby.</p> <p>The online survey found that only 12% of respondents thought that 1200m was too far to walk to an open space containing a sports area. In contrast 23% of respondents indicated that they would happily travel even further.</p>	None
CGI	Modernising our parks and open spaces	CGI is against the policy of removing playspaces. Future generations access to openspaces/playspaces should not be disadvantaged	Comment noted. We propose to invest in a rationalised more modern portfolio of play facilities to improve overall play value. To do this we propose to ensure that people are within an 800m walk of an open space containing a playspace and that the playspaces contain equipment suitable to meet the needs of three distinct age groups: toddlers; juniors and teenagers. To achieve this in a sustainable way then there will inevitably be some existing playspaces which are surplus to requirements.	None
CGI	Modernising our parks and open spaces	CGI is concerned about possible reduction in service eg number of playspaces and sports areas and/or quantity and quality of maintenance. Future generations' access to openspaces/playspaces should not be disadvantaged because we are presently experiencing an economic downturn.	Comment noted. We propose to invest in a rationalised more modern portfolio of play facilities to improve overall play value. To do this we propose to ensure that people are within an 800m walk of an open space containing a playspace and that the playspaces contain equipment suitable to meet the needs of three distinct age groups: toddlers; juniors and teenagers. To achieve this in a sustainable way then there will inevitably be some existing playspaces which are surplus to requirements.	None
Avonbridge and Standburn Community Council (A&S CC)	Modernising our parks and open spaces	Consideration has to be given to lack of public transport to access facilities in both the town and outlying areas. Incorporate cycle paths/general paths to the wider areas to encourage connectivity and this could be run alongside the core path strategy.	<p>One of the key proposals of the Strategy is to make investment decisions which encourage people to improve their health by walking or cycling to open spaces. Expanding and better connecting the active travel network is likely to be one of the ways that this is achieved in practice. Currently 181 of the 632 open spaces surveyed as part of the open space audit are crossed by the core path network and a further 192 of them are within 50m of the core path network. Action EACC.13 of the Parks Development Plan proposes a missing links study which seeks to identify where missing links in the active travel network would increase the number of households with access to different types of open space within the distances set out in the various open space standards. This primarily deals with access to open space within urban areas rather than access to open space from wider outlying communities,</p> <p>Creation of new cycle paths and general paths to outlying communities in the Council area is best implemented through the Falkirk Greenspace Strategy, Core Paths Plan and Local Transport Strategy.</p>	None
Banknock, Haggs and Longcroft Community Council (BHL CC)	Modernising our parks and open spaces	Schools should encourage use of outside parks for fresh air	The Council's Outdoor Learning Strategy demands a whole school approach to outdoor learning that recognises the diverse range of activities and approaches that outdoor learning encompasses. It aims to move thinking on from an 'outdoor classroom' being a fixed structure within schools grounds, to a realisation the local, natural and wider environment is the rich, varied extension to the	None

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
			<p>classroom.</p> <p>A lot of the outdoor learning support provided to schools is centred on maximising use of local green spaces and ensuring that there are systems in place to allow this to happen on a regular and frequent basis. We have made a lot of progress on this, with some schools clusters having made more progress than others. Individual schools have been linked with appropriate open spaces and in some cases these have been specifically improved to facilitate outdoor learning.</p>	
Online respondent	Modernising our Parks and Open Spaces	Maintenance bills could be cut by cutting grass less, sowing wild flower seeds, volunteer 'green gym' and litter picks.	One of the key proposals of the Strategy is to identify those parks and open spaces where: high intensity maintenance regimes are necessary to maintain an appropriate image; and lower intensity maintenance regimes would be more appropriate to save money and enhance value for wildlife. Action EMAN.01 in the Parks Development Plan is to commission such a study. Action EMAN.02 in the Parks Development Plan is to identify a number of parks and open spaces where the benefits of the new maintenance schedule can be showcased...	None
Online respondent	Modernising our Parks and Open Spaces	Not happy with Q 7 Concerned about possible reduction in service e.g. number of playspaces and sports areas and/or quality of maintenance. If our parks and open spaces are reduced or allowed to deteriorate we are disadvantaging not only the present population but future generations.	<p>20% of respondents agreed that the Council should provide fewer playspaces and sports areas even though these would be of a higher quality, 64% of respondents disagreed.</p> <p>33% of respondents agreed that the Council should keep all current playspaces and sports areas even though this would mean they will not be maintained at a high quality, 50% of respondents disagreed.</p> <p>Although respondents did not appear to agree with either of these approaches, it is not considered to be financially sustainable to retain all current playspaces and sports areas and maintain them all to a high standard.</p> <p>Interestingly 90% of respondents thought that 800m was a reasonable distance to have to travel to an open space containing a playspace or were happy to travel further and 88% of respondents thought that 1200m was a reasonable distance to have to travel to an open space containing a sports area or were happy to walk further.</p> <p>So although respondents were generally uncomfortable with the concept of losing play and sports facilities, they were happy with the proposed accessibility standard to open spaces containing playspaces and sports areas. If the proposed accessibility standards are applied then there is clearly some scope to reduce the overall number of playspaces and sports areas.</p>	None
Online respondent	Modernising our Parks and Open Spaces	Nothing more off putting than going for a walk in an area littered with cans & bottles left by the drunks, or rubbishy dumped. Just as bad are the dog walkers who don't clear up after their animals or	One of the key proposals of the Strategy is to make investment choices which encourage people to improve their health by increasing their use of parks and open spaces. Actions MUSE.01	<p>Alter action MUSE.02 as follows:</p> <p>"Action: Promoting the responsible</p>

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
		leave their poop bags neatly tied onto branches like foul smelling, health risking, Christmas ornaments. Some control of children would be nice in the Helix. Many parents leave them to run riot. My 90 year old father was nearly mown down by unsupervised kids hurtling down the canal embankment on scooters. They were going straight down into pedestrians on the footpath.	and MUSE.02 are to tackle dog fouling and to promote the responsible use of bicycles within parks and open spaces. It seems reasonable to amend action MUSE.02 to promote the responsible use of parks and open space in general rather than just use by cyclists.  The Council is in the process of developing a litter strategy which will establish a corporate approach for dealing with the issues of dog fouling, littering and vandalism.	use of parks and open spaces.  Context: Develop and promote a code of conduct promoting the responsible use of parks and open space so that they can be enjoyed equally by all.  Partners: Falkirk Council, Falkirk Community Trust”
Online respondent	Modernising our Parks and Open Spaces	The condition of some of the open spaces and play parks are run down and unwelcoming to the public, there needs to more investment in these run down areas	The Strategy proposes that priority is given to improving poorer quality parks and open spaces where there is no better quality provision nearby. In practice this will mean that not every poorer quality park or open space will be a priority for improvement.	
Online respondent	Modernising our Parks and Open Spaces	I think a lot of the parks should be kept clean and well maintained because kids don't have a lot of places to play nowadays and come the summer I've noticed a lot of these parks get busy	All of our parks and open space have an agree maintenance schedule. Our area officers patrol the parks and open spaces in their area to identify where improvements are needed and repairs need to be made. Members of the public can often assist in pointing out issues which need to be addressed.	None
Online respondent	Modernising our Parks and Open Spaces	Actually kit them out for children/dog walker use.	Comment noted	None
Online respondent	Modernising our Parks and Open Spaces	not enough attention is paid to meet the needs of different user groups, too much emphasis on sports and children	Open spaces tend to serve a number of different functions and are used by people in different ways. The Strategy sets out accessibility standards to different functions of open space, those are: park or amenity space of a reasonable size (0.2ha); playspace; sports areas and natural/ semi natural open space. By aiming to ensure that people have reasonable access to these four different functions of open space the Strategy attempts to ensure that the needs of different user groups are met.	None
Online respondent	Modernising our Parks and Open Spaces	Open spaces that are intended for public use should be well lit. I regularly run down the helix. I've encouraged my 9 yr old to join me however it's not fully lit and therefore not used to capacity.	Although many of the footpaths within the Helix are well lit Falkirk Community Trust (FCT) are aware of the dark areas. FCT have currently worked up a plan to improve the lighting, especially at the board walk.  FCT have received some Sustrans funding to do the initial plans but there is still a project budget shortfall so will be unable to do the works this year. It is our intention to bid for funds during the coming year, which if successful, would mean the works would be carried out 2017.  The Council doesn't have any plans to provide more overhead street lighting in any other open spaces intended for public use as the costs involved are unlikely to be sustainable. In addition night time lighting can sometimes be harmful to wildlife and can in some circumstances cause its own security concerns.  The Council have recently secured funding via Sustrans for installation of illuminated safety features (path edging solar studs) in Rannoch Park in Grangemouth. The capital costs of this are low	None

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
			<p>and sustainable cost also appear to be low, so this may be something which is considered as appropriate for a number of other parks and open spaces.</p> <p>The case for installing new lighting within parks and open space is best considered at an individual park level so this issue can be explored further within the individual parks masterplans prepared for our key open space assets or during the design phase of any other park or open space improvement project.</p>	
Online respondent	Modernising our Parks and Open Spaces	should have car parks for the disabled nearer to activities also play areas for disabled children	The Equality Act 2010 embodies the needs for " Inclusive play " . Upgrades to new play spaces include play elements for all children. Segregation or unique play items for disabled children's use only is now discouraged under the Inclusive approach to outdoor play spaces. It is our aim to provide play spaces suitable for all children socialising & playing in the same playspace.	None
Online respondent	Modernising our Parks and Open Spaces	I spend a lot of time in the open spaces in Falkirk and have really enjoyed seeing areas being cut less and more dog waste bins. As a dog walker, jogger and mum the open spaces are incredibly important to me. However, quality is key and so better maintenance wins over more space maintained less well.	Support welcomed.	None
Online respondent	Modernising our Parks and Open Spaces	Most play spaces and sports facilities are blighted by irresponsible dog owners.	<p>Amongst those who responded to the citizen's panel questionnaire issued in advance of the preparation of the Consultative draft Strategy roughly one third rarely or never used parks or open spaces. The most commonly stated reason was that there was too much dog mess.</p> <p>To recognise this one of the proposals of the Strategy is to make investment decisions which encourage people to improve their health by increasing their use of parks and open space. To achieve this one of the actions contained within the Parks Development Plan (MUSE.01) is to tackle dog fouling.</p>	None.
Online respondent	Modernising our Parks and Open Spaces	Most parks i have been to in the council area are in good condition, they are clean and well maintained. It is just a shame that there are teenagers who vandalize and ruin playground equipment in the area. I live in the Stenhousemuir/Larbert area and i regularly take my daughter who is 2 years old to most of the local play parks when it is a nice day.	The Council is in the process of developing a litter strategy which will establish a corporate approach for dealing with the issues of dog fouling, littering and vandalism.	None
A & S CC	Addressing inequality and fostering community through open space investment.	Outlying parks have not received the same levels of attention or investment over the past number of years. We highlighted the lack of maintenance at Muiravonside Country Park, which has now recently benefitted from investment and attracts a greater number of visitors to the area.	Muiravonside is just coming into year 2 of a three year Heritage Lottery Fund part funded program of investment. Major projects include: path resurfacing; signage and interpretation overhaul; increased natural play opportunities for kids; enhancing the farm and improving it as an educational resource; and reopening the old Visitors Centre (which has been closed for years) as an unmanned Visitor hub with bookable meeting/teaching rooms.	None
Online respondent	Generating Money for Investment in Parks and Open Spaces	Parks and open spaces are a vital part of urban living. And people who are not physically active and perhaps disabled also benefit from access to clean, open spaces and gardens. Leasing them or selling them off for commercial benefit should not be an option. As a last resort. community groups could be allowed to fundraise to maintain these areas. I take it that reductions in council services	The online survey revealed that: 70% of respondents agreed that we should allow the commercial use of areas within our parks and open spaces; 72% of respondents didn't think we should sell surplus parks and open spaces; and 73% of respondents thought that local community groups should help to maintain or fundraise for our parks and open spaces.	None



Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
		such as extended bin collections, fewer opening hours at community resources and this plan for parks and open spaces will all contribute to a reduction in our council tax in the near future.	The Strategy proposes that suitable alternative uses are sought for surplus parks and open spaces and that if they are developed then a compensatory sum should be sought for re-investment in the parks and open space resource.	
Online respondent	Open space audit	Other publically available open spaces, not owned or managed by the Council, should be included in the open space strategy as the Council should recognise the work by other public sector/ charitable groups in providing quality open space for local residents. These sites should also be included in any open space audit. These include Larbert Loch and woods, maintained by Forestry Commission Scotland which has landscape, recreation, biodiversity and particularly health value (as are used by patients and local people). The Pineapple garden and wood owned by National Trust for Scotland is a tourist attraction with landscape value. The Open Space at Falkirk Wheel, ran by Scottish Canals and the Roman fort and Antonine Wall at Rough Castle, managed by Historic Environment Scotland, should also be referred to due to their cultural and recreational as well as landscape value.	The open spaces at Larbert Loch and Woods (ref 445) Falkirk Wheel (ref 187) and Roughcastle (ref 384) are all included within the open space audit. The Pineapple garden and wood will be considered as a candidate for inclusion within the next open space audit as it is within a reasonable walking distance of both Airth and Dunmore. If included, this would increase the rate of open space provision in both of these villages.	None
Online respondent	Open space audit	I saw your presentation at LSTCC on Monday 29th February. I don't agree with including golf courses, cemeteries and private play spaces (Kinnaird) in your calculations. Recreational use of golf course is very limited for those who don't play golf - rights of way are not respected by golfers. Cemeteries are not suitable for recreation - families need to run and play. The play spaces in Kinnaird are paid for by residents and are the size of a postage stamps.	<p>Whilst the Falkirk Tryst Golf Club is a private sports facility it is crossed by public rights of way and has some landscape and amenity value so in our opinion it is correct to have included it within our analysis of open space quantity, open space quality and access to open spaces of a reasonable size.</p> <p>When deciding which open spaces to include within the open space audit we considered that it would be worthwhile to include church yards and cemeteries, similarly because of their landscape and amenity value.</p> <p>Given the level or semi-public open space in the Larbert and Stenhousemuir area we think that it would be appropriate to acknowledge this within the analysis section of the Area Strategy.</p>	Delete 1 <sup>st</sup> sentence of the analysis section within the Larbert and Stenhousemuir Area Strategy at section 5.7 and replace with: <i>"The Larbert and Stenhousemuir settlement area, which includes Carron and Carronshore has a significantly lower rate of open space provision than the Council wide average and contains a large amount of semi-public open space such as Falkirk Tryst Golf and Cricket Clubs and Stenhousemuir Cemetery which makes the availability of fully public open space even more acute."</i>
Online respondent	Park and Open Space Quantity	I'm concerned about the 5% target. This seems way too low and could result in most of our area being built upon. I think 15% is more sensible.	<p>It is assumed that you are referring to the proposed 5ha/1000 people quantity standard.</p> <p>The Environmental Report has highlighted that adopting a standard closer to the current rate of provision in the Council area (15.9 ha/ 1000 people) would mean that some of the positive effects which could have been realised from selling off open spaces and reinvesting in improving the quality of the remaining open spaces would not be realised.</p> <p>The quantity standard is only one of the factors to be taken into account when identifying surplus open spaces, the other factors are outlined at section 4.5 of the Strategy. One of the actions of the Parks Development Plan (GINV.01) is to carry out an exercise which identifies the parks and open spaces which are surplus to requirements having regard to the standards contained within the</p>	None

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
			Strategy. It is unlikely that results of this exercise will result in most of our existing parks and open spaces being identified as surplus, nonetheless a separate public consultation on the results of the surplus identification study will be carried out in due course.	
Sportscotland	Park and Open Space Quantity	The quantity standard does not differentiate between types of open space, and is therefore considered to be an unreliable basis upon which to make decisions as to whether outdoor sports facilities are surplus to requirements.	The quantity standard is not intended to be the basis upon which decisions are made as to whether outdoor sports facilities are surplus to requirements	None
CGI	Park and Open Space Quality	Any decisions on an application for development should be dependent on individual cases.	The quantity policy contained within section 4.1 of the Strategy confirms that this will be the case.	None
Sportscotland	Park and Open Space Accessibility	The accessibility standard for sports areas is lower than that of the previous OSS, which was 800m (10 minutes). The rationale for this appears to be that reducing the standard makes it more likely that the standard will be met. Greenspace Scotland and SNH's 'Developing Open Space Standards' guidance states that, "... open space standards must be challenging but achievable. They should be about making the resource better but they must also be pragmatic." It is considered that the accessibility standard is less challenging than the previous standard, and it is not currently clear how it will drive improvements. Under the reduced accessibility standard, there are still some areas that will require increased quantity of provision in order to meet the accessibility standard, including areas that are currently exceeding the quantity standard, for example Bonnybridge and Banknock. It would therefore be desirable to see the accessibility policy strengthened along similar lines to the quantity standard, to state that loss will not be supported in areas where the target is not being met unless accompanied by clear commitments to replace/improve nearby - at present this is applicable in every area (i.e. no area is at 100%), or if comparing relative to the Council average, then this applies to four areas. Without this strengthening, there is an inherent tension between the two standards, for example if a pitch site is to be developed in an area exceeding the quantity threshold, would this be rejected if it is also an area where the accessibility standard is not currently being met - on current reading this does not appear to be the case. I appreciate that walking distance is covered in the list at 4.5.2, but it is not clear that if this is not met then the site will not be considered surplus. The Developing Open Space Standards Guidance referred to previously states that accessibility standards should always override quantity standards.	<p>The rationale for reviewing the standard is set out at paragraphs 2.7- 2.11 of appendix 1 of the Strategy and is for the Council to reduce the overall number of sports pitches so that capital and revenue budgets can be released to enable investment in a more modern portfolio of sports facilities which have a higher overall sports development value.</p> <p>Appendix 6 of the Strategy details the accessibility standard review. Under the proposed 1200m standard only 92.9% of households across the Council area meet this standard. The Area Strategies and the Parks Development Plan outline 18 separate actions to develop sports areas in areas of identified need. This contrasts with 15 sports areas which are identified as potentially surplus to requirements i.e. their removal would not cause any more than a minimal increase in the number of households with access to a sports area within a 1200m walk.</p> <p>We consider our proposed 1200m/ 15 minute accessibility standard to be both challenging and pragmatic.</p> <p>The factors to be considered when identifying whether an open space is surplus to requirements already includes both quantity and accessibility considerations but we accept that it is perhaps not clear whether all or some of the factors in paragraph 4.5.2 need to be taken into account.. We will clarify that all of the factors in paragraph 4.5.2 need to be considered in order to identify whether an open space is surplus to requirements or not</p>	<p>Delete paragraph 4.5.2 and replace with:</p> <p><i>"In order to identify whether an open space is surplus to requirements all of the following factors should be considered:"</i></p>
Sportscotland	Park and Open Space Accessibility	There may be an error in Table 6 – the sports areas seem to have been measured against the previously higher standard and not the proposed.	This is not an error. This analysis was carried out using the open space accessibility standards established by the 2010 Open Space Strategy.	None
CGI	Park and Open Space Accessibility	The council should be aiming to improve/increase access for more people to good quality sports facilities. The aim should be to avoid disadvantaging the most vulnerable. Facilities should be made more affordable with the aim of increasing participation.	Comment noted. The Open Space Strategy only deals with one small element within the field of wider access to sports facilities i.e. the distribution of open spaces containing sports areas. The Council's Culture, Leisure and Sport Strategy contains the Council's overarching Strategy for improving access to good quality sports facilities.	None

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
Online respondent	Park and Open Space Accessibility	Accessibility should be assessed on basis of elderly, people with prams and pushchairs, small children and disabled people (including ambulant disabled), not a fit, active adult. Using a definition of accessibility based on a walking speed of 12 min per km (5 mins for 400m) is inherently ableist and results in a strategy which is structurally discriminatory.	<p>We recognise that elderly people, people with prams and pushchairs, small children and disabled people may take longer to travel to open space than fit active adults. The accessibility standards themselves are distance based rather than time based. The walking distance time quoted in the park and open space accessibility standards is meant as a rough guide to how long it might take someone to walk that distance. It seems reasonable to clarify this within the Strategy.</p> <p>16 respondents to the online survey indicated that they considered themselves as disabled. 11 of those respondents answered questions about the various minimum walking distance thresholds to different types of open space contained within the strategy. 100% of disabled respondents considered that 400m was a reasonable distance to travel to a good quality open space or a park or amenity space of 0.2ha or larger, 72% of disabled respondents considered that 800m was a reasonable distance to travel to an open space containing a playspace; 64% of disabled respondents considered that 1200m was a reasonable distance to travel to an open space containing a sports area; and 81% of disabled respondents considered that 1200m was a reasonable distance to travel to a natural/ semi natural open space. Whilst this is less than for people who didn't consider that they had a disability, it still shows that the majority of disabled respondents agree that the proposed minimum walking distance thresholds are appropriate.</p>	Clarify that the times quoted in accessibility standards are based on travelling at a rate of approximately 3mph
Online respondent	Commercial Use of Parks and Open Space	Anyone using local parks for commercial purposes like "dog walking services" Running / keep fit classes etc, should have to pay for the use. They take up car parking spaces with vans that prevent the "tax payer" using the park space that they subsidise.	The Strategy proposes that we will explore opportunities to generate money for investment in parks and open space through charging for the commercial use of parks and open space whilst safeguarding their free use by community groups and that as such we will devise an appropriate scheme of charging for the use of our parks and open spaces by small businesses or commercial organisations.	None
CGI	Commercial use of parks and open space	Any charges for commercial use of parks should be ringfenced for the park being used.	The Strategy proposes that an appropriate scheme of charging for the use of our parks by small business or commercial organisations is devised (action GINV.02 in the Parks Development Plan). The issue of whether funds will be ring fenced specifically for the park they were raised in will be considered further at that time.	None
Online respondent	Commercial Use of Parks and Open Space	Opening cafes more and serving exciting food & drink, bacon rolls in the morning can't be bought in any park ! Run them like a business !! Charging for parking is not creative, renting bikes out is !!	<p>One of the key proposals of the Strategy is to explore opportunities to generate money for investment in park and open space improvement and maintenance through developing a business case to commercialise appropriate parts of the park and open space resource.</p> <p>Action GINV.03 in the Parks Development Plan is to carry out such a study.</p>	None
Online respondent	Commercial Use of Parks and Open Space	If commercial usage is being applied then that money should go back into the particular park that the money was generated in. For instance if sports hire/mini shop, clubs etc, the money should go back into the park it came from. This includes when fairgrounds hire local parks - the payment to the council should go back into	The Strategy proposes that an appropriate scheme of charging for the use of our parks by small business or commercial organisations is devised (action GINV.02 in the Parks Development Plan). The issue of whether funds will be ring fenced specifically for the park they were raised in will be considered further at that time.	None

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
		that park		
Online respondent	Commercial Use of Parks and Open Space	Parks should generate money. Concerts being held in open areas, displays, races etc.	One of the key proposals of the Strategy is to explore opportunities to generate money for investment in park and open space improvement through developing a business case to commercialise appropriate parts of the park and open space resource. The scope for concerts, displays and races will all be looked at as part of this study.	None.
Online respondent	Commercial Use of Parks and Open Space	Commercialisation and external funding should be sought as a priority and I think it's key that you involve sports development - if we want people to live more active and healthy lives we need to have good quality local parks with areas for sport.	Support welcomed.	None
Online respondent	Surplus Parks and Open Spaces	I completely agree surplus spaces should be sold and investment focused on having a smaller number of high quality open and play spaces.	Support welcomed. 20% of respondents agreed that the Council should sell surplus parks and open spaces.	None
Online respondent	Surplus Parks and Open Spaces	Open spaces if unused should be allowed to return to their natural state as it would be good for the environment and wildlife. I have open space to the rear of my current home and regularly see wildlife in the garden - it is lovely.	37% of respondents to the online survey thought that surplus open spaces should be allowed to return to nature.	None
Online respondent	Surplus Parks and Open Spaces	The open spaces which form access and habitat links for green infrastructure/ green network should not be declared surplus unless any development enhances/ protects this role.	The factors to be considered when identifying whether an open space is surplus to requirements or not are set out at paragraph 4.5.2 of the Strategy. One of the factors is whether the loss of the park or open space will threaten the connectivity within and functionality of the green network, another factor is whether the area is of significant ecological value.  In practice therefore open spaces which form access and habitat links for green infrastructure/ green network are unlikely to be identified as surplus.	None
Online respondent	Surplus parks and open spaces	An action plan should identify when any surplus open space sites are to be identified and in line with Scottish Planning policy other open space uses should be considered before disposal.	The factors to be considered when identifying whether an open space is surplus to requirements or not are set out at paragraph 4.5.2 of the Strategy. One of those factors is whether the open space can be brought into functional use to meet a need identified in the Open Space Strategy.  The Strategy proposes at paragraph 4.5.3 that the Council should carry out a subsequent exercise to identify surpluses at a settlement wide level and consult with the local community about any surplus parks or open spaces identified.	None
Online respondent	Surplus parks and open spaces	Keep all the parks and open spaces. To say that something like: 'returning it to nature' is a ruse.	Comments noted. The online survey revealed that only 20% of respondents supported selling surplus parks and open spaces and only 37% of respondents supported returning them to nature. Whilst it is clear that the majority of respondents favour keeping all existing open spaces and continuing to maintain them regardless of the quantity, quality or distribution of alternative open spaces nearby, the Council is faced with challenging budgetary constraints, so this approach is unlikely to be financially sustainable. As such we propose to continue our approach of generating money for investment in parks and open spaces by finding appropriate	None

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
			alternative uses for surplus parks and open space. The Strategy proposes at paragraph 4.5.3 that the Council should carry out a subsequent exercise to identify surpluses at a settlement wide level and consult with the local community about any surplus parks or open spaces identified.	
CGI	Surplus Parks and Open Spaces	Surplus Playspace / Sports Area: In general CGI is not in favour of areas being designated surplus playspaces or sports areas without full consultation with the local community. More information about the criteria used to designate open spaces as surplus would be helpful. For example Site 851 is designated as surplus playspace yet it has the highest audit score in Denny and a lot of investment has been put in to that site.	<p>The consultative draft Strategy doesn't designate any open spaces as surplus. Paragraph 4.5.3 confirms that this exercise will only be carried out once the Open Space Strategy and the standards within it have been approved following consultation. The proposed factors to be considered to identify whether open spaces are surplus to requirements are set out at paragraph 4.5.2.</p> <p>The Strategy does identify open space facilities (playspaces and sports areas) which are potentially surplus to requirements. These have been identified as potentially surplus as their removal would not decrease the number of households within an the appropriate walking distance of open spaces containing those facilities (800m for playspaces, 1200m for sports areas) by any more than a minimal amount.</p> <p>Paragraph 4.9.3 sets out the Council's approach to the withdrawal of potentially surplus play facilities. In the case of the playspace at site 851 if it is in good condition, then the Council would not seek to remove it until it had come to the end of its operational life.</p>	None
BHL CC	Surplus Parks and Open Spaces	On a general note, some projects/actions proposed in other areas are to be achieved/delivered by selling an asset within a geographical area and using the capital receipt---perhaps also with external match funding, for example from Sport Scotland. BHLCC is aware of assets Falkirk Council have earmarked for disposal in the local area and suggest a similar approach is adopted.	Comment noted. Section 4.5 of the Strategy already advocates such an approach.	None
Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS)	Surplus Parks and Open Spaces	Page 11 refers to the Sale of Surplus Parks and Open Spaces. With the appreciation that some parks are likely to contain areas of woodland, FCS would like it mentioned within this section that any areas sold for development that contain woodland in part or in whole, will still be subject to the Scottish Governments Control of Woodland Removal Policy. The Policy presents a strong presumption against woodland removal and makes note that complimentary planting is likely to be required where woodland removal is deemed to be in the public interest, including removal due to potential development.	<p>There are numerous development management considerations which would impact on developments involving the loss of open space. Loss of woodland is just one of these considerations. To single out the loss of woodland as one such development management consideration would be iniquitous.</p> <p>It is not the purpose of this section of the Strategy to highlight the development management considerations which would impact on developments which involve the loss of open space that is the role of the Local Development Plan.</p>	None
FCS	Surplus Parks and Open Spaces	Page 12 notes that any compensatory payments received from the sale of parks or open spaces will be utilised to improve the existing stock including woodland Management. FCS are pleased to see that woodland management is noted within the strategy as an area for investment and would strongly encourage early engagement with us to help guide and support you through these works.	Support welcomed	None
Sportscotland	Surplus Open Space	We appreciate the economic drivers behind the objective of rationalising open space, and we note the intention to undertake further work following the approval of the OSS and the principles	Comment noted. A criterion relating to potentially surplus open spaces which contain outdoor sports facilities will be added to the list of criteria in paragraph 4.5.2, this criterion will mirror criterion	Add additional bullet point under paragraph 4.5.2 as follows: <i>"In the case of open spaces which</i>

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
		established therein to determine which open spaces should be rationalised. We also do not object in principle to the concept of creating more capacity for pitch sports play by losing blaes pitches for example, and using the capital receipts to invest in better synthetic provision at a nearby location, provided there are clear and linked proposals set out for both elements. However, we consider that the principle underpinning this further analysis, i.e. a standards-based approach as the starting point for rationalisation as set out in section 4.5, is not appropriate in relation to outdoor sports facilities. sportscotland does not support a standards-based 'minimum requirements' approach with regard to the rationalisation of outdoor sports facilities. It is appreciated, however, that standards can be proactively used in the creation of new open space required as a consequence of new development, as is the case with the Council's Open Space SG.	4 of policy INF03(2) of the LDP	<i>contain outdoor sports facilities, does the Council's Sports Pitches Strategy show that there is a clear excess of sports pitches to meet current and anticipated future demand in the area and that the site could be developed without detriment to the overall quality of provision?"</i>
Sportscotland	Surplus Open Space	With reference to page 12, we would expect any compensatory provision/upgrades for the loss of an outdoor sports facility to be used to deliver outdoor sports facilities, and not other types of open space as required by SPP - i.e. a football pitch to be replaced by provision for football. The Parks Development Plan states under MSPOR.19 that the creation of a network of strategic pitch sites across the Council area will be enabled. It would be helpful to clarify whether these will be guided to the locations suggested in the 2013 Pitch Strategy. Also, while the strategic/synthetic pitch sites concept relates to football, rugby and hockey in the main, we seek clarification on what the strategy will be for other types of outdoor sports facility that could be categorised as open space, such as cricket, bowls, or tennis.	Comment noted. We agree that it would be useful to clarify that any compensatory provision/upgrades for the loss of an outdoor sports facility will be used to deliver outdoor sports facilities.  The 2013 Pitch Strategy is not Council policy but we recognise that there is still a strategic need to prepare a pitch strategy.	Insert new sentence after sentence 1 of paragraph 4.5.6 as follows: <i>"Any compensation for the loss of an outdoor sports facility must be used to improve existing outdoor sports facilities or to provide new ones."</i>
Sportscotland	Surplus Parks and Open Spaces	The OSS states that further work is required to identify surplus sites once the principles therein are agreed, but the Area Strategies section appears to be site specific with regard to which areas are considered surplus, for example in the first area, Bo'ness which identifies a blaes pitch as surplus to requirements. We acknowledge that this section also identifies opportunities for improvement/new provision, however, there appears to be less certainty over these proposals than those to rationalise. We have concerns about this approach given our overall concerns set out above, and so we cannot at this stage endorse any such proposals identified in this section.	The further piece of work refers to identifying whether the open space itself is surplus to requirements rather than the facilities contained within it. The potentially surplus sports areas shown in the area strategies are those whose removal would not cause any more than a minimal increase in the number of households with access to a sports area within a 1200m walk.  We recognise that there is still a strategic need to prepare a pitch strategy to inform any exercise to identify surplus open spaces and have proposed adding an additional bullet point under paragraph 4.5.2 to ensure that outdoor sports facilities are not declared surplus unless a future Pitches Strategy shows that there is a clear excess of sports pitches to meet current and anticipated future demand in the area.  The reason that there is less detail/ certainty over opportunities for new provision is that although we have identified the areas which are not within the walking distance standard, we have yet to identify the most appropriate way of addressing the deficiency. This will be done as part of the action plan developed from the Parks Development Plan at appendix 3.	Add additional bullet point under paragraph 4.5.2 as follows: <i>"In the case of open spaces which contain outdoor sports facilities, does the Council's Sports Pitches Strategy show that there is a clear excess of sports pitches to meet current and anticipated future demand in the area and that the site could be developed without detriment to the overall quality of provision?"</i>
SNH	Surplus Open	The Strategy mentions selling off surplus areas of green space. We	The criteria for determining whether an open space is surplus have	Delete 8 <sup>th</sup> bullet point in paragraph

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
	Space	believe that this should only be done where there is already a surplus and where it is not going to have an adverse effect on local people. As mentioned, it might be worth considering whether some of these surplus areas could be used for new allotments.	been set out at paragraph 4.5.2. These will be amended to recognise that allotments may be a suitable alternative use.	4.5.2 and replace with: <i>“Can the open space be brought into functional use to meet a need identified in the open space strategy or the food growing strategy?”</i>
Online Respondent	Surplus Open Space	Encourage under used open space to return to wildlife habitat play walking and recreation area	<p>The Strategy outlines our proposals for dealing with surplus parks and open space at section 4.5. One of the criteria to be considered when deciding whether an open space is surplus to requirements or not is whether it can be brought into functional use to meet a need identified in the open space strategy or the food growing strategy.</p> <p>If the potentially surplus open space is needed as a wildlife habitat, play area or walking and recreation area, then it will be reused for this purpose rather than being marketed for an alternative use.</p>	None
Sportscotland	Promoting Community Involvement in Parks and Open Spaces	In relation to paragraph 4.6.5, notwithstanding our general comments above, we do accept that there will be outdoor facilities put to other uses, and which do not require planning permission and hence do not need to comply with SPP/Policy INF03 etc. In such circumstances, and where consultation is being undertaken to determine alternative uses, we request that part e) be amended to include, “in the case of outdoor sports facilities, sports users, including clubs and governing body representatives.” It will be important to understand how the facilities are used, and how users and the capacity for play would be impacted by any loss.	Comment noted. We agree that these changes would provide extra clarity	Amend criterion e in paragraph 4.6.5 to read: <i>“e) Formal approaches to specific stakeholder groups such as friends of parks groups, access forums, community councils or in the case of outdoor sports facilities, sports users, including clubs and governing body representatives.”</i>
FCS	Promoting Community Involvement in Parks and Open Spaces	Page 13. FCS are also pleased to see the Strategy recognise the value and importance of community engagement through volunteering, and commend the proposals to establish a fund to assist locally constituted community groups who wish to investigate or match fund potential delivery projects within their local open spaces.	Support welcomed	None
CGI	Promoting Community Involvement in Parks and Open Spaces	Community involvement: We are pleased that the draft strategy recognises in Section 4.6 the importance of community involvement. As a constituted group we welcome the proposal outlined in 4.6.7. We have noted that surplus parks and open spaces have been identified in the Denny area and the proposal in 4.5.3 to consult with the local community.	Support welcomed	None
CGI	Promoting community involvement in parks and open spaces	Local community consultation and involvement in parks and open spaces are to be encouraged as these can be very effective.	Comment noted. Our proposals for promoting community involvement in parks and open spaces are set out at section 4.6 of the Strategy.	None
Grangemouth Rovers Football Club	Promoting Community Involvement in Parks and Open Spaces	You are looking for people to help, why can you not let there be a key holder for pitches that have pavilions and key holder(manager/coach) are held responsible for tidying up and leaving it as we find it, would save monies on sending a council worker out, Zetland park being the park in question, we actually sweep out our changing room just now even oh there is a gentleman there, there have been times we have been waiting on	The pavilion is used by multiple teams with the electricity being controlled from a separate part of the building. There may be a case for providing specific access to Grangemouth Rovers but we will need to engage with you face to face to discuss the matter.	None

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
		the worker, times given to him have been wrong and our manager has asked before for a key whom he stays a few doors away from the park in question. I would like for you to think about this as it could save a few coppers?		
Online respondent	Promoting Community Involvement in Parks and Open Spaces	Involve the community. Be creative, don't shut any parks or open spaces.	<p>Comment noted. Section 4.5 sets out our proposed approach to identifying surplus parks and open spaces. Once we carry out an exercise to identify surpluses at a settlement wide level it seems unlikely that no parks or open spaces would be identified as surplus.</p> <p>Section 4.6 of the Strategy sets out our proposed approach to promoting community involvement in parks and open spaces.</p>	None
CATCA	Promoting Community Involvement in Parks and Open Spaces	Continue to help and support local action groups to encourage locals to be responsible for their own greenspaces. I feel this is what will change attitudes in the longer term. We need to change the mindset that it is all down to the Council to do it for us. Our greenspaces should be abused by the local people, they should be part maintained by locals with the assistance of the Council.	<p>Comment noted. Section 4.6 of the Strategy sets out our proposed approach to promoting community involvement in parks and open spaces this includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• setting up a fund to assist local communities who wish to fundraise for open space related projects to support pilot or preparatory work required for external funding bids; and</li> <li>• providing officer support for communities wishing to set up their own group linked to open space.</li> </ul>	None
Online respondent	Promoting Community Involvement in Parks and Open Spaces	Ask the children what they want and discuss with early years officers for ideas.	Section 4.6 of the Strategy sets out our proposals for involving the community in the decision making process. Paragraph 4.6.4 states that where there is opportunity for the public to influence decisions about proposed changes to park and open spaces there will be consultation in advance of planning any work and the views of the community (including children) will be taken into account in any decision making	None
Online respondent	Sports Pitches and Sports Development	There are not enough spaces for sports to take place. Every child should be able to kick a ball about	<p>Council wide, 78.1% of households are within an 800m walk of an open space containing a sports area and 92.9% of households are within a 1200m walk of an open space containing a sports area.</p> <p>The online survey revealed that only 12% of respondents believed that a 1200m walk was too far to travel to access an open space containing a sports area.</p> <p>The Strategy proposes that people should be within a 1200m walk of a sports area and identifies 18 separate areas where opportunities to create new sports areas should be explored. It also identifies 17 existing sports areas which are potentially surplus to requirements due to there being other open spaces containing sports areas nearby.</p>	None
Online respondent	Sports Pitches and Sports Development	I agree mainly about 3g pitches as this does have many benefits not just financially but giving more quality access to sports areas for health reasons. I don't agree with reducing the services to existing grass pitches & facilities as they currently in my experience working as a community coach with stenhousmuir, are not serviced to a good quality and maintenance on grass pitches is minimal because	The Strategy aims to ensure that people are within a 1200m walk of an open space containing a sports pitch. A consequence of adopting this standard is that there will be a number of existing grass pitches which are potentially surplus to requirements. The rationale behind this approach is to concentrate our resources on providing fewer, better quality sports areas.	None



Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
		it's of set against clubs paying a yearly fee for the grass pitch. Maybe by stop putting ridiculous bedding flowers on roundabouts that's are surely not cost effective would save some funds.		
Sportscotland	Sports Pitches and Sports Development	We consider that clarification is required of the status of the OSS relative to the Council's Local Development Plan (LDP). The OSS is referred to in the LDP, but it is not detailed as Supplementary Guidance (SG). There is no indication in the current draft of the OSS of it being intended as SG, but, with particular reference to sportscotland's area of interest - outdoor sports facilities (as defined in the Development Management Regulations 2013) - it appears in places to set a policy framework for development impacting on outdoor sports facilities. For example, the quantity standard policy on page 6 sets out a framework for determining planning applications relative to this standard.	The Open Space Strategy is neither supplementary guidance nor supplementary planning guidance but it will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. The various standards within the Open Space Strategy will be interpreted into Supplementary Guidance through a future review of SG13 Open Space and New Development.	None
Sportscotland	Sports Pitches and Sports Development	The LDP contains policy 'INF03 Protection of Open Space', which broadly reflects the provisions of Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) paragraph 226. It is unclear how the OSS relates to the provisions of policy INF03 as it applies to outdoor sports facilities. It may be the case that the OSS is intended to act as the strategy for outdoor sports facilities as set out in criterion 4 above. Paragraph 224 of SPP refers to open space strategies; therefore it is acknowledged that open space strategies can function as the relevant strategy in relation to this criterion. If this is the case, we have concerns about the methodology used in the OSS to determine whether there is an excess of provision of outdoor sports facilities, and as such we would not agree that the OSS could fulfil this function at present. Therefore, as the OSS currently stands, in circumstances where we are consulted on planning applications involving the development of outdoor sports facilities, we would take the position that this criterion does not apply.	The Open Space Strategy is not meant to act as the strategy for outdoor sports facilities as set out in criterion 4 of policy INF03(2) of the LDP. It does however establish the Council's intention to reduce the overall amount of sports pitches and to encourage the development of a network of strategic sports pitch sites. We recognise that there is still a strategic need to prepare a pitch strategy to better articulate the Council's intentions and to provide a policy framework for decision making when dealing with development proposals which involve the loss of playing fields or sports pitches.	Add new paragraph after paragraph 4.7.6 as follows:  "4.7.7 Falkirk Council is working with Falkirk Community Trust to agree a strategy for sports pitch provision across the district. The document will identify principles behind determining appropriate quantity, location and quality of sports pitch provision and once adopted will be used as a material consideration in the planning process and to support funding bids with the aim of successfully resourcing the best possible sports pitch facilities for people of Falkirk."  Add new action in the Parks Development Plan (Appendix 3 of the Strategy) after action MSPOR.19 as follows: "MSPOR.20 review, update and formalise a Sports Pitches Strategy for the Council area."
Sportscotland	Sports Pitches and Sports Development	Greenspace Scotland and SNH's 'Developing Open Space Standards' guidance from 2013 acknowledges on page 20, based on input from <b>sportscotland</b> , that there can be a potential tension between sports pitch provision and other types of open space with regard to developing open space standards. We recommend that an assessment of outdoor sports facility provision is based on an analysis of supply versus demand for such open space, and done in consultation with the relevant sports users, as set out in our document, 'Guide to the preparation of sports pitch strategies'. If there is then found to be a surplus, and where there are no quality or capacity uses at remaining sites which would require investment	Comment noted. We recognise that there is still a strategic need to prepare a pitch strategy to better articulate the Council's intentions; to provide a policy framework for decision making when dealing with development proposals which involve the loss of playing fields or sports pitches; and to inform any exercise to identify surplus open spaces.	Add new paragraph after paragraph 4.7.6 as follows:  "4.7.7 Falkirk Council is working with Falkirk Community Trust to agree a strategy for sports pitch provision across the district. The document will identify principles behind determining appropriate quantity, location and quality of sports pitch provision and once adopted will be

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
		to compensate for the loss of outdoor sports facilities, only then would consideration be given as to the on-going use of such areas, i.e. should they remain as open space or should receipts from their sale be used to address other priorities identified in the OSS. Any such decisions should also be driven by the overall strategy for sport, i.e. the Council/FCT's objectives for the relevant sports whose facilities are under consideration. We do not consider that the criteria set out in section 4.5.2. are appropriate in considering the rationalisation of outdoor sports facilities.		used as a material consideration in the planning process and to support funding bids with the aim of successfully resourcing the best possible sports pitch facilities for people of Falkirk."  Add new action in the Parks Development Plan (Appendix 3 of the Strategy) after action MSPOR.19 as follows: "MSPOR.20 review, update and formalise a Sports Pitches Strategy for the Council area."
Sportscotland	Sports Pitches and Sports Development	Reference is made to the 2013 Pitch Strategy undertaken by Kit Campbell Associates, and we are supportive of the findings of the study being upheld by the Council and incorporated into the OSS. However, we suggest that this does not provide the rationale for looking to dispose of remaining grass pitches using the three open space standards as a basis. The strategy does not say that a standards based approach for rationalisation should be used to facilitate a move towards the strategic/synthetic sites concept. Therefore, in addition to the move towards the strategic/synthetic sites concept, which we support, we would expect to see some pitches identified for creation/improvement through the analysis stage that is to follow, linked to any to be rationalised, rather than just identifying those for rationalisation – see comments on the Area Strategies below. It will also be the case that other synthetic provision could be created outwith the 7-9 strategic sites identified in the Pitch Strategy through the replacement of grass provision with synthetic, and in accordance with SPP. We are also aware of the Council's proposals to fund new synthetic provision in Denny and Bo'ness, and wondered whether these should be taken account of in the OSS.	The 2013 Pitch Strategy is not Council policy but we recognise that there is still a strategic need to prepare a pitch strategy.  The Council's proposals to fund new synthetic provision in Denny and Bo'ness were confirmed after the preparation of the consultative draft Open Space Strategy. Action MSPOR.19 in the Parks Development Plan already indicates that the Council will provide funding to enable the creation of a network of strategic pitch sites across the Council area.  Since the preparation of the Consultative Draft Strategy further work has been undertaken to support stage 2 of the bidding process for the synthetic pitch proposals at Newtown Park, Bo'ness and Westfield Park, Denny but a final decision on the applications for funding has yet to be taken.	None
Sportscotland	Sports Pitches and Sports Development	We are concerned about the overall approach in the OSS to outdoor sports facilities, and the methodology used to determine any surplus of provision. In its current format we cannot agree that this document, and the surplus analysis work that is to follow, could fulfil the requirements of criterion 4 from paragraph 226 of SPP. Therefore, as set out above, in circumstances where we are consulted on planning applications involving the development of outdoor sports facilities, our response would be guided by SPP para. 226 and LDP policy INF03.	Comment noted. Revisions to the Strategy are proposed to address these concerns.	None
A&S CC	Sports Pitches and Sports Development	Where there are existing sport facilities or playparks these areas must be capable of beneficial use and maintained to an acceptable standard. i.e. Well drained as this is a problem in both Avonbridge and Standburn playparks, preventing use by local residents.	Each year the Council allocates a limited amount of its budget for improvements to the sports pitches across the area. This budget is supplemented by any money the Council has received through the planning process which has been specifically earmarked for the improvement of sports pitches. Officers then apply this budget to their annually updated prioritised list for repairs and improvements.	None

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
Online Respondent	Sports Pitches and Sports Development	use community sports hubs, footballers should be responsible for cutting the pitches.	Comment noted. Falkirk Community Trust are responsible for ensuring that pitches are adequately cut.	None
CGI	Sports Pitches and Sports Development	Increase sports facilities and for those with charges make them more affordable. The council should be aiming to improve/increase access for more people to good quality sports facilities.	One of the Key Opportunities identified in the Council's 2013 Culture and Sports Strategy is to develop a pricing policy to maximise income and target subsidy in line with Council priorities on poverty as well as address inconsistencies between providers.	None
Online Respondent	Sports Pitches and Sports Development	MUGA are a useful sports resource for all towns/ villages, particularly when provided in/adjacent to school grounds. Where there is a large new development (more than 50 houses) in an area with a deficit of sports provision, such as Kinnaird Village, Larbert, provision of one or more on site/ in an accessible open space should be requested as a planning condition.	Comment noted. MUGA are considered as playspaces serving the needs of teenagers rather than as sports areas in the Strategy.  Once the Strategy is adopted there will be a need to update the Council's supplementary guidance on open space and new development. It would be more appropriate to consider the issue of whether new developments are required to provide new MUGA during the preparation of that document.	None
Online Respondent	Sports Pitches and Sports Development	All existing sports pitches require maintenance, and will be used more - especially the ones which require proper maintenance at present. Prioritising does not help smaller communities - the need and requirement for sports facilities is large, so reducing the facilities is not helpful to health, and happiness.	The Strategy proposes that all households should be within a 1200m walk of an open space containing a sports area. Where the loss of a sports area would cause any more than a minimal increase in the number of households within a 1200m walk of an open space containing a sports area, it has not been identified as potentially surplus and routine maintenance will continue to be carried out by Falkirk Community Trust.  Across the Council area there are 18 sports areas which have been identified as potentially surplus to requirements.	None
Online Respondent	Sports Pitches and Sports Development	Council won't let facilities close facilities so no way they will prioritise investment in a smaller number of better quality sports hubs	Across the Council area there are 18 sports areas which have been identified as potentially surplus to requirements.	None
Online Respondent	Sports Pitches and Sports Development	I think that some of the smaller sports areas could do with more equipment so that all ages / genders can use the facility '	Comments noted. Falkirk Council are working with Falkirk Community Trust to agree a strategy for sports pitch provision across the district. The issue of diversifying sports areas to cater for a wider range of sports can be dealt with further within that strategy.	None
Online Respondent	Sports Pitches and Sports Development	Ideally I'd like to see as many sports areas kept as possible but good quality is important so in these difficult financial times I understand that some spaces may be lost.	Comment noted.	None
Online respondent	Reducing flood risk	Good to see the value of open spaces to provide natural flood alleviation, in line with the local flood risk management strategy, is being explored.	Support welcomed	None
Online respondent	Play Provision	Many play areas are poor,, old equipment in need of at the least a lick of paint.. I find some don't meet the needs of families where there are children of different ages ie swings in Douglas park (all 2 of them) are only for small children there's none for kids older than 3,, no use to somebody like me who has 4 grandchildren aged from 1 to 7 years .. I'd like a play area that has something for them all	The Strategy aims to ensure that people are within an 800m walk of an open space containing a playspace and that those playspaces should provide equipment suitable for 3 age groups i.e. toddlers, juniors and teenagers. Action MPLAY.14 in the Parks Development Plan indicates that we will identify which of our remaining portfolio of playspaces need investment to ensure that they provide play equipment to serve three different age groups.	None
LST CC	Play Provision	A major issue in the area is the lack of a large, varied central play space with facilities to suit all ages with families having to travel to the Helix, Calendar Park or Dollar Park to access such facilities. Given the large population in the Larbert, Stenhousemuir and	Our proposals are that every household should be within an 800m walk of an open space containing a playspace and that these playspaces should provide play equipment to serve three different age groups: toddlers; juniors and teens. Action MPLAY.14 within	None

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
		Torwood area, a good quality play space would be welcome. Other areas such as the recent play park in Oban have proved that substantial funding can be raised by the local community to support the local authority to develop such facilities.	the Parks Development Plan is to identify which of our remaining portfolio of playspaces need investment to ensure that they provide play equipment to serve three different age groups. We will therefore carry out this analysis in due course.	
Sportscotland	Play Provision	In relation to the proposal not to fund any more MUGAs as set out on page 16, we request clarification, in relation to primary school sites in particular, with regard to what the Council's objective for school outdoor sports provision will be in future.	<p>The Council don't have a formal policy on the installation of MUGA's in schools. In the past Children's Services have endeavoured to identify a small annual budget in their Capital Programme of circa £30K to allow a contribution towards the cost of MUGA installations in schools to be made on a matched funding basis.</p> <p>Broadly speaking, if the school community (school/Parent Council) manage to raise/secure £30K then Children's Services has been able to match fund that sum to allow the project to progress (on the basis that the average cost of a standard MUGA on a straightforward level site comes in at circa £60K). At the moment this allows financial support for one project each year.</p> <p>This approach is subject to annual review through the budget process.</p>	None
Online respondent	Play Provision	It wasn't clear why the Council wouldn't consider upgrading some existing play areas rather than take them out of use.	We intend to rationalise our portfolio of playspaces so resources can be focussed on the remaining playspaces and their play value can be enhanced. Without reducing the overall number of playspaces across the Council area we will not be able to focus our resources in this way and it is unlikely that overall play value will be able to be enhanced.	None
Online respondent	Play Provision	Why don't Falkirk council take a look at West lothians investment into play parks etc, the council has a duty of care to invest in our children's health and wellbeing which they are currently letting them down. Too much money is invested in Falkirk and not enough in the surrounding areas like Boness. If one local authority can invest so much the question has to be asked what is Falkirk council doing wrong?	<p>There has been significant investment in upgrading playspaces outside of Falkirk in the past there is no reason for this pattern of historic investment to change.</p> <p>Action MPLAY.14 of the Parks Development Plan is to identify which of our remaining portfolio of playspaces need investment to ensure that they provide play equipment to serve three different age groups (toddlers, juniors and teens) It seems highly unlikely that Falkirk would be the only area which requires further investment.</p> <p>There are 13 areas across the district which have been identified as having a deficit of access to playspace. Only 3 of these areas are within Falkirk.</p>	None
Online respondent	Play Provision	Why don't you send questionnaires out to schools and nurseries to find out exactly what children want? It is for them and not for adults. You should also seek advice from early years officers in the Falkirk council area who I'm sure will have brilliant ideas for creating the perfect playspace for children.	<p>Action MPLAY.14 of the Parks Development Plan is to identify which of our remaining portfolio of playspaces need investment to ensure that they provide play equipment to serve three different age groups (toddlers, juniors and teens)</p> <p>Once this exercise is completed we will be able to put programme a schedule of playspace improvement projects.</p> <p>Section 4.6 of the Strategy sets out our proposals for involving the community in the decision making process and indicates that</p>	Add an additional example of consultation at paragraph 4.6.5 after example e) as follows: <i>"f) Engaging with children through local schools and nurseries to find out exactly what they want."</i>

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
			<p>where there is the opportunity for the public to influence decisions about proposed changes to open space, there will be consultation in advance of planning any work and the views of the community will be taken into account.</p> <p>Your suggestion about engaging with schools and nurseries is already covered by the examples of consultation set out at paragraph 4.6.5 of the Strategy, however, it appears reasonable to make the suggestion of consulting schools and nurseries at the project planning stage more explicit.</p>	
Online Respondent	Play Provision	I think small play areas scattered around towns are ideal in areas with young families. However each town should have a central larger play area with a wide range of play facilities.	The draft Strategy proposes that all households should be within an 800m walk of an open space containing a playspace and that these playspaces should provide equipment suitable to serve three age groups (Toddlers, juniors and teens).	None
Online Respondent	Play Provision	Follow Aberdeen's example and remove all the non-enforceable no ball games signs. This will allow natural play to develop	<p>It is our understanding that the bylaws which allowed us to enforce against non-compliance with "no ball games" lapsed some time ago. We agree that removing these signs, which are often in a poor state of repair would help to allow natural play to develop and would help to improve the appearance of our parks and open spaces. It should be borne in mind however that although the signs are not currently enforceable, they do in some circumstances act as a welcome deterrent to antisocial behaviour. On balance we believe that the best course of action would be to make a commitment within the Strategy to put up no new "no ball games" signs.</p> <p>The Strategy already contains proposals which will help natural play to develop: paragraph 4.9.8 of the Strategy indicates that where opportunities and site conditions allow we will aim to develop and provide natural play features; and action MPLAY.15 of the Parks Development Plan indicates that within our remaining portfolio of playspaces, we will identify where incorporation of natural play features would be financially sustainable and improve overall play value.</p>	<p>Add a new sentence at the end of paragraph 4.9.8 as follows:</p> <p><i>"To avoid stifling opportunities for natural play we commit to not putting up any new "no ball games" signs within our parks and open spaces and will insist on the same within new open space created in association with new development."</i></p>
LST CC	Potentially Surplus Playspaces	Children still need play areas. To remove them completely would in my opinion be unfair	<p>The draft Strategy proposes that all households should be within an 800m walk of an open space containing a playspace and that these playspaces should provide equipment suitable to serve three age groups (Toddlers, juniors and teens). Our online survey revealed that 89.9% of respondents felt that it was reasonable to expect to travel 800m or further to access an open space containing a playspace.</p> <p>One consequence of adopting this accessibility standard is that there will be playspaces which are no longer essential for the purposes of meeting the standard. Across the Council area there are 69 potentially surplus playspaces where removal would have no more than a minimal effect on the number of households with access to an open space containing a playspace within an 800m walk.</p>	None
A&S CC	Potentially	We believe surplus play spaces could be offered as potential	Just because a playspace has been identified as potentially surplus	None

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
	Surplus Playspaces	community planting projects, allotments (income generation), also wildlife/wildflower meadows.	to requirements does not mean that the open space it sits within is automatically also surplus to requirements. The Council's proposals for identifying surplus open spaces are set out at section 4.5 of the Strategy and will include consideration of whether the open space can be brought into functional use to meet a need identified in the open space strategy or the forthcoming food growing strategy.	
Online respondent	Potentially Surplus Playspaces	No playspaces should be removed	<p>The draft Strategy proposes that all households should be within an 800m walk of an open space containing a playspace and that these playspaces should provide equipment suitable to serve three age groups (Toddlers, juniors and teens). Our online survey revealed that 89.9% of respondents felt that it was reasonable to expect to travel 800m or further to access an open space containing a playspace.</p> <p>One consequence of adopting this accessibility standard is that there will be playspaces which are no longer essential for the purposes of meeting the standard. Across the Council area there are 69 potentially surplus playspaces where removal would have no more than a minimal effect on the number of households with access to an open space containing a playspace within an 800m walk.</p>	None
Online respondent	Potentially Surplus Playspaces	I don't agree that there are surplus play spaces	<p>The draft Strategy proposes that all households should be within an 800m walk of an open space containing a playspace and that these playspaces should provide equipment suitable to serve three age groups (Toddlers, juniors and teens). Our online survey revealed that 89.9% of respondents felt that it was reasonable to expect to travel 800m or further to access an open space containing a playspace.</p> <p>One consequence of adopting this accessibility standard is that there will be playspaces which are no longer essential for the purposes of meeting the standard. Across the Council area there are 69 potentially surplus playspaces where removal would have no more than a minimal effect on the number of households with access to an open space containing a playspace within an 800m walk.</p>	None
Online respondent	Potentially Surplus Playspaces	No play spaces should be lost - we have lost too much already.	<p>The draft Strategy proposes that all households should be within an 800m walk of an open space containing a playspace and that these playspaces should provide equipment suitable to serve three age groups (Toddlers, juniors and teens). Our online survey revealed that 89.9% of respondents felt that it was reasonable to expect to travel 800m or further to access an open space containing a playspace.</p> <p>One consequence of adopting this accessibility standard is that there will be playspaces which are no longer essential for the purposes of meeting the standard. Across the Council area there are 69 potentially surplus playspaces where removal would have no more than a minimal effect on the number of households with access to an open space containing a playspace within an 800m</p>	None

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
			walk.	
CATCA	Potentially Surplus Playspaces	I don't consider there to be any potentially 'surplus' open/play spaces.	<p>The draft Strategy proposes that all households should be within an 800m walk of an open space containing a playspace and that these playspaces should provide equipment suitable to serve three age groups (Toddlers, juniors and teens). Our online survey revealed that 89.9% of respondents felt that it was reasonable to expect to travel 800m or further to access an open space containing a playspace.</p> <p>One consequence of adopting this accessibility standard is that there will be playspaces which are no longer essential for the purposes of meeting the standard. Across the Council area there are 69 potentially surplus playspaces where removal would have no more than a minimal effect on the number of households with access to an open space containing a playspace within an 800m walk.</p>	None
CGI	Potentially Surplus Playspaces	The removal of any playspaces is not an acceptable policy.	<p>The draft Strategy proposes that all households should be within an 800m walk of an open space containing a playspace and that these playspaces should provide equipment suitable to serve three age groups (Toddlers, juniors and teens). Our online survey revealed that 89.9% of respondents felt that it was reasonable to expect to travel 800m or further to access an open space containing a playspace.</p> <p>One consequence of adopting this accessibility standard is that there will be playspaces which are no longer essential for the purposes of meeting the standard. Across the Council area there are 69 potentially surplus playspaces where removal would have no more than a minimal effect on the number of households with access to an open space containing a playspace within an 800m walk.</p>	None
Online respondent	Potentially Surplus Playspaces	The play spaces should be considered for other open space uses, such as community food growing, natural open space habitat before other uses are considered.	Just because a playspace has been identified as potentially surplus to requirements does not mean that the open space it sits within is automatically also surplus to requirements. The Council's proposals for identifying surplus open spaces are set out at section 4.5 of the Strategy and will include consideration of whether the open space can be brought into functional use to meet a need identified in the open space strategy or the forthcoming food growing strategy.	None
Online respondent	Potentially Surplus Playspaces	Potentially surplus spaces should have additional consultation with local communities, local volunteers may support the council to maintain them. Clean, safe spaces will not be surplus, even if not used often, if they are used at all, they are not surplus.	The concept of a potentially surplus playspace in the draft Strategy is not based on whether the playspace is used or not. Potentially surplus playspaces are those whose removal would not more than minimally affect the number of households within an 800m walk of an open space containing a playspace.	None
Online respondent	Potentially Surplus Playspaces	I don't surplus playspaces should be removed... and if removed... what are they to be replaced with?	The rationale of the draft Strategy is to have fewer, better quality playspaces. Playspaces which are removed are not proposed to be replaced, but their removal will allow available budgets to be concentrated on improving the quality of remaining playspaces. The draft Strategy proposes that remaining playspaces should provide equipment suitable to serve three age groups (Toddlers, juniors and teens).	None

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
Online respondent	Potentially Surplus Playspaces	Definition/criteria of surplus space can be questioned. Not acceptable policy. Against policy of removing surplus playspaces.	<p>The draft Strategy proposes that all households should be within an 800m walk of an open space containing a playspace and that these playspaces should provide equipment suitable to serve three age groups (Toddlers, juniors and teens). Our online survey revealed that 89.9% of respondents felt that it was reasonable to expect to travel 800m or further to access an open space containing a playspace.</p> <p>One consequence of adopting this accessibility standard is that there will be playspaces which are no longer essential for the purposes of meeting the standard. Across the Council area there are 69 potentially surplus playspaces where removal would have no more than a minimal effect on the number of households with access to an open space containing a playspace within an 800m walk.</p>	None
Online respondent	Potentially Surplus Playspaces	The survey question about playspaces is very loaded and shouldn't be included as it stands.	The survey question was intended to gauge public opinion on the way in which the Council might go about the process of removing surplus playspaces rather than public opinion about the concept of removing playspaces in general.	None
Online respondent	Potentially Surplus Playspaces	The future must be considered. Economically things may change, and then the cost of re-instating these lost playspaces will be higher. meanwhile the effects of less playspaces and parks will bring people's spirits down, and health issues up. Look at the bigger picture.	The draft Strategy proposes that we rationalise our portfolio of playspaces so that we can concentrate resources on providing fewer, better quality facilities. The alternative to this would be to accept a general deterioration in play value across all of our playspaces.	None
Online respondent	Potentially Surplus Playspaces	Disagree with both statements in the survey question about potentially surplus playspaces when each states the removal of surplus play spaces not offering an alternative. Both are statements of removal just reworded.	The survey question was intended to gauge public opinion on the way in which the Council might go about the process of removing surplus playspaces rather than public opinion about the concept of removing playspaces in general.	None
Online respondent	Potentially Surplus Playspaces	They should not be removed at all.	The consequence of not removing any playspaces would be that our limited resources will have to be spread much more thinly and this is likely to result in a general deterioration in play value across all of our playspaces.	None
Online respondent	Potentially Surplus Playspaces	Don't think any should be removed.	The consequence of not removing any playspaces would be that our limited resources will have to be spread much more thinly and this is likely to result in a general deterioration in play value across all of our playspaces.	None
Online respondent	Potentially Surplus Playspaces	I do not agree with any of these statements. All towns and villages should have a decent play space as I assume it will be the most deprived children who will suffer from only having the bigger playspaces where travel is involved. Places like grangemouth have plenty of play spaces so no matter where you live in the town one is accesible but for me I live in Limerigg where the park is out dated, rusted and has a lack of open space or proper play equipment and the nearest better park is a bus ride away which is not always possible!	<p>The draft Strategy proposes that all households should be within an 800m walk of an open space containing a playspace and that these playspaces should provide equipment suitable to serve three age groups (Toddlers, juniors and teens).</p> <p>In villages like Limerigg this means that no existing playspaces are identified potentially surplus to requirements.</p>	None
Online respondent	Potentially Surplus Playspaces	Surplus play space should be allowed to return to nature or be utilised for the benefit of local community e.g. Community Garden allotments or just some space for people to be outside in.	Just because a playspace has been identified as potentially surplus to requirements does not mean that the open space it sits within is automatically also surplus to requirements. The Council's proposals	None



Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
			for identifying surplus open spaces are set out at section 4.5 of the Strategy and will include consideration of whether the open space can be brought into functional use to meet a need identified in the open space strategy or the forthcoming food growing strategy.	
Online respondent	Potentially Surplus Playspaces	How can we have surplus play spaces? The park I played in as a child used to have play equipment and was well used. Now it's been emptied and no kids use it.	The concept of a potentially surplus playspace in the draft Strategy is not based on whether the playspace is used or not. Potentially surplus playspaces are those whose removal would not more than minimally affect the number of households within an 800m walk of an open space containing a playspace.	None
Online respondent	Potentially Surplus Playspaces	Why would the playspace become surplus? Are there no children in the areas you are talking about? The resources that would be used to remove these would be better spent encouraging the usage.	The concept of a potentially surplus playspace in the draft Strategy is not based on whether the playspace is used or not. Potentially surplus playspaces are those whose removal would not more than minimally affect the number of households within an 800m walk of an open space containing a playspace.	None
Online respondent	Potentially Surplus Playspaces	Adjustment will be difficult no matter how it's done and so quicker is probably better so funds can be spent wisely.	Comment noted	None
Online respondent	Potentially Surplus Playspaces	Investment in other areas out with Falkirk	<p>There has been significant investment in upgrading playspaces outside of Falkirk in the past there is no reason for this pattern of historic investment to change.</p> <p>Action MPLAY.14 of the Parks Development Plan is to identify which of our remaining portfolio of playspaces need investment to ensure that they provide play equipment to serve three different age groups (toddlers, juniors and teens) It seems highly unlikely that Falkirk would be the only area which requires further investment.</p> <p>There are 13 areas across the district which have been identified as having a deficit of access to playspace. Only 3 of these areas are within Falkirk.</p>	None
Online respondent	Potentially Surplus Playspaces	Provision of dog play parks are required as well as sport and play areas	The draft Strategy proposes that playspaces should contain play equipment suitable to serve three age groups (toddlers, juniors and teens). In the current financial climate it does not seem appropriate to widen this scope to include for the needs of dogs.	None
Online respondent	Potentially Surplus Playspaces	I am not aware of surplus play space	The concept of a potentially surplus playspace in the draft Strategy is not based on whether the playspace is used or not. Potentially surplus playspaces are those whose removal would not more than minimally affect the number of households within an 800m walk of an open space containing a playspace.	None
Online respondent	Potentially Surplus Playspaces	I do not believe that we have any surplus playspaces in Falkirk.	<p>The concept of a potentially surplus playspace in the draft Strategy is not based on whether the playspace is used or not. Potentially surplus playspaces are those whose removal would not more than minimally affect the number of households within an 800m walk of an open space containing a playspace.</p> <p>The draft strategy identifies potentially surplus playspaces in the Tamfourhill, North East Camelon, Etna Road, Lionthorn and Mungall areas of Falkirk.</p>	None
Online	High profile parks	The helix park is a prime example of how well used park areas can	During June, July, August 2015 the Helix Park welcomed 250,000	None

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
respondent	and open spaces	be in the Falkirk area. Even in colder weather the park is still well used. I would also go as far as say the Helix cannot cope with the crowds in summer time	visitors. Although this does exceed the original business plan estimate and that plan assumed parking would be available at the 'Gateway' site, additional parking has now been made available at Falkirk Stadium. There are now over 900 parking spaces between the Stadium and the two car parks at the Helix.	
Communities Along the Carron Association	High profile parks and open spaces	I think the more we invest in the open spaces, green spaces and parks in our area, the more we will attract visitors to the area. This will make them better for locals whilst having the potential to improve the local economy.	Comments noted.	None
Online respondent	High Profile Parks and Open Spaces	I find that a lot of focus is on the Helix and there are works needed to be done to maintain other areas especially Muiravonside Country Park where many of the paths are not accessible now. It is the only countryside park in the council and should be used to encourage more urban people to experience a bit of countryside.	A management plan has been prepared for Muiravonside Country Park for 2015 to 2020. One of the weaknesses of the Country Park identified in the management plan was that the path network is not in good condition and that this combined with the steep slopes can discourage access. Path and access improvements have been programmed for delivery between Nov 2015 and March 2018. External grant funding is likely to be sought to achieve this.	None
SNH	Area Strategies	The Open Space Audit scored a range of features as being fit for purpose (or not) for 612 open spaces in Falkirk. This could be used to form the basis of a management statement for all 612 sites, and management plans for larger sites, so that opportunities to maximise the potential for each site are not missed. This would provide a finer grain of detail than the Area Strategies contained in the draft Open Space Strategy and ensure that actions could be targeted and prioritised. The Green Flag methodology could help to do this in a consistent manner.	The qualitative assessment of open space carried out as part of the open space audit was carried out using an adapted form of the methodology used by Green Flag (as set out at appendix 5 of the strategy) This finer grain of detail will be used to inform the implementation of the individual actions within the Parks Development Plan (appendix 3 of the Strategy)	None
SNH	Bo'ness Area Strategy	Action MGNT.05 "Carry out landscape and access improvements along the John Muir Way which runs along the Forth and Clyde Canal, Union Canal, River Avon Heritage Trail and the Forth Foreshore Path.". Where works are proposed along the Forth Foreshore these must be properly assessed under the 'Habitats' Regulations at an early stage in planning, i.e. before the works are committed to (financially or otherwise).	This action was put into the Strategy to reflect green network opportunity GN01 of the adopted Local Development Plan. The Local Development Plan has been through a rigorous process of Habitats Regulations Appraisal and contains a caveat which requires proposals affecting the River Forth to be accompanied by project specific information to inform an appropriate assessment.	None
Online respondent	Bo'ness Area Strategy	Shocking is one word. There is no thought put into other areas such as Boness, most people travel to Linlithgow for a decent play park. Shame on Falkirk council failing our child unless you live in Falkirk.	<p>Since 2008 approximately £120k has been invested in improved play provision in Bo'ness at Douglas Park, Little Carriden and Drumacre Road.</p> <p>The Strategy aims to ensure that people are within an 800m walk of an open space containing a playspace and that those playspaces should provide equipment suitable for 3 age groups i.e. toddlers, juniors and teenagers.</p> <p>There are 9 open spaces which contain a playspace within Bo'ness and 97.2% of households are within an 800m walk of an open space containing a playspace.</p> <p>Acton MPLAY.14 in the Parks Development Plan indicates that we will identify which of our remaining portfolio of playspaces need investment to ensure that they provide play equipment to serve three different age groups.</p>	None

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
Online respondent	Bo'ness Area Strategy	Need new equipment in some parks suitable for all age use	Section 4.9 of the Strategy set out our proposals for play provision. Paragraph 4.9.6 sets out that in our remaining playspaces, we will aim to provide play equipment to serve three different age groups: toddlers; juniors and teenagers. Acton MPLAY.14 in the Parks Development Plan indicates that we will identify which of our remaining portfolio of playspaces need investment to ensure that they provide play equipment to serve three different age groups.	None
Online respondent	Bo'ness Area Strategy	Signage seating, litter bins and doggy bins along the JMW. A woodland corridor is good but nature activities would enhance the experience	Action MGNT.05 of the Parks Development Plan is to carry out landscape and access improvements along the length of the John Muir Way. Provision of appropriate signage, seating and bins can be considered as part of this project.  Actions MNATREG.05 & 07 of the Parks Development Plan involve improving key open spaces along the John Muir Way. Biodiversity improvements may be appropriate as part of these improvement projects.	None
Online respondent	Bo'ness Area Strategy	Stop relying on the community to do your job	The Strategy proposes to actively encourage the increased involvement of community groups in the management and improvement of parks and open space	None
Online respondent	Bo'ness Area Strategy	Accessibility needs to be improved for disabled people. The new paths along the John Muir way are a big improvement and should be replicated in the Kinneil estate with care taken to ensure surfaces maximise access for all groups including wheelchair users. As one of the towns flagship parks, the lack of disabled access to the play area at Douglas park is a disgrace!	Comments noted. It is hard to generalise about the best way to promote inclusive access within our parks and open spaces. This issue is best dealt with on a case by case basis at an individual park or open space level. Inclusive access will be an issue which is considered during the preparation of individual parks masterplans for our key open space assets and during the design phase of improvement projects at parks and open spaces which have been identified as priorities for quality improvement.  There are access improvements going on within Kinneil Estate but because of the terrain and the restriction on works imposed by the World Heritage Site status it will not be possible to improve paths so they could be classed as 'Accessible for All'	Add new proposal under the addressing inequality and fostering community through open space investment theme within section 3 after proposal 9 as follows:  <i>"When preparing individual parks masterplans, formulating proposals for park improvement and improving play facilities, where appropriate, we will aim to maximise access for all groups including wheelchair users. (See actions MQUAL.01-049; MVAL.01-14; MNATREG01-08; MPARK01-19; MPLAY01-14; MSPOR01-18; and MSEM.01-02 in the Parks Development Plan"</i> <i>Renumber other proposals as appropriate</i>
Online respondent	Bo'ness Area Strategy	Get dog wardens out to catch folk who don't clean up their dog's mess. Cut grass more often, provide decent toilets/ baby change;	Comments noted. Action MUSE.01 of the Parks Development Plan proposes a renewed focus on tackling dog fouling. Action EMAIN.01 is to commission a study to identify those parks and open spaces where a lower intensity maintenance regime would be more appropriate either to save money, or to enhance value for wildlife. It seems unlikely that the study will result in grass being cut more often.	None
Online respondent	Bo'ness Area Strategy	Provide suitable play parks	Section 4.9 of the Strategy outlines the Councils proposals for play provision	None
Online	Bo'ness Area	There could be a greater diversity with regard to tree planting	Comments noted. Action MGNT.04 is to improve the quality,	None

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
respondent	Strategy	along the lines of arboretum species ,more tree "islands" in the larger grassed areas ,with natural growth of woodland species among the trees ,more community orchards	<p>function and diversity of open space corridors within Bo’ness. Diversification of tree planning could be one of the ways that this action is implemented.</p> <p>We are not installing an arboretum at Kinneil Wood but the replanting in the woods which followed the felling of windblown compartments has greatly improved the diversity of tree species on the estate in line with traditional ‘policy’ woodlands which is appropriate for a site centred around a historic property. A new Community orchard has just been planted between the museum and the house. There is more detail about the Masterplan for Kinneil Estate available to the respondent through Falkirk Community Trust’s website.</p>	
BHL CC	Bonnybridge and Banknock Area Strategy	<p>The comments on page 25 relating to Banknock (and Bonnybridge) were noted, specifically ---- “ it has the lowest average quality, lowest percentage of open spaces which are fit for purpose and second lowest percentage of the total area of open space which is fit for purpose of any settlement area.” And “It is also the only settlement area where the quality of open space has deteriorated between the 1st and 2cnd Open Space Audits.”-----and that it “should be one of the Councils highest investment priorities;” –also,- “access to fit for purpose open space within 400m, and to a sports area within 1200m is well below the Council average.”</p> <p>BHLCC take the view that much more needs to be done to improve the position within the BHLCC area.</p>	Comment noted	None
BHL CC	Bonnybridge and Banknock Area Strategy	On the matter of rationalisation it was agreed the play area at the bottom end of Castlevue Terrace Haggs (your reference 571) is not “surplus” and should not be considered for rationalisation.	<p>We recognise that the potential loss of play facilities is a very important issue for local communities. To address this we propose to carry out a comprehensive review of the 69 potentially surplus playspaces identified within the Strategy recommending which of them should be confirmed as surplus to operational requirements. We will then consult communities on the results of this exercise before finalising it. The review will collect further information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ownership of the playspace;</li> <li>• The financial savings which could be gained from playspace removal;</li> <li>• The operational life and play value of equipment within the playspace;</li> <li>• The proximity of the playspace to other playspaces in the vicinity; and</li> <li>• Whether there are any territorial or road safety issues which indicate that the playspace should be retained.</li> </ul>	<p>Add a new paragraph after paragraph 4.9.4 in the Play Provision section as follows:</p> <p>“We recognise that the potential loss of play facilities is a very important issue for local communities. To address this we propose to carry out a comprehensive review of the 69 potentially surplus playspaces identified within the Strategy recommending which of them should be confirmed as surplus to operational requirements. We will then consult communities on the results of this exercise before finalising it. (See action MPLAY.16 in the Parks Development Plan) The review will collect further information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ownership of the playspace;</li> <li>• The financial savings which could be gained from</li> </ul>

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
				<p>playspace removal;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The operational life and play value of equipment within the playspace;</li> <li>• The indicative year/month of removal from service;</li> <li>• The proximity of the playspace to other playspaces in the vicinity; and</li> <li>• Local issues and considerations of note that indicate the play area should be retained</li> </ul> <p>Renumber other paragraphs as appropriate.</p> <p>Remove the 1<sup>st</sup> sentence of paragraph 4.9.6 and replace with:</p> <p><i>“Where a playspace has been identified as surplus to operational requirements and there is a strong desire within the community not to lose the facility then, under the Community Empowerment Act, the Council will consider requests to transfer the asset to the community where they have organised themselves as a community transfer body.”</i></p> <p>Add a new action in the Parks Development Plan after action MPLAY.15 as follows:</p> <p><i>“MPLAY.16 – Carry out a review of the 69 potentially surplus open spaces identified within the Strategy to confirm which of these should be confirmed as surplus to operational requirements.”</i></p>
BHL CC	Bonnybridge and Banknock Area Strategy	Re the 82 Open Spaces surveyed in the B&B area – can we please have copies of the survey work for the sites in the BHLCC area.	These has been passed to the Community Council	None
BHL CC	Bonnybridge and Banknock Area	Re prioritisation - BHLCC agree that Hollandbush Park – ref 404 - (aka Ash Park) should be Priority 1 and that a new sports	Support welcomed. Provision of a sports area at the former Cannerton Brickworks site is not likely to be possible given the	None

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
	Strategy	area/football/sports park in the Banknock /Longcroft area should be Priority 1. BHLCC has consistently argued for such a facility at Cannerton.	advanced stage the development is at in the planning process. It is worth noting that this development is likely to yield a significant sum of money for improving open space facilities in the local area. It may be that provision of a sports area can be looked at as part of the proposed park masterplanning process for the Ash Park	
BHL CC	Bonnybridge and Banknock Area Strategy	For clarity/easier understanding the Open Space (reference747) and referred to as “Railway Triangle” should perhaps be renamed Anderson Terrace Longcroft.	We agree that this would add clarity. This change will be made.	Rename open space reference 747 as Anderson Terrace, Longcroft
BHL CC	Bonnybridge and Banknock Area Strategy	Much of the strategy depends on developer contributions – and, in terms of priority, is marked “dependent on timing of development”. Is there a Plan B if these developments do not proceed or are “delayed” for several years?	If it becomes clear that they are not going to be delivered in association with new development then the delivery of these opportunities to improve the green network in the Bonnybridge and Banknock area would need to be placed within the wider programme of green network improvements planned across the Council area and prioritised accordingly. Given the uncertainties surrounding available resources it isn’t possible to state how long it will take to deliver these development related green network opportunities.	None
Bonnybridge Community Council	Bonnybridge and Banknock Area Strategy	The local residents feel that the play areas 625 and 704 which are specified as potentially surplus on the Open Space Strategy Map are not surplus. Both areas are relatively small play areas, one area has play equipment for younger children and the other has a MUGA which is generally used by older children. The residents are of the opinion that removing these would have a detrimental effect on the area as the residents fought hard to get these play areas.	<p>There are no MUGA at either of these sites. The Milnquarter MUGA is at a nearby playspace (Ref: 627 “Roman Road 1”)</p> <p>We recognise that the potential loss of play facilities is a very important issue for local communities. To address this we propose to carry out a comprehensive review of the 69 potentially surplus playspaces identified within the Strategy recommending which of them should be confirmed as surplus to operational requirements. We will then consult communities on the results of this exercise before finalising it. The review will collect further information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ownership of the playspace;</li> <li>• The financial savings which could be gained from playspace removal;</li> <li>• The operational life and play value of equipment within the playspace;</li> <li>• The proximity of the playspace to other playspaces in the vicinity; and</li> <li>• Whether there are any territorial or road safety issues which indicate that the playspace should be retained.</li> </ul>	<p>Add a new paragraph after paragraph 4.9.4 in the Play Provision section as follows:</p> <p>“We recognise that the potential loss of play facilities is a very important issue for local communities. To address this we propose to carry out a comprehensive review of the 69 potentially surplus playspaces identified within the Strategy recommending which of them should be confirmed as surplus to operational requirements. We will then consult communities on the results of this exercise before finalising it. (See action MPLAY.16 in the Parks Development Plan) The review will collect further information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ownership of the playspace;</li> <li>• The financial savings which could be gained from playspace removal;</li> <li>• The operational life and play value of equipment within the playspace;</li> <li>• The indicative year/month of removal from service;</li> <li>• The proximity of the playspace to other playspaces in the vicinity;</li> </ul>

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
				<p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local issues and considerations of note that indicate the play area should be retained</li> </ul> <p>Renumber other paragraphs as appropriate.</p> <p>Remove the 1<sup>st</sup> sentence of paragraph 4.9.6 and replace with:</p> <p><i>“Where a playspace has been identified as surplus to operational requirements and there is a strong desire within the community not to lose the facility then, under the Community Empowerment Act, the Council will consider requests to transfer the asset to the community where they have organised themselves as a community transfer body.”</i></p> <p>Add a new action in the Parks Development Plan after action MPLAY.15 as follows:</p> <p><i>“MPLAY16 – Carry out a review of the 69 potentially surplus open spaces identified within the Strategy to confirm which of these should be confirmed as surplus to operational requirements.”</i></p>
Bonnybridge Community Council	Bonnybridge and Banknock Area Strategy	Bonnybridge Community Council and the residents are in agreement that the Duncan Stewart Park (Jenny’s Park), which has been identified as a Priority 1 for improvement, requires improvement from the Council, especially after the recent vandalism which has meant some of the play equipment has been removed. As the Police have confirmed that the vandals have been dealt with, the Bonnybridge Community Council would like to see the plans you have for the improvement of Duncan Stewart Park. If unable to send the plans immediately, please can you provide a timescale as to when we can receive those plans?	Support welcomed. We propose to produce individual park masterplans for all of the open spaces identified as key open space assets. Of the fourteen key open space assets identified in the consultative draft strategy Jenny’s Park (and Bonnyfield Nature Park) are identified as one of three priority 1 assets and it is therefore likely that production of a park masterplan will get underway shortly subject to available resources.	None
Sportscotland	Bonnybridge and Banknock Area Strategy	In relation to Loch Park, <b>sportscotland</b> is not a partner in the delivery of this site – we were a statutory consultee in the planning process but are not involved in the development of the site.	Comment noted. The Bonnybridge and Banknock Area Strategy will be amended accordingly	Remove reference to SportScotland in the mechanism column of the MGNT.11 “Loch Park” entry in the Bonnybridge and Banknock priority action table in section 5.3
Online	Bonnybridge and	Duncan Stewart Park would benefit from new play equipment to	Duncan Stewart Park has been identified as a key open space asset	None

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
respondent	Banknock Area Strategy	replace the damaged play equipment which has been removed.	It is one of 14 key open space assets across the Council area for which the Strategy proposes the preparation of a parks masterplan. It is one of three priority 1 assets and therefore the preparation of a parks masterplan is likely to take place in the near future.	
Online respondent	Bonnybridge and Banknock Area Strategy	Anderson Park would benefit from the car park being resurfaced.	The car park in Anderson Park will be resurfaced in 2016.	None
Online respondent	Bonnybridge and Banknock Area Strategy	Loch Park is a good park, but needs the work, currently being carried out by Central Demolition, to be finished off and landscaped.	Planning permission P/13/0620/FUL has now been granted and the land purchase of Broomhill Park by Central Demolition is conditional upon satisfactory conclusion of the Loch Park upgrade works. Works are underway and it is anticipated that the upgraded pitch will be in a suitable condition to be handed over to the Council in August 2016.	None
Online respondent	Bonnybridge and Banknock Area Strategy	The natural areas around Bonnybridge should be left as natural as possible, but with good access links and plenty of dog bins.	Comment noted	None
Online respondent	Bonnybridge and Banknock Area Strategy	Maintain and improve current facilities rather than wasting money on projects which are of no great importance.	Comment noted.	None
Online respondent	Bonnybridge and Banknock Area Strategy	If we took the initiative to improve parks in Bonnybridge to adapt to disabled children such as sensory gardens and wheelchair swings etc. then people will travel to our communities and could potentially raise moral and create revenue for the villages.	Comments noted. It is hard to generalise about the best way to promote inclusive access within our parks and open spaces. This issue is best dealt with on a case by case basis at an individual park or open space level. Inclusive access will be an issue which is considered during the preparation of individual parks masterplans for our key open space assets and during the design phase of improvement projects at parks and open spaces which have been identified as priorities for quality improvement.	Add new proposal under the addressing inequality and fostering community through open space investment theme within section 3 after proposal 9 as follows:  <i>“When preparing individual parks masterplans, formulating proposals for park improvement and improving play facilities, where appropriate, we will aim to maximise access for all groups including wheelchair users. (See actions MQUAL.01-049; MVAL.01-14; MNATREG01-08; MPARK01-19; MPLAY01-14; MSPOR01-18; and MSEM.01-02 in the Parks Development Plan”</i>
Online respondent	Bonnybridge and Banknock Area Strategy	Improve links from Bonnybridge path network westwards	The Forth and Clyde Canal runs westwards from Bonnybridge and is part of the John Muir Way. Carrying out landscape and access improvements along the length of the John Muir Way forms action MGNT.05 of the Parks Development Plan	None
Sportscotland	Denny Area Strategy	In relation to the former Denny High site, the Area Strategy states that these pitches will be rationalised, but MGNT.13 states that the playing fields will be retained and enhanced, and that <b>sportscotland</b> may be a partner in this. We seek further clarification of this proposal, and of what our role may be. The site is identified in the LDP as a housing site that includes playing field provision to be retained.	This was an error. The proposal to retain and enhance the playingfields at the former Denny High will be removed from the Parks Development Plan	Remove action MGNT.13 “Former Denny High Playingfield Enhancement” from the Parks Development Plan and re-number actions accordingly.
CGI	Denny Area Strategy	Herbertshire Castle Park Masterplan & Group recognition: We request that we be considered as an existing constituted	Comments noted. In all the consultative draft Strategy contains 14 key open space assets and recommends that a suite of parks	None



Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
		community group that has strong links to, and involvement with, parks and open spaces in the Denny and Dunipace area. We welcome the reference MVAL.05 to the preparation of a Master Plan for Herbertshire Castle Park. CGI would like to be involved in future discussions on the creation of a Master Plan for the park.	masterplans are prepared for them all. The preparation of a masterplan for Herbertshire Castle Park (the Gala Park) is one of four priority 2 assets. Initially we intend to focus on the preparation of masterplans for priority 1 assets (there are 3 of these), but once this is completed we will turn our attention to priority 2 assets. We will be sure to involve CGI in the preparation process at the appropriate time.	
CGI	Denny area Strategy	We are not clear why the open spaces 111, 114 and 83 were chosen as sites for improvement. We know that Archibald Russell Centre (114) has already had major improvements. Discussions at local level would be helpful.	<p>The open spaces at the Archibald Russell Centre (114) and at Little Denny Burn (83) were selected as priorities for improvement because: at the time of the open space audit, they were identified as poorer quality parks and open spaces where there was no better quality alternative provision nearby; and their improvement would increase the percentage of households within Denny which were within a 400m walk of a good quality open space. We note the improvement work which has already taken place at the Archibald Russell Centre. It is likely that this will improve the performance of that open space in the next open space audit so it may be that no further improvements are required here.</p> <p>The open space at Little Denny Reservoir (111) was identified as a priority for improvement as it is a regional level open space which, at the time of the open space audit, was not of a requisite quality (3.0 or better in the fitness for purpose assessment).</p>	None
Online respondent	Denny Area Strategy	The park on nethermain road in Denny is in desperate need of upgrading	There are a number of parks on Nethermain Road (refs 74,75,83 & 107). The park at Little Denny Burn 2 (ref 83) has been identified as one of fifty seven priorities for quality improvement. It is one of eighteen priority 4 actions. The other parks are not identified as priorities for improvement as there are other, better quality, parks and open spaces nearby.	None
CGI	Denny Area Strategy	Local Consultations are preferable to an online survey. Continue consultation/liaison with voluntary group(s) that work to improve the environment e.g. Community Green Initiative and Communities Along the Carron as well as Tenants & Residents Associations.	Comments noted. Section 4.6 of the Strategy sets out our proposals for promoting community involvement in parks and open spaces. Paragraph 4.6.4 of the Strategy indicates that where there is the opportunity for the public to influence decisions about proposed changes there will be consultation in advance of planning any work and the views of the community will be taken into account in any decision making.	None
CGI	Denny Area Strategy	Make appropriate FC contact details easily available. A notice could be put in the noticeboard at the Herbertshire Castle Park.	<p>Section 4.12 of the Strategy sets out our proposals for signage within parks and open spaces. Paragraph 4.12.1 proposes that all parks and open spaces should have signage at the entrance stating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The name of the park or open space;</li> <li>• Who manages it;</li> <li>• How to contact them to report problems/ raise queries</li> </ul>	None
Online respondent	Denny Area Strategy	Continue consultation/liaison with voluntary group(s) that work to improve the environment e.g. Community Green Initiative and Communities Along the Carron as well as Tenants & Residents Associations in the Denny & Dunipace area. Make appropriate FC contact details easily available.	Comments noted. Section 4.6 of the Strategy sets out our proposals for promoting community involvement in parks and open spaces. Paragraph 4.6.4 of the Strategy indicates that where there is the opportunity for the public to influence decisions about proposed changes there will be consultation in advance of planning any work and the views of the community will be taken into account in any decision making.	None
Online	Denny Area	Prioritise the path between Denny and Camelon to enable	Comment noted. The online survey revealed that delivery of this	None

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
respondent	Strategy	walkers/cyclists/horse travel to Denny and increase its potential for tourism and leisure.	project is a top priority for local people.	
Online respondent	Denny Area Strategy	Any improvement to the River Carron Corridor requires talks first with CATCA and Community Green Initiative who are involved with this work. COULD THERE PLEASE PLEASE BE A PUBLIC AWARENESS CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT ON ANY IMPROVEMENTS WITH LOCALS FIRST - AS NOT EVERYONE IS AWARE OF THIS CONSULTATION OR IS ONLINE.	Comments noted. Section 4.6 of the Strategy sets out our proposals for promoting community involvement in parks and open spaces. Paragraph 4.6.4 of the Strategy indicates that where there is the opportunity for the public to influence decisions about proposed changes there will be consultation in advance of planning any work and the views of the community will be taken into account in any decision making. Paragraph 4.6.5 of the Strategy indicates that consultation could take many forms including formal approaches to specific stakeholder groups such as access forums and community councils. CATCA and CGI would clearly qualify as a specific stakeholder group.	None
Online respondent	Denny Area Strategy	fitness park. simple pull up bars of varying heights , parallel bars , monkey bars rings this can be done very cheaply and could be installed at any number of places around Denny an surrounding areas	Most of the outdoor fitness equipment currently manufactured is poorly designed (ergonomic issues) and of inferior build quality for unmanned Scottish open space environments. If build quality improves and sustainable maintenance costs come down in the future then there is no reason why the installation of this type of equipment couldn't be considered when making improvements to our playspaces.	None
Online respondent	Denny Area Strategy	Improve the park on Nethermain's road in Denny its in a perfect location for improvement there is only really swings and an old slide for my young children	There are a number of parks on Nethermain's Road (refs 74,75,83 & 107). The park at Little Denny Burn 2 (ref 83) has been identified as one of fifty seven priorities for quality improvement. It is one of eighteen priority 4 actions. The other parks are not identified as priorities for improvement as there are other, better quality, parks and open spaces nearby.	None
Online respondent	Falkirk Area Strategy	Many cannot be used due to bad drainage and are waterlogged most of the year i.e. Camelon playing fields and running track. The tryst park is only used for a fairground twice a year it could be developed into a dog recreation area	The Tryst Park is privately owned but is criss-crossed by public rights of way. The core path (011/221) which accesses the Tryst (fairground) has recently undergone substantial improvement to bring it up to all weather multi use surfacing standard. This will make this area far more accessible.  With regard to Camelon playingfields, four of the pitches have just benefitted from improved drainage, increasing playability.	None
Online respondent	Falkirk Area Strategy	In particular the Lion thorn policy being used by walking groups following that canal corridor and the John Muir Trail also used by commuters walking to Falkirk High Station and cyclists was partially improved a few years ago and is now a neglected eyesore which shows Falkirk in the worst possible way. There was major footpath work (unfinished) viewpoint and tree planting but this work has not been completed properly,	Get comment from Gus/ Mandy about whether the footpath, viewpoint and tree planning work has been properly completed.  There is a project to develop an improved football pitch at the Lionthorn Policy Bing and this should be delivered this year (2016-17). When this project is completed we will know whether there is any money left in the planning gain fund to promote further landscape and access improvements in the Lionthorn area.	None
Friends of Dollar Park	Falkirk Area Strategy	Under the area strategies it was noted with surprise that within Falkirk, Dollar Park had been omitted. While it is accepted that improvements have been carried out over the last few years as a core park it still requires a park masterplan to be drawn up. This would enable the Friends and the Council to access major funding bodies. Was there a specific reason for the park not to be included in the	The concept of Core Parks was established through the Council's Culture and Leisure Strategy in 2003 and the Strategy of focussing investment within these core parks was reinforced by the Parks Development Plan in 2008.  The Culture and Leisure Strategy of 2003 was superseded by the Council's Culture and Sport Strategy in 2014. This Strategy does not	None

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
		Falkirk Strategy? It is accreted (sic) that there are many areas deficit within the Falkirk area but Dollar Park was once the Jewel in the crown and it is important to ensure that its prominence is restored	<p>mention Core Parks.</p> <p>This Open Space Strategy when finalised will replace both the 2010 Open Space Strategy and the 2008 Parks Development Plan. This strategy replaces the previous hierarchy of strategic, core and local parks with a hierarchy of national, regional, settlement and neighbourhood level open spaces and also introduces the concept of key open space assets. It is these 14 key open space assets which the Council propose are the focus of parks masterplanning activity.</p> <p>Not all of the previous Core Parks have been identified as key open space assets: Dollar Park in Falkirk and Douglas Park in Bo'ness are not identified as key open space assets. The reason for not identifying Dollar Park as a key open space asset was partly because of the recent improvement work which has taken place there and partly because Falkirk already has 3 key open space assets identified at Callendar Park, the Falkirk Wheel and the Helix.</p> <p>Just because Dollar Park is not a key open space asset doesn't mean that the Council will not support the Friends of Dollar Park Group to produce their own park masterplan. Section 4.6 of the Strategy sets out our proposals for promoting community involvement in parks and open space and states at paragraph 4.6.8 that we will support community groups at a reasonable and sustainable level.</p>	
Online respondent	Falkirk Area Strategy	Encourage local people to value parks and open spaces. Fines for dog fouling/littering. Protect all green spaces, regardless of who owns them. More lights so they feel safe and can be used in winter. More wild flower areas to reduce maintenance bills. Encourage families to participate in litter picks, planting, seed sowing, planning. Never assume that because an area isn't busy when you visit that it's surplus!	<p>Comments noted.</p> <p>Section 4.6 of the Strategy sets out our proposals for promoting community involvement in parks and open spaces and paragraphs 4.6.6 – 4.6.8 sets out our proposed approach to helping the community to deliver change.</p> <p>Section 4.5 of the Strategy sets out our proposed approach to identifying surplus parks and open spaces and paragraph 4.5.2 sets out the factors which should be considered when identifying whether an open space is surplus to requirements or not.</p> <p>One of the Strategy's proposals is that we should identify those parks and open spaces where: high intensity maintenance regimes are necessary to maintain an appropriate image; and lower intensity maintenance regimes would be more appropriate to save money and enhance value for wildlife.</p> <p>The Council doesn't have any plans to provide more overhead street lighting in any other open spaces intended for public use as the costs involved are unlikely to be sustainable. In addition night time lighting can sometimes be harmful to wildlife and can in some circumstances cause its own security concerns.</p> <p>The Council have recently secured funding via Sustrans for installation of illuminated safety features (path edging solar studs)</p>	None

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
			<p>in Rannoch Park in Grangemouth. The capital costs of this are low and sustainable cost also appear to be low, so this may be something which is considered as appropriate for a number of other parks and open spaces.</p> <p>The case for installing new lighting within parks and open space is best considered at an individual park level so this issue can be explored further within the individual parks masterplans prepared for our key open space assets or during the design phase of any other park or open space improvement project.</p>	
Online respondent	Falkirk Area Strategy	Safe parking areas and enhanced play areas for 6-12yo	<p>Our proposals for play provision are set out at section 4.9 of the Strategy they involve aiming to provide equipment for three different age groups (toddler, junior and teen) in our remaining play areas.</p> <p>Our proposals for our high profile parks and open spaces are outlined at section 4.11 of the Strategy. There are 8 high profile parks and open spaces where we recognise that car parking may be needed. Additionally the visitor experience at parks and open spaces along the John Muir Way and the Antonine Wall may also be reviewed.</p>	None
Online respondent	Falkirk Area Strategy	Toilets in dollar park and more picnic areas in most of the parks. Better lightning at nights to allow walkers to feel safe.	<p>Dollar Park is not identified as a priority for quality improvement as it is currently of good quality.</p> <p>The Council doesn't have any plans to provide more overhead street lighting in any other open spaces intended for public use as the costs involved are unlikely to be sustainable. In addition night time lighting can sometimes be harmful to wildlife and can in some circumstances cause its own security concerns.</p> <p>The Council have recently secured funding via Sustrans for installation of illuminated safety features (path edging solar studs) in Rannoch Park in Grangemouth. The capital costs of this are low and sustainable cost also appear to be low, so this may be something which is considered as appropriate for a number of other parks and open spaces.</p> <p>The case for installing new lighting within Dollar Park should be considered during the preparation of an individual parks masterplan for Dollar Park. Although the Council do not intend to take the lead in this process we are prepared to provide the Friends of Dollar Park with officer support at a reasonable and sustainable level to assist them in formulating their plans for Dollar Park and supporting any subsequent bids for funding.</p>	None
Online respondent	Falkirk Area Strategy	Planting of native species to encourage wildlife, improve appearances and develop a better hopefully low maintenance footpath network.	One of the Strategy's proposals is that we should identify those parks and open spaces where: high intensity maintenance regimes are necessary to maintain an appropriate image; and lower intensity maintenance regimes would be more appropriate to save money and enhance value for wildlife.	None

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
Online respondent	Falkirk Area Strategy	The arboretum in Callendar Park is a place of considerable interest but has been neglected for years. It would be nice to see some new exotic trees planted, and for some nameplating so that visitors can know what species of tree they're looking at. Callendar Park also needs to be better drained. Some parts are under water or excessively soft and boggy for months on end. One way to improve drainage is to plant trees - some recent research in Wales found that tree roots improve drainage very greatly. And tree coverage is less than it used to be - limes were cut down without being replaced.	The management plan is on Falkirk Community Trust's website and the you can read more about the plans for the next 5 years there. We are planning on improving the arboretum both with regards signage and also new planting. This relies on the success of funding bids to external grant making bodies. The drainage problems at Callendar Park are due in part to damage to very old land drain networks and blockages to the drainage system off site at the Kemper Ave end of the site. Sadly some of these problems are actually due to tree roots which have grown into the old clay pipes and blocked them. Any new trees planted in the park will be sited carefully to try and avoid exacerbating this existing problem. Replacing the drainage is unrealistic financially.	None
Online respondent	Falkirk Area Strategy	improvement in maintaining paved walkways including litter picking and street cleansing. Gardens staff should tidy up after themselves.	One of the Strategy's proposals is that we should identify those parks and open spaces where: high intensity maintenance regimes are necessary to maintain an appropriate image; and lower intensity maintenance regimes would be more appropriate to save money and enhance value for wildlife.  If this proposal is implemented then it should save money and allow resources to be focussed on better maintaining our parks and open spaces.	None
Online respondent	Falkirk Area Strategy	the lionthorn policy bin does have a multi-sports facility but the rest of the ash pitch is neglected, water-logged and overgrown. This is a large open space which could be put to good use. i would love to see more off-road biking / scooting / roller skating opportunities that can be used by everyone, including young children. However, I would also love to see the use of grass where it is not required to use concrete / tarmac. Would also be lovely to make much more use of wildflower meadows in one spaces which can help to reduce maintenance.	There is a project to develop an improved football pitch at the Lionthorn Policy Bing and this should be delivered this year (2016-17). When this project is completed we will know whether there is any money left in the planning gain fund to promote further landscape and access improvements in the Lionthorn area.	None
Online respondent	Falkirk Area Strategy	Keep nagging dog walkers to pick up after their dogs. Provision of bins so locals can help maintain cleanliness of areas.	One of the Strategy's proposals is to make investment decisions which encourage people to improve their health by increasing their use of parks and open spaces. To achieve this Action MUSE.01 of the Parks Development Plan proposes a renewed focus on tackling dog fouling which was identified as one of the main reasons why people may chose not to use parks and open spaces.	None
Online respondent	Falkirk Area Strategy	Resurface football pitch at Comely Park	The pitch at Comely Park is managed by Falkirk Community Trust and is currently bookable for community use after 3pm between Monday and Friday. Unfortunately the condition of the pitch currently means that it not in a sit state to be utilised. Any future upgrade of the surface will depend on funding being secured and would have to be financed from our yearly budget allocation for all pavilions and pitches (£122k in 2014-15)	None
Online respondent	Falkirk Area Strategy	South Bantaskine estate has been left to rot over the last 35 years both in terms of vegetation / tree management & path infrastructure . The 1970 restoration created a tremendous well laid out parkland for many uses. The subsequent neglect is a shameful episode in the area's short-sightedness . (former council parks director David Mould will be spinning in his grave if he can see his creation left to rack & ruin).....will the same fate await the	Bantaskine Estate is not identified as a priority for quality improvement. It was assessed as being of very good overall quality in the fitness for purpose assessment.  The John Muir Way passes through the Estate so Action MGNT.05 which proposes landscape and access improvements along the length of the John Muir Way may provide a focus for future	None

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
		Helix?	improvements within the Estate.	
Online respondent	Falkirk Area Strategy	Reduce height or remove trees in princes Park as they have almost obscured the prime viewing area in Falkirk over the whole of the Forth valley and beyond and restore the vista I enjoyed till the planting of these trees in the late 80's . ( 1 crop of approx. 6 pine trees has just been felled recently , I hope the rest follow). NB: the recently refurbished map finder cairn has most of the points of interest on it not visible now.	<p>Unfortunately this scenario has arisen due to poor siting/ design choice at the time of the tree planting a few decades ago. However, we would not recommend radically reducing semi mature or mature tree canopies on healthy trees to just improve a vista due to the recognised benefits that trees bring to parks &amp; greenspace environments. Appropriate tree surgery is actioned primarily for health and wellbeing of the tree and for issues of public safety.</p> <p>Princes Park is identified as one of fifty seven priorities for quality improvement across the Council area. It is one of eighteen priority 4 quality improvements so it is likely that any quality improvements made at this park will not be made for until later on in the Strategy's implementation programme. Actions to improve the quality of the park can be agreed with the local community at the appropriate time in advance of improvement works.</p>	None
Online respondent	Grangemouth Area Strategy	Continue to maintain Zetland n get boats back pond and a very small cafe like when I was growing up it will work retired or volunteers to help it will work definitely x	An individual parks masterplan for Zetland Park has been approved by the Council following a wide ranging public consultation exercise in 2014 and 2015. A bid for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund has been made. The bid for funding does not cover all of the long list of potential improvements included within the masterplan but, amongst other projects, does seek funding for the replacement of the derelict boating pond with a naturalised wildlife pond and the exterior refurbishment of the kiosk.	None
Online respondent	Grangemouth Area Strategy	Can the pond at zetland park not be used for some kind of drainage when the weather's bad or use it for skateboard park it's an eyesore as it is.	An individual parks masterplan for Zetland Park has been approved by the Council following a wide ranging public consultation exercise in 2014 and 2015. A bid for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund has been made. The bid for funding does not cover all of the long list of potential improvements included within the masterplan but, amongst other projects, does seek funding for the replacement of the derelict boating pond with a naturalised wildlife pond and for drainage improvments.	None
Online respondent	Grangemouth Area Strategy	In my area the parks are well maintained (Zetland and Rannoch) I know there's activity by local councillors to improve paths in Rannoch park which will be a great help to some of the users and may attract others to using the facilities. I know there's drainage problems in Zetland park but overall I think it's well maintained and looking forward to seeing what else happens with the park in the future.	Support welcomed	None
Online respondent	Grangemouth Area Strategy	Seating area more re vamp Park skate park for older kids	An individual parks masterplan for Zetland Park has been approved by the Council following a wide ranging public consultation exercise in 2014 and 2015. A bid for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund has been made. The bid for funding does not cover all of the long list of potential improvements included within the masterplan but, amongst other projects, does seek funding for a re-vamped skate park.	None
Online respondent	Grangemouth Area Strategy	Regular maintenance and picnic and seating places also child friendly areas walking routes etc	The provision of picnic and seating places and child friendly walking routes within parks and open spaces is best considered on a park by park basis. Provision of these will be considered during the	None

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
			preparation of individual parks masterplans for our key open space assets or during the design phase of project to improve the parks and open spaces which have been identified as priorities for quality improvement.	
Online respondent	Grangemouth Area Strategy	More lighting in rannoch park.	<p>The Council doesn't have any plans to provide more overhead street lighting in any other open spaces intended for public use as the costs involved are unlikely to be sustainable. In addition night time lighting can sometimes be harmful to wildlife and can in some circumstances cause its own security concerns.</p> <p>The Council have recently secured funding via Sustrans for installation of illuminated safety features (path edging solar studs) in Rannoch Park in Grangemouth. The capital costs of this are low and sustainable cost also appear to be low, so this may be something which is considered as appropriate for a number of other parks and open spaces.</p> <p>The case for installing new lighting within parks and open space is best considered at an individual park level, however, as Rannoch Park hasn't been identified as a priority for quality improvement it is unlikely that the issue will be looked at by the Council in the short to medium term.</p>	None
Online respondent	Grangemouth Area Strategy	Boats n ponds filled	An individual parks masterplan for Zetland Park has been approved by the Council following a wide ranging public consultation exercise in 2014 and 2015. A bid for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund has been made. The bid for funding does not cover all of the long list of potential improvements included within the masterplan but, amongst other projects, does seek funding for the replacement of the derelict boating pond with a naturalised wildlife pond.	None
Online respondent	Grangemouth Area Strategy	Fix everything back to its original glory .Ie..the paddling pond ..the fountain ..Block of all play areas at night to eliminated vandalism. Clean the over grown burn .Council needs to up there game to us residents in Grangemouth ...We need this park sorted...We need these shops open so cut the renting of these shops to help small businesses.	<p>An individual parks masterplan for Zetland Park has been approved by the Council following a wide ranging public consultation exercise in 2014 and 2015. A bid for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund has been made. The bid for funding does not cover all of the long list of potential improvements included within the masterplan but does seek funding for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replacement of the derelict boating pond with a naturalised wildlife pond;</li> <li>• Drainage improvements;</li> <li>• Exterior refurbishment of the kiosk and toilets;</li> <li>• Repair of foot-paths;</li> <li>• Upgrading the play equipment ;</li> <li>• Re-establishment of decorative fencing around the flower garden</li> <li>• Conservation work to the War Memorial , replacing 1950's slabs with natural stone;</li> <li>• Conservation and repair of the fountain, to return it to working order;</li> <li>• Creation of a "Heritage Wall" telling the story of Grangemouth; and</li> <li>• Tree planting.</li> </ul>	None

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
Online respondent	Grangemouth Area Strategy	Invest in events to have people using the parks	<p>Across all the sites managed by Falkirk Community Trust (Helix, Callendar Park, Kinneil Estate) we run internal events such as the recent Magical woodlands event at Callendar Park which was attended by over 300 people and externally organised events where commercial operators and charities hire parts of our outdoor sites to run their own events.</p> <p>Falkirk Community Trust have a comprehensive events diary. The best place to find up to date info on them is via the events section of Falkirk Community Trust's website:  <a href="http://www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org/whats-on/events/">http://www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org/whats-on/events/</a></p> <p>The Council's Outdoor Access Ranger Service run a series of regular outdoor events in our parks, open spaces and the wider green network. Details of upcoming events can be found at:  <a href="http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/environment/countryside-management/">http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/environment/countryside-management/</a></p> <p>Staffing resources currently mean that Falkirk Council cannot set up a large scale events service similar to that run by Falkirk Community Trust.</p> <p>Community Groups who wish to use our parks for small self-managed events are welcome to do so , subject to public liability insurance and risk assessments all being in place</p>	None
Online respondent	Grangemouth Area Strategy	sort the drainage out in the Zetland park it is a joke	An individual parks masterplan for Zetland Park has been approved by the Council following a wide ranging public consultation exercise in 2014 and 2015. A bid for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund has been made. The bid for funding does not cover all of the long list of potential improvements included within the masterplan but, amongst other projects, does seek funding for drainage improvements.	None
Online respondent	Grangemouth Area Strategy	Zetland Park pond area is the centre-piece of the park and is chronically neglected. What was a beautiful area of the park is in desperate need of investment.	An individual parks masterplan for Zetland Park has been approved by the Council following a wide ranging public consultation exercise in 2014 and 2015. A bid for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund has been made. The bid for funding does not cover all of the long list of potential improvements included within the masterplan but, amongst other projects, does seek funding for the replacement of the derelict boating pond with a naturalised wildlife pond.	None
Online respondent	Grangemouth Area Strategy	Grass areas around play items cut, and paint maintenance of actual frameworks would look and feel better and keep the items longer	<p>Maintenance of Council managed play spaces are subject to the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Weekly visual inspections – (any issues reported for action to playground fitter)</li> <li>2. Monthly mechanical inspection (playground fitter) minor repairs &amp; mechanical maintenance .</li> <li>3. Annual independent inspection –condition survey and advised actions.</li> </ol> <p>Repainting is done slightly differently with a hit-list of the worst affected sites addressed annually . The number of sites we manage</p>	None



Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
			to repaint is subject to the available maintenance budget which is variable due to budget strain e.g. vandalism repairs year by year.	
Online respondent	Grangemouth Area Strategy	Improve the quality of the paths and make sure they are maintained. Planting of trees and bushes to improve the look of the parks. Making them a more pleasant environment to walk/relax in.	<p>There are 57 parks and open spaces which have been identified as priorities for quality improvement. When improvement projects for these parks are programmed within our work programme, the planting of more trees and bushes and the improvement of path quality will be considered on a park by park basis.</p> <p>Maintenance of paths has traditionally been reactive – i.e. local patch and repair when damage is known or reported as a major issue. In recent years in parks which have sizeable path networks the Council has been using its budgets to match with external funding providers to provide more strategic path improvements.</p>	None
Online respondent	Grangemouth Area Strategy	Improve the facilities especially the shop and toilet in zetland park. They need refurbishment asap	An individual parks masterplan for Zetland Park has been approved by the Council following a wide ranging public consultation exercise in 2014 and 2015. A bid for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund has been made. The bid for funding does not cover all of the long list of potential improvements included within the masterplan but, amongst other projects, does seek funding for the exterior refurbishment of the kiosk and toilets.	None
Online respondent	Grangemouth Area Strategy	Making them safer for families to en joy themselves improve the lighting so they are safer to walk and have toilets where need be as there are not enough zetland park is the park most used around here in the summer and the facilities are dire	<p>The Council doesn't have any plans to provide more overhead street lighting in any other open spaces intended for public use as the costs involved are unlikely to be sustainable. In addition night time lighting can sometimes be harmful to wildlife and can in some circumstances cause its own security concerns.</p> <p>The Council have recently secured funding via Sustrans for installation of illuminated safety features (path edging solar studs) in Rannoch Park in Grangemouth. The capital costs of this are low and sustainable cost also appear to be low, so this may be something which is considered as appropriate for a number of other parks and open spaces.</p> <p>The case for installing new lighting within parks and open space is best considered at an individual park level so this issue can be explored further within the individual parks masterplans prepared for our key open space assets or during the design phase of any other park or open space improvement project.</p> <p>An individual parks masterplan for Zetland Park has been approved by the Council following a wide ranging public consultation exercise in 2014 and 2015. A bid for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund has been made. The bid for funding does not cover all of the long list of potential improvements included within the masterplan but, amongst other projects, does seek funding for the exterior refurbishment of the toilets.</p>	None
Online respondent	Grangemouth Area Strategy	Better lighting and drainage keeps flooding in bad weather we also could have better paths	There are 57 parks and open spaces which have been identified as priorities for quality improvement. When improvement projects for these parks are programmed within our work programme, the	None

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
			improvement of path quality and installation of better lighting will be considered on a park by park basis.	
Online respondent	Grangemouth Area Strategy	A nice place to sit the rose garden used to be beautiful now it's gone !!	An individual parks masterplan for Zetland Park has been approved by the Council following a wide ranging public consultation exercise in 2014 and 2015. A bid for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund has been made. The bid for funding does not cover all of the long list of potential improvements included within the masterplan but, amongst other projects, does seek funding for the re-establishment of decorative fencing around the flower garden.	None
Online respondent	Grangemouth Area Strategy	Keep looking after the total length of the Grangeburn not just the park	Improvement of the quality of the open space alongside the Grange Burn has been identified as one of fifty seven priority improvement projects, it is one of thirteen priority 3 projects so unless other funding sources become available it will be one of the later projects implemented within the open space improvement programme.	None
Online respondent	Grangemouth Area Strategy	Just concentrate on what we have! I just don't see the point in creating new parks or amenities when you are struggling with the upkeep of the parks and open spaces we already have!	Comment noted. The Strategy proposes to reduce the overall number of playspaces and sports areas and also to identify parks and open spaces which are surplus to requirements. With this reduction in the number of facilities there should be some scope to provide some new facilities where there is a local deficit in provision whilst also improving the quality of our remaining parks and open spaces.	None
Online respondent	Grangemouth Area Strategy	Direct bus routes from Grangemouth into the Helix & Kelpies rather than stopping at the pink bus stops	Speak to Claire/ Chris Cox about whether there are any plans to create a direct bus link from Grangemouth to the Helix	None
Online respondent	Grangemouth Area Strategy	Improve old paddling pool in Zetland Park and repair footpaths. Re-instate rustic fencing around rose garden Upgrade crazy golf park	An individual parks masterplan for Zetland Park has been approved by the Council following a wide ranging public consultation exercise in 2014 and 2015. A bid for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund has been made. The bid for funding does not cover all of the long list of potential improvements included within the masterplan but, amongst other projects, does seek funding for the re-establishment of decorative fencing around the flower garden.	None
Online respondent	Grangemouth Area Strategy	Zetland Park- requires play park to be updated. More facilities for older children to be provided i.e hard surface sports area for ball games. Flower garden better maintained & re-establishment of decorative fencing. Sports pavilion requires some upgrading. Shop/ toilet facilities requires roof & guttering repaired.	An individual parks masterplan for Zetland Park has been approved by the Council following a wide ranging public consultation exercise in 2014 and 2015. A bid for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund has been made. The bid for funding does not cover all of the long list of potential improvements included within the masterplan but, amongst other projects, does seek funding for: the re-establishment of decorative fencing around the flower garden; upgrading the play equipment; and exterior refurbishment of the kiosk and toilets.	None
Online respondent	Grangemouth Area Strategy	Cycle paths from grangemouth to linlithgow bridge and helix. Current paths are not really family friendly due to having to cross roads with heavy traffic and cycling on these roads with children is near impossible.	Acton MGNT.33 in the Parks Development Plan is to extend the access network along the River Avon downstream from Linlithgow Bridge to Grangemouth.	None
Online respondent	Grangemouth Area Strategy	Improve fencing with gates in parks as they're all next to busy roads.	The case for fencing within parks and open space is best considered at an individual park level so this issue can be explored further within the individual parks masterplans prepared for our key open space assets or during the design phase of any other park or open space improvement project.	None

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
			A masterplan for Zetland Park has already been produced. In addition the open spaces at Inchyra Park, Portal Road and the Grange Burn have been identified as priorities for quality improvement so this issue can be considered further in the design phase of these improvement projects.	
Online respondent	Grangemouth Area Strategy	Wish when walking from my home to the Helix I could use all the pathways and not have to go on to the Icehouse Brae which is so dangerous when walking the dogs. I would also like to see better lighting at the Helix and the boarded walkway at the pond. Would encourage people to be more active in the evening and make people feel safer	<p>Although many of the footpaths within the Helix are well lit we are aware of the dark areas. We have currently worked up a plan to improve the lighting, especially at the board walk.</p> <p>We have received some Sustrans funding to do the initial plans but there is still a project budget shortfall so will be unable to do the works this year. It is our intention to bid for funds during the coming year, which if successful, would mean the works would be carried out 2017.</p>	None
Online respondent	Grangemouth Area Strategy	Zetland park was good quality but the cuts that have been made already are reflected here. Public toilets closed during winter for one people still use the park children on bikes and walking dogs having too walk to sports complex to use facilities . Park flooding constantly . Greenkeepers no longer have man power for keeping park as tidy.	Comments noted. An individual parks masterplan for Zetland Park has been approved by the Council following a wide ranging public consultation exercise in 2014 and 2015. A bid for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund has been made.	
Online respondent	Larbert and Stenhousemuir Area Strategy	The Kinnaird area where I live would benefit from better cycle path connections, across Tryst Golf Course and the linear park along the burn at Antonshill to the Helix. It also needs better NEAP standard play provision and I note the deficit in sports provision, a MUGA and playing field for informal play should be provided as part of the next development phase. Access appropriate to management objectives should be allowed to SWT natural open spaces such as the wet woodland at Hill of Kinnaird.	Action MGNT.24 is to investigate opportunities to improve the quality, function and diversity of open space corridors running alongside the How Burn and Chapel Burn. Creating better cycle path connections would certainly improve functionality in line with the aims of this action. It would be useful, however, to clarify that improvements to the connectivity to and within these open space corridors should also be investigated.	Delete action MGNT.24 from the Priority Action table in the Larbert and Stenhousemuir Area Strategy (section 5.7) and replace with: <i>“MGNT.24 – Investigate opportunities to improve quality, function, connectivity and diversity of open space corridors running along the Chapel Burn and the How Burn”</i>
Online respondent	Larbert and Stenhousemuir Area Strategy	I live in South Broomage. There is no play space because the developers (Bett) sold the land to a resident who later sold it as a housing plot. Children used to be able to play in the Ladeside School playing field but this is now kept locked. It should be reopened but dogs should be banned.	Comments noted. This issue is being discussed with the head teacher of Ladeside Primary School. More to follow.	None
LST CC	Larbert and Stenhousemuir Area Strategy	Many of the priority actions are welcomed but we feel that lack of finance will prevent the possibility of meaningful action in the near future.	Comment noted.	None
LST CC	Larbert and Stenhousemuir Area Strategy	It is noted that playspace will be investigated for Antonshill and South Broomage. While that is to be welcomed, if existing playspace had been preserved there would be no need to seek further space. The children in South Broomage used to play in the open space around Ladeside Primary School. That space has been denied them by the erection of substantial fencing around the school. Preservation would have been welcome! We are aware that there should have been a play space in Beech Crescent but it was sold by the developers to a resident who in due course sold it as a building plot.	Comments noted. This issue is being discussed with the head teacher of Ladeside Primary School. More to follow.	None
LST CC	Larbert and Stenhousemuir	The strategy records that 109 open spaces in Larbert were surveyed. Clearly there are more spaces than we are aware of. The	The Strategy sets out that 58.1% of households within the Larbert and Stenhousemuir area are within a 400m walk of an open space	None

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
	Area Strategy	document goes on to record that 58% of houses in Larbert and Stenhousemuir are within 400 metres of an open space. The figure for Torwood is 0%. One wonders what the percentage would be if Falkirk Tryst Golf Club was removed from that equation, as it is not generally available to the public.	<p>which scored “good” (3.0) or better in the fitness for purpose assessment. The Falkirk Tryst Golf Club scored 2.5 “fair quality” in the fitness for purpose assessment so had no influence whatsoever on this figure.</p> <p>A more accurate reflection of the effect of removing the Falkirk Tryst Golf Course from the accessibility analysis could be found by looking at the percentage of households which had access to a park or amenity space of 2000m<sup>2</sup> within a 400m walk. With the Tryst factored in this figure sits at 90.8% but with the Tryst factored out this figure falls to 89.5%</p>	
LST CC	Larbert and Stenhousemuir Area Strategy	If the private spaces were removed from the equation, the Larbert area would be significantly short of open spaces that can be used by the public. Falkirk Tryst Golf Club is a private club and that space is only open to members other than those members of the public who exercise the right to walk across the golf course on the paths provided. The walk however, is not a relaxing one. Similarly the cricket ground is another open space where the public are barred. Stenhousemuir Football Club will also be an area of open space that is not open to the public, although with different considerations.	<p>As noted above if the Tryst was removed from the accessibility analysis then there would be only a minimal effect on the overall performance of the Larbert and Stenhousemuir area.</p> <p>Stenhousemuir Football Club included in the open space audit.</p> <p>From a quantity of open space perspective, removing the golf club and cricket ground from overall calculations would reduce the amount of surveyed open space in Larbert and Stenhousemuir from 223.6 hectares to 181.9 hectares this would equate to a rate of open space provision of 7.1 hectares per 1000 people. This is significantly below the Council wide average but above the proposed 5 hectares per 1000 people quantity standard.</p>	None
LST CC	Larbert and Stenhousemuir Area Strategy	We found it strange that the cemetery was also included as an open space. There might be the opportunity for someone to take a walk round once in a while but it would not seem to be an option to take children or walk the dog.	<p>When deciding which open spaces to include within the open space audit we considered that it would be worthwhile to include church yards and cemeteries.</p> <p>Given the level or semi-public open space in the Larbert and Stenhousemuir area we think that it would be appropriate to acknowledge this within the analysis section of the Area Strategy.</p>	Delete 1 <sup>st</sup> sentence of the analysis section within the Larbert and Stenhousemuir Area Strategy at section 5.7 and replace with: <i>“The Larbert and Stenhousemuir settlement area, which includes Carron and Carronshore has a significantly lower rate of open space provision than the Council wide average and contains a large amount of semi-public open space such as Farlkirk Tryst Golf and Cricket Clubs and Larbert Cemetery which makes the availability of fully public open space even more acute.”</i>
LST CC	Larbert and Stenhousemuir Area Strategy	Kinnaird is an area where there are open spaces mentioned but two large open spaces are SUDS ponds which are clearly not accessible to the public. There are, indeed, warnings not to enter the fenced area.	<p>Two of the open spaces in Kinnaird and the Inches which were surveyed as part of the open space audit do have SUDS ponds within them (ref 350 and 387).</p> <p>The SUDS pond at space 387 is only a small part of a much larger open space and although public access is restricted to the SUDS area, public access is not restricted to the wider open space.</p> <p>The SUDS pond at space 350 takes up a much larger proportion of the space, but the Strategy recognises the restriction in public</p>	None

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
			<p>access to this space and doesn't include it in accessibility analysis calculations. Despite not being publicly accessible space 350 does have some visual amenity value as well as some local biodiversity value.</p> <p>The SUDS pond at Melville Crescent in Kinnaird wasn't surveyed as part of the open space audit.</p>	
LST CC	Larbert and Stenhousemuir Area Strategy	There is little open space in Kinnaird available to children to play. Houses are being crammed in and despite our representations last year that facilities should be considered prior to more building, more houses are being built. There was some suggestion that a restaurant would be built where the old frontage of the hospital is shored up. An open space would be entirely appropriate on this site. Having said that, the proposal to investigate a Sports area in Kinnaird would be a positive step.	<p>At the time of the open space audit in there were 9 open spaces containing a playspace within the Inches, Kinnaird Village and Hill of Kinnaird. 100% of the houses in these areas are within an 800m walk of an open space containing a playspace. The Larbert and Stenhousemuir area strategy map identifies that 7 of these playspaces are potentially surplus to requirements i.e. their loss would not increase the number of households further than 800m walk from an open space containing a playspace.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this we recognise that not all of the playspaces in the Inches, Kinnaird Village and Hill of Kinnaird areas are suitable for all age groups of children.</p> <p>The site where the old frontage of the hospital is shored up currently has a proposal for conversion to flats. The adjacent vacant site is also proposed to be developed as flats.</p> <p>New open spaces are due to be delivered within Kinnaird as part of the wider approved masterplan and this will increase the rate of open space provision. There may be further opportunities to create new open space in association with the proposed Hill of Kinnaird economic development site (LDP ref: ED21)</p>	None
LST CC	Larbert and Stenhousemuir Area Strategy	Due to the nature of the settled area, there is little that can be done to produce open space as such. The proposals to improve the core path network are to be welcomed and perhaps that is the way to go with small improvements building on existing open space. CATCA has completed the path network around the River Carron and that will be an extremely popular initiative. It is understood there is one small section of the paths to be completed (although there is an alternative route) and that should be moved forward as soon as possible.	Comments noted.	None
LST CC	Larbert and Stenhousemuir Area Strategy	The proposals to develop Crownest Park, (and Gairdoch Park which is out of our area) are welcome although it is noticeable that outside funding will be required.	Support welcomed. We will seek external funding to augment the improvements which can be made within our own budgets. This approach is in line with our proposals to generate money for investment in parks and open space by building on our impressive track record of partnership funding to lever grant funding from other organisations.	None
LST CC	Larbert and Stenhousemuir Area Strategy	The opening up of grounds around Forth Valley Royal Hospital has been a welcome initiative. This Community Council was involved with the Steering Group that represented a number of different disciplines. Funding was provided by different organisations for the	Comments noted. The steering group is a very good example of what can be achieved through partnership working with other organisations.	In the "Addressing inequality and fostering community through open space investment" section of the "delivering the vision" chapter

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
		different projects and the paths have become a feature of the area allowing the public to freely walk in the grounds. Of course the open space is being eroded by building in the grounds and very soon restrictions will be applied to preclude walkers from parts of the grounds. It is vital to preserve what is currently available. The Steering Group should be noted as something for the future in that the different skills and finance were brought together in a consortium of public bodies. The whole enterprise was nominated for an award and would seem to be something that might be replicated in the future.		delete the 1 <sup>st</sup> sentence of proposal 9 and replace with: <i>“Building on recent work in establishing “friends” groups and the exemplar of community partnership working at Forth Valley Royal Hospital, we will actively encourage the increased involvement of community groups in the management and improvement of parks and open spaces.”</i>
Online respondent	Larbert and Stenhousemuir Area Strategy	By creating better quality improved spaces through investment in ongoing maintenance and seeking community support to raise external funding to improve those spaces. One example of this has been the fantastic fundraising in Oban by the community to create play facilities for all ages.	<p>The Strategy proposes that we actively encourage the increased involvement of community groups in the management and improvement of parks and open spaces.</p> <p>Section 4.6 of the Strategy sets out our proposals for promoting community involvement in parks and open spaces.</p> <p>Paragraph 4.6.6 recognises the added value local people can bring to plans for park development through volunteering to help with physical tasks and fundraising.</p>	None
Online respondent	Larbert and Stenhousemuir Area Strategy	There is no good quality football kick about facilities with Stewartfield and North Broomage playing fields suffering from lack of investment and maintenance, and being areas prone to high levels of dog fouling.	<p>North Broomage playingfields are identified as one of fifty seven parks and open spaces which are priorities for quality improvement. They are one of thirteen priority 2 projects.</p> <p>Stewartfield is not identified as a priority for quality improvement</p> <p>The derelict container which was an eyesore and antisocial behaviour magnet at North Broomage has been removed using the FVH planning monies. Due to proximity of the pitch to the railway line is not considered responsible to encourage increased levels of full scale football game usage. The pitch has a kids play area next to it and is well used by local people for informal kick abouts, frisbee and general family recreation. The condition of the grass surface is suitable for this and it is unlikely that any future sports pitch strategy would highlight this site as a priority for investment of limited funds.</p> <p>Action MUSE.01 of the Parks Development Plan indicates that the Council will renew its focus on tackling dog fouling as this has been identified as one of the main reasons why people choose not to use parks and open spaces.</p>	None
Online respondent	Larbert and Stenhousemuir Area Strategy	Spend the remaining £75,000 from the £100,000 that was given by the NHS for loss of a football field - before it disappears in the council's budget.	The money has been spent at Stirling Road, North Broomage, Stewartfield and Stenhousemuir sports centre pitches. The works have involved removing derelict changing facilities, installing improved drainage systems, new goals and relaying and reseeding pitches. There are some funds remaining and the intention is to improve the changing facilities at Stirling Road but the remainder of the budget is not enough to do this so we are trying to find funds	None

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
			elsewhere.	
Online respondent	Larbert and Stenhousemuir Area Strategy	Focus on the areas that do not have public amenities for young children, eg North Broomage. Kinnaird Village has enough parks within the estate. The play Park in Broomage Park is not suitable for very young children. It needs swings etc....	Our proposals for play provision are set out at section 4.9 of the Strategy. Paragraph 4.9.6 indicates that we will aim to provide play equipment to serve three age groups (toddlers, juniors and teens) within our remaining playspaces.  Broomage Park has been identified as one of fifty seven parks and open spaces which are priorities for quality improvement. It is one of thirteen priority 2 projects. Improvement of play provision at Broomage Park may form part of the improvement project.	None
Online respondent	Larbert and Stenhousemuir Area Strategy	The Tryst Golf Course and fair area is centrally located with good access to Kinnaird and Stenhousemuir, including its town centre so green network path/ cycle access and biodiversity improvements, in association with the golf club would benefit club members and local residents.	Action MGNT.24 is to investigate opportunities to improve the quality, function and diversity of open space corridors running alongside the How Burn and Chapel Burn. Creating better cycle path connections would certainly improve functionality in line with the aims of this action. It would be useful, however, to clarify that improvements to the connectivity to and within these open space corridors should also be investigated.	Delete action MGNT.24 from the Priority Action table in the Larbert and Stenhousemuir Area Strategy (section 5.7) and replace with: <i>“MGNT.24 – Investigate opportunities to improve quality, function, connectivity and diversity of open space corridors running along the Chapel Burn and the How Burn”</i>
Online respondent	Larbert and Stenhousemuir Area Strategy	New open spaces and key path links at the new residential areas at Kinnaird should be designed to have houses fronting onto them for passive surveillance and good design.	An outline masterplan was approved for the Kinnaird area in 2006. The masterplan included housing fronting onto new open spaces and key path links	None
Online respondent	Larbert and Stenhousemuir Area Strategy	There is a need for a MUGA and open space in the new residential area at Hill of Kinnaird to cater for teenagers to be located adjacent to a street so parents, friends and the police can drive by to supervise.	Section 4.9 of the Strategy sets out our proposals in relation to Play Provision. Paragraph 4.9.9 indicates that future MUGA provision is unlikely to be driven as a priority need through capital bids but future opportunities via external funding will be welcomed.  Paragraph 4.9.6 indicates that we will aim to provide play equipment to serve three age groups (toddlers, juniors and teens) within our remaining playspaces. Action MPLAY.15 indicates that we will identify which of our remaining portfolio of playspaces need investment to ensure that they provide play equipment to serve three different age groups.	None
Online respondent	Larbert and Stenhousemuir Area Strategy	Is there any scope for a LEAP or NEAP in the wooded park near Sainsburys at Kinnaird?	The wooded park near Sainsburys at Kinnaird is not owned by the Council but it does contain a play area.  Section 4.6 of the Strategy sets out our proposals for promoting community involvement in parks and open spaces. Paragraph 4.6.8 of the Strategy indicates that support will be given to communities wishing to set up their own group linked to open space. If the community want to pursue plans to provide a better equipped play area in this park then they would be best to form themselves into a recognisable/ constituted group and we will be able to work with them to identify what funding might be available to achieve their goals.	None
Online respondent	Larbert and Stenhousemuir Area Strategy	Further biodiversity and access enhancements to Larbert Loch would benefit local residents and patients/ staff of the hospital.	Comments noted. Larbert Loch is not identified as a priority for quality improvement in the Strategy as it was assessed as being of good overall quality in the fitness for purpose assessment carried out as part of the open space audit.	None

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
			<p>This area is managed by Forestry Commission Scotland and comments have been passed to them for their consideration. Response to follow.</p>	
Online respondent	Larbert and Stenhousemuir Area Strategy	Ensure that the playparks are properly maintained and upgraded as necessary. Crownest Park suffers from continual vandalism. There is a need to educate the local community on what is being done for them and what they have available.	<p>Maintenance of Council managed play spaces are subject to the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Weekly visual inspections – (any issues reported for action to playground fitter)</li> <li>2. Monthly mechanical inspection (playground fitter) minor repairs &amp; mechanical maintenance .</li> <li>3. Annual independent inspection –condition survey and advised actions.</li> </ol> <p>Repainting is done slightly differently with a hit-list of the worst affected sites addressed annually . The number of sites we manage to repaint is subject to the available maintenance budget which is variable due to budget strain e.g. vandalism repairs year by year.</p> <p>The Open Space Strategy will have a role in informing the community about what the Council is doing in relation to parks and open space and what facilities they have available.</p> <p>The Council is in the process of developing a litter strategy which will establish a corporate approach for dealing with the issues of dog fouling, littering and vandalism.</p>	None
Online respondent	Larbert and Stenhousemuir Area Strategy	Syminton park in carronshore has been neglected for years. This is a huge park with very little age appropriate items in it. They are in need of serious upgrading/replacing. This park is used by a lot of kids mainly in the summer to play football in even though there is no sports facilities available the kids usually use there cloths for goals. I think this park would be ideal for a multi sports equipment installed which would serve the local kids' needs.	<p>The open space audit identified Symington Park (site reference 822) as being of poor quality, but it is not identified as a priority for quality improvement in the draft Larbert and Stenhousemuir Area Strategy.</p> <p>Two nearby parks (Gairdoch Park and Chapelburn Park East) are identified as priorities for quality improvement in the draft Strategy but even their improvement would not bring residents in the Symington Place area within a 400m walk of a good quality open space.</p> <p>Symington Park should therefore be added as a priority for quality improvement.</p> <p>The playspace within Symington Park has been identified as potentially surplus to requirements as there are an abundance of playspaces in the local area with nearby places at Gairdoch Park and Burnside Park.</p> <p>Section 4.9 of the Strategy sets out the Council's proposals for play provision. Paragraph 4.9.9 indicates that it is unlikely that the provision of new multi-use games areas will be an investment priority due to their significant upfront costs, however if external funding opportunities become available then they may be supported.</p>	Identify Symington Park (ref 822) as a priority for quality improvement in the Larbert and Stenhousemuir Area Strategy and the Parks Development Plan with a priority 2 strategic/thematic priority.



Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
Online respondent	Larbert and Stenhousemuir Area Strategy	Needs more consultation with residential properties situated on public right of ways, not just land owners. We are the fairy litter pickers even though Falkirk Council cannot provide domestic refuse collection from my property. Cyclists, walkers, unauthorised vehicles leave ridiculous items of litter. Maybe we could get a rebate on our council tax for lack of service and assistance in collecting rubbish from your public right of ways??? Reply would be appreciated.	Need to narrow down where this representation came from in order to reply. The litter strategy/ outdoor access team could be asked to provide a response once we've narrowed down which right of way is being talked about.	None
Online respondent	Larbert and Stenhousemuir Area Strategy	Drainage so they can used all year. Get the community involved in making this work by local action groups	Section 4.6 of the Strategy sets out our proposals for promoting community involvement in parks and open spaces. Paragraph 4.6.8 indicates that the Council will provide support to communities wishing to set up their own group linked to open space.	None
Online respondent	Larbert and Stenhousemuir Area Strategy	Provision of a new play space in the east antonshill area would be excellent. it is something that the area needs and would be well used by residents.	Comment noted. The Larbert and Stenhousemuir area strategy recognises that the East Antonshill area is deficient in access to an open space containing a playspace and action MPLAY.13 indicates that we will investigate opportunities to provide a new playspace here. This action is one of thirteen similar actions to develop new play facilities in areas of identified need. It is one of eight priority 4 actions under this strategic objective.	None
Online respondent	Larbert and Stenhousemuir Area Strategy	I think the lido area of stenhousemuir does not require a great deal of attention at present as there is a good quality play space and park to the rear of stenhousemuir library	Comment noted. The Lido has been identified as one of fourteen key open space assets across the Council area where it is proposed that masterplans be prepared to guide future improvements. It is one of five priority 2 actions under this strategic objective.	None
Online respondent	Larbert and Stenhousemuir Area Strategy	Ensure parks have rubbishy bins and dog waste bins.	The Council is in the process of developing a litter strategy which will establish a corporate approach for dealing with the issues of dog fouling, littering and vandalism.	None
Online respondent	Larbert and Stenhousemuir Area Strategy	Find those who abuse the facilities in play parks and open spaces	The Council is in the process of developing a litter strategy which will establish a corporate approach for dealing with the issues of dog fouling, littering and vandalism.	None
Online respondent	Larbert and Stenhousemuir Area Strategy	We're blessed with some great open spaces. Main issue is repairing damaged childrens' playground equipment and preventing vandalism, littering and dog mess.	<p>The Strategy proposes that we provide a smaller number of better quality playspaces across the Council area. This rationalisation process should allow resources to be concentrated on better maintaining the remaining playspaces.</p> <p>Amongst those who responded to the citizen's panel questionnaire issued in advance of the preparation of the Consultative draft Strategy roughly one third rarely or never used parks or open spaces. The most commonly stated reason was that there was too much dog mess.</p> <p>To recognise this one of the proposals of the Strategy is to make investment decisions which encourage people to improve their health by increasing their use of parks and open space. To achieve this one of the actions contained within the Parks Development Plan (MUSE.01) is to tackle dog fouling.</p> <p>The Council is in the process of developing a litter strategy which will establish a corporate approach for dealing with the issues of dog fouling, littering and vandalism.</p>	None
Online	Larbert and	Also, fantastic cycle/walking routes have now been created but	One of the proposals of the Strategy is to make investment	None

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
respondent	Stenhousemuir Area Strategy	linking (to lengthen circular routes) and maintaining are would be great.	decisions which encourage people to improve their health by increasing their use of parks and open space. Action MUSE.04 seeks to encourage people to walk or cycle to parks and open spaces There are a number of actions within the Strategy which seek to improve the connectivity of parks and open spaces.	
Online respondent	Larbert and Stenhousemuir Area Strategy	Add some of the wooden climbing equipment similar to the Helix play area would be good in this area.	Section 4.9 of the Strategy sets out our proposals in relation to Play Provision. Paragraph 4.9.6 indicates that we will aim to provide play equipment to serve three age groups (toddlers, juniors and teens) within our remaining playspaces. Action MPLAY.15 indicates that we will identify which of our remaining portfolio of playspaces need investment to ensure that they provide play equipment to serve three different age groups.  If it appears that the Larbert and Stenhousemuir area is deficient in access to a playspace which contains equipment suitable for the three age groups, then actions to rectify this will be investigated.	None
Online respondent	Larbert and Stenhousemuir Area Strategy	Plant more trees!	Comments noted. Fifty seven parks and open spaces have been identified as priorities for quality improvement. A further fourteen parks and open spaces have been identified as key open space assets where masterplans for improvement will be prepared. Additionally there are a further thirty five opportunities to develop a high quality, multi-functional green network. The planting of more trees is bound to play a part in a number of these improvement projects.	None
Brightons Community Council	Polmont Area Strategy	We are particularly interested in maintaining the existing open areas in the Brightons, Rumford and Maddiston areas, particularly Quarry Park, Wallacestone area and California Road, Maddiston parks.	Comments noted	None
Online respondent	Polmont Area Strategy	Small play parks in housing areas are no longer maintained such as the play park in Douglas Avenue, Brightons I used to play in this all the time when I was young and now it is littered with glass.	This obsolete play space has been out of commission for 2 decades or more. It wasn't included within the 2013 open space audit due to its small size (0.13ha)  The land is It is currently under an estates management maintenance regime for basic maintenance.	None
Polmont Woodlands Group	Polmont Area Strategy	leave certain areas of parkhill with no grass cutting - creating wildflower meadows & reducing areas that the council have to maintain/cut	One of the proposals of the Strategy is to identify those parks and open spaces where high intensity maintenance regimes are necessary to maintain an appropriate image and lower intensity maintenance regimes would be more appropriate to save money and enhance value for wildlife. Action EMAN.01 is to commission a study to achieve this.	None
Online respondent	Polmont Area Strategy	Do not interfere in any of them except to keep the grass cut.	Comment noted.	None
Online respondent	Polmont Area Strategy	Ensure there is a mix of play equipment to suit older children as well as toddlers.	Section 4.9 of the Strategy sets out our proposals in relation to Play Provision. Paragraph 4.9.6 indicates that we will aim to provide play equipment to serve three age groups (toddlers, juniors and teens) within our remaining playspaces. Action MPLAY.15 indicates that we will identify which of our remaining portfolio of playspaces need investment to ensure that they provide play equipment to	None

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
			serve three different age groups.	
Online respondent	Polmont Area Strategy	Maintain and make welcoming the routes for cycle/walk etc. The John Muir Way signage has encouraged us to use some paths.	One of the proposals of the Strategy to make investment decisions which encourage people to improve their health by increasing their use of parks and open space. Action MUSE.04 seeks to encourage people to walk or cycle to parks and open spaces. Maintaining and making the routes welcome are likely to be one of the ways we do this.	None
Online respondent	Polmont Area Strategy	at the welfare park the changing rooms need updated aswell as all the changing facilities in the area also the actual playing field at welfare park needs a proper drainage system and returned.	<p>The Welfare Park hasn't been identified as a priority for quality improvement in the Strategy. Nonetheless £10k of the money set aside for open space improvements following the Council's decision to build houses on the former Maddition Primary School playing fields money has been assigned for improving drainage on this site.</p> <p>Unfortunately the updating of changing facilities at the Welfare Park isn't considered to be affordable in the current financial climate with the limited financial resources available to the Council, a restricted range of external funding opportunities and the other competing priorities for sports pitch and pavilion improvements.</p>	None
Online respondent	Polmont Area Strategy	Provide decent sports surface and good play area	<p>Section 4.9 of the Strategy sets out our proposals in relation to Play Provision. Paragraph 4.9.6 indicates that we will aim to provide play equipment to serve three age groups (toddlers, juniors and teens) within our remaining playspaces. Action MPLAY.15 indicates that we will identify which of our remaining portfolio of playspaces need investment to ensure that they provide play equipment to serve three different age groups.</p> <p>The Strategy aims to ensure that people live within a 1200m walk of an open space containing a sports area. Each year the Council allocates a limited amount of its budget for improvements to the sports pitches across the area. This budget is supplemented by any money the Council has received through the planning process which has been specifically earmarked for the improvement of sports pitches. Officers then apply this budget to their annually updated prioritised list for repairs and improvements.</p>	None
Larbert, Stenhousemuir and Torwood Community Council	Rural North Area Strategy	I would welcome any involvement by the Council to improve existing parks and open spaces. I live in Torwood where no play park areas are available but the residents are under constant threat from the Council to destroy our woodland areas where many of our local community make good use of this area with dog walking, bike tracks etc. Upgrading paths signage etc would be a step in the right direction to making good use to the woodland.	Comments noted. The improvement of the quality of the Torwood is identified as a priority of the Strategy.	None
Airth Parish Community Council	Rural North Area Strategy	The village green at Dunmore should not have paths in it, it is what it says a VILLAGE GREEN.	Dunmore village green has been identified as a priority for quality improvement. It is one of fifty seven priority quality improvements identified across the Council area and is one of twelve priority 1 quality improvements. Further consultation on exactly how to improve the village green will be carried out when the project comes within the Council's improvement works programme.	None
Airth Parish	Rural North Area	Two sites in Dunmore were not included, The Woodyard and the	These open spaces will be flagged up as having potential for	None

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
Community Council	Strategy	grassed area as you enter the village.	inclusion within the next Council wide open space audit. If they are included within the audit it will mean that the rate of open space provision in Dunmore would be likely to rise above the 5ha/1000people standard	
Airth Parish Community Council	Rural North Area Strategy	436 This site should be reserved for the extension to the Cemetery	This is being actively considered by the Council's Cemetery Development Group.  Any safeguarding for a cemetery extension would have to be explored through the review of the Council's Local Development Plan.	None
Airth Parish Community Council	Rural North Area Strategy	437 We agree to drainage and upgraded paths, it also needs toilets and changing facilities.	Airth recreation ground (reference 437) has been identified as a priority for quality improvement. It is one of fifty seven parks and open spaces identified as priorities for quality improvement across the Council area and is one of eighteen priority 4 quality improvements. Further consultation on exactly how to improve the village green will be carried out when the project comes within the Council's improvement works programme.	None
Airth Parish Community Council	Rural North Area Strategy	705 There is access from Sneddon Place and access on the bottom road to the Castle.	Comments noted. An additional entrance point will be added before any future accessibility analysis is carried out. The addition of these new entrance points would not have increased the number of households in Airth with access to good quality open space.	None
Airth Parish Community Council	Rural North Area Strategy	708 In the Spring this is a beautiful site with mass planting of crocuses, open space should be left with a vista into the village, no seats are required.	Comments noted. A note will be added to the appropriate site audit sheet. The open space at South Green Drive (ref 708) has not been identified as a priority for quality improvement.	None
Airth Parish Community Council	Rural North Area Strategy	713 Play equipment was previously sited here but had to be removed because of security issues.	Comments noted. A note will be added to the appropriate site audit sheet. The open space at Airth Health Centre (ref 713) has not been identified as a priority for quality improvement.	None
Airth Parish Community Council	Rural North Area Strategy	715 No paths required, benches would be appreciated.	Comments noted. A note will be added to the appropriate site audit sheet. The open space at Shore Road (ref 715) has not been identified as a priority for quality improvement.	None
CGI	Rural North Area Strategy	CGI believe that actions MGNT.25 (providing a new circular route between North Broomage and Denny via Torwood) and MQUAL.33, MNATREG08 (improving the quality of the Torwood) are very important.	Comments noted.	None
LST CC	Rural North Area Strategy	The Iron Age broch at Torwood should be developed as a site of interest. It is currently being allowed to degenerate to a pile of rubble in the trees. The walk to the broch might be upgraded to allow public to walk to the site.	The broch sits on top of the hill within the woodland south / west of Torwood village. The woodland is in private ownership . There has been some work to create mountain bike trails through the woodland and a number of waymarker posts have been installed to help people find their way from the Larbert/Denny to Torwood path ( at the Torwood Castle end of the woodland) to the Broch .  Action MGNT.25 of the Parks Development Plan is to investigate opportunities to provide a missing link in the core path network to enable a circular route between North Broomage and Denny via Glenbervie and Torwood. Further path upgrading to the broch could potentially be considered as part of this action but discussions with the landowner and Historic Environment Scotland would need to take place first.	None

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
RSPB Scotland	Rural North Area Strategy	MGNT. 31 Create missing link in the Round the Forth Foreshore Path between Airth Sewage Works and Dunmore. This project has previously been considered through the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the suite of projects identified for the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative in 2013. Given the knowledge that currently exists for bird usage of this section of the inner Forth SNH could not say beyond reasonable doubt that the path upgrade or solely promotion of the path would not affect the integrity of the Firth of Forth SPA. The HRA also considered mitigation proposals, but it was found that this would be extremely difficult to achieve and therefore this project could not go ahead. Unless further information is collected to help inform another HRA, then any proposal of this nature would continue to have an unsuccessful outcome.	This project, which mirrors green network opportunity GN04 “Kincardine-South Alloa” in the Falkirk LDP, was considered through the HRA of the LDP. The HRA was able to establish through an appropriate assessment that the opportunity would not adversely affect the integrity of the Firth of Forth SPA either alone or in combination with other plans or projects but recognised that minor residual effects arising from increased recreational opportunity; disturbance due to construction and water pollution would still occur. The opportunity as expressed within the LDP includes a caveat to ensure that for permission to be granted any proposals for new access routes must be accompanied by project specific information to inform an appropriate assessment.	None
Airth Parish Community Council	Rural North Area Strategy	Flowerbeds for the village green at Dunmore, this is a Conservation Village and we have many tourists, all the houses round the green are grade 2 listed. Previously play equipment was installed, after many objections by villagers it was removed.	Dunmore village green has been identified as a priority for quality improvement. It is one of fifty seven priority quality improvements identified across the Council area and is one of twelve priority 1 quality improvements. Further consultation on exactly how to improve the village green will be carried out when the project comes within the Council’s improvement works programme.	None
Online respondent	Rural North Area Strategy	Falkirk Council should invest in the protection (along with other key partners) historical sites such as the 2000+ year old Tappoch which is situated in the Torwood. Protection of this ancient woodland for the residents and future generations of Larbert, Stenhousemuir and beyond. Given the amount of house building in this area which has resulted in the depletion of available open space.	The Torwood has been identified as a priority for quality improvement. It is one of fifty seven priority quality improvements identified across the Council area and is one of twelve priority 1 quality improvements. Torwood is privately owned so the Council will have to work in partnership with the landowner and the local community to devise an appropriate scheme of improvement.	None
Online respondent	Rural North Area Strategy	By seeking to protect the wood land around Torwood which is subject to development pressure. In recent years woodland has been lost to the new fishery and associated house, to licensed and unlicensed felling and to new house building. The woodland provides the best most natural play space for children, better than a man-made play park. The council should seek to maximise its use for educational purposes e.g. School walks, bug hunts, litter picks, bird watching, visits to the castle and broch to learn about local history. I am sure the 2 landowners would be pleased to see the woodland used in this way. It is a wonderful resource on our doorstep.	The woodland around Torwood is protected by the Council’s Local Development Plan (LDP) as an area of countryside where only limited specific development is permitted. See policies CG01, CG03 & CG04 of the LDP.  The Torwood has been identified as a priority for quality improvement. It is one of fifty seven priority quality improvements identified across the Council area and is one of twelve priority 1 quality improvements. Torwood is privately owned so the Council will have to work in partnership with the landowner and the local community to devise an appropriate scheme of improvement. Comments relating to natural play are noted. Enhancement of the natural play function of the Torwood could potentially address the deficit in access to an open space containing a playspace in Torwood village and could form part of the improvement project within the wood.	None
RSPB Scotland	Rural South Area Strategy	MGNT.35- New greenspace specifically managed for use by Bean Geese (and not made available for public recreational use) to be created as part of the Hillend Farm housing development site in Slamannan. During the last Falkirk LDP consultation, RSPB Scotland made a representation relating to H70 Housing Development at Slamannan, that any development on this site could have an impact on the bean geese of the Slamannan Plateau SPA and it is likely to require a Habitats Regulations Appraisal and should accord	Habitat Regulations Appraisal of the proposed housing development at Hillend Farm (H70) was carried out as part of the LDP preparation process. The need to manage the fields to the north of the proposed development site for the potential benefit of wintering Taiga bean geese was identified as a specific mitigation measure to reduce the potential impacts of the development.	None

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		with proposed Policy GN03. We are not aware that any planning applications have been made nor has a Habitat Regulations Appraisal been carried out for the site. Therefore, it is inappropriate to state and indeed misleading that a greenspace would be created for use by the geese, as your Policy GN03 would need to be followed to determine the outcome of any development; any mitigation or compensation that would be required should come through this process.	<p>Taking this and other mitigation into account, the HRA <i>was</i> able to establish through an appropriate assessment that the opportunity would not adversely affect the integrity of the Slamannan Plateau SPA either alone or in combination with other plans or projects but recognised that minor residual effects arising from recreational disturbance; disturbance during construction (depending on the timing of works) and operation ; and disturbance from increases in vehicular traffic.</p> <p>It is therefore neither inappropriate nor misleading to state that a greenspace would be created for use by bean geese as this was specific mitigation identified through the appropriate assessment at LDP stage.</p>	
Online respondent	Rural South Area Strategy	I have already stated about the park in Limerigg. As I live at the top of the hill on the main road in Limerigg there is no open space where my children can play on their bikes or scooters safely and the play park is in a state. The local children are missing out on socialising outwith school hours as there is lack of places to do this. I am lucky enough to be a car driver who can take my children out with the area but this does not help them be independent or active within their own local community. I would be willing to help raise funds of the council would be willing to assist in a new play park and open space which is vital to the children of this community.	<p>The open space at Slamannan Road Playingfield (ref 416) contains a sports area and a playspace with 8 separate pieces of play equipment and a mini multi use games area (MUGA).</p> <p>4 pieces of play kit &amp; the MUGA Court have been installed in recent years and represent interest from toddlers to teens, These items have a forecast of circa 5yers + useful life left.</p> <p>4 aged items circa 25 to 50 years old represent the balance of play kit. Of these 2 climbing units are currently coming to the end of their useful life and are likely to be removed from service this year .These 2 units will be replaced by one frees standing metal slide and a small rotating item .</p> <p>The remaining two aged swingsets are serviceable and are on the repainting programme for play equipment, this year.</p> <p>When the site was audited in February 2013 the quality of cleanliness and maintenance was judged as being good and the site was considered to have good overall fitness for purpose. The site has not been identified as a priority for quality improvement in the Strategy.</p> <p>Section 4.6 of the Strategy sets out the Council's proposals for promoting community involvement in parks and open spaces and paragraph 4.6.8 indicates that support will be given to communities wishing to set up their own group linked to open space.</p>	None
A&S CC	Rural South Area Strategy	Ensure that the existing facilities are accessible and maintained i.e. the River Avon Heritage Trail, sections are completely impassable which causes frustration and disappointment.	Central Scotland Green Network Trust who act on behalf of both Falkirk Council and West Lothian Council are currently undertaking a programme of improvements and maintenance along the full length of the River Avon Heritage Trail, which should see the problematic areas addressed and make the full route open and free from obstruction.	None
Friends of Dollar Park	Rural South Area Strategy	Continue with the green network project	Support welcomed.	None
Online respondent	Rural South Area Strategy	Limerigg has not been mentioned once in the proposed plans. It has a lot of children in the community that are losing out on	Limerigg is well provided for in terms of access to open space: Almost all of the households within the village are within: a 400m	None

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		<p>somewhere to socialise with friends and play on their bikes safely therefore missing out on much needed social and communication skills. The forest walks are also not very good. Something needs to be done in the area and I will be willing to help but the council needs to firstly recognise that there is a need for this community. Many of the children in this area have never once visited the Falkirk Wheel or the Helix which shows transport is an issue and they need play areas which are easily accessed in their own area!</p>	<p>walk of a good quality open space; an 800m walk of an open space containing a playspace; a 1200m walk of an open space containing a sports area and a 1200m walk of a natural/ semi natural open space.</p> <p>The only open space standard which the village falls short on is in access a reasonably sized (&gt;0.2ha) park or amenity space. Only 74.7% of households are within a 400m walk of one which compares to a Council wide average of 85.7%. As only 23 out of 91 households in the village are slightly outside the 400m standard it wasn't considered appropriate to develop new park or amenity space within the village.</p> <p>The Strategy aims to address inequality and foster community through open space investment and proposes to give investment priority to those areas and open spaces which need improving the most. When compared against the wider Council area Limerigg is not one of these areas of need.</p> <p>Should the local community wish to get involved in the management and improvement of parks and open spaces in the village, then the Council will provide officer support at a reasonable and sustainable level.</p>	
CGI	Appendix 5	Open space audit scores: We have noted the Denny Area Sites Audit Scores which were completed in 2012-2103. We are aware that a number of improvements have already been made to some of the open spaces since these audit scorings were completed. We have noted the example of Herbertshire Castle Park in Appendix 5. CGI would welcome the opportunity to discuss the assessment criteria and scoring especially in relation to Cultural Heritage and Local History and Community Involvement including Primary Factors.	Officers have discussed this issue with CGI. CGI were of the opinion that cultural heritage and local history should be recognised as a primary factor affecting the fitness for purpose for Herbertshire Castle Park given the park's historical significance. This seems to be a reasonable request.	Amend the site audit sheet for Herbertshire Castle Park (ref 104) to indicate that cultural heritage and local history is a primary factor affecting fitness for purpose.
Sportscotland	Appendix 5	There is reference on page 13 to Dollar Park tennis courts being unusable in the winter months - it is assumed that this reference comes from the 2013 Pitch Strategy. There does not appear to be a solution to this issue, and in relation to this, it would be helpful to clarify the type of facilities that are included within the 'sports area' definition – i.e. just pitches and playing fields, or all other types of outdoor sports facility that could be categorised as open space, such as cricket, bowls, or tennis?	<p>Tennis courts are not recognised within the sports area definition. We accept that a clarification of the definition would be useful.</p> <p>For information the tennis courts at Dollar Park have been upgraded and are now suitable for play in all weathers.</p>	<p>Amend section 3 of appendix 5 to clarify the definition of an open space containing a sports area.</p> <p>Delete the 7<sup>th</sup> bullet point of the "Facility-related Issues" at paragraph 4.7.2.</p>
SNH	Allotments	One theme that appears to be missing from the Open Space Strategy is allotments (apart from a single brief reference in para. 4.3.1). Allotments are a unique form of open space that can help the aim of "Addressing inequality and fostering community through open space investment". Allotments promote both physical exercise and healthy eating. Additionally they can bring communities together and act as a focus for "friends" groups, integrate with formal and informal education, and can help in	Allotments are primarily dealt with by Falkirk Greenspace – A Strategy for our Green Network which contains a number of priority actions under the theme of "Community Growing" and a related objective "to review allotment provision and other community growing opportunities within Falkirk Council area." The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 also places a duty on the Council to prepare a food growing strategy for the area which identifies the land the Council considers may be used as	Delete 8 <sup>th</sup> bullet point in paragraph 4.5.2 and replace with: <i>"Can the open space be brought into functional use to meet a need identified in the open space strategy or the food growing strategy?"</i>

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		engaging with some particular groups of people, e.g. those with physical or mental health issues or people who are out of work. It would therefore be good to see allotments more on the agenda in Falkirk. In particular, where there is considered to be surplus open space, allotments may be a suitable alternative use (e.g. para 4.5.2 “Can the open space be brought into functional use to meet a need identified in the open space strategy?”). Alternatively the creation of allotments could be targeted at the areas of greatest need, i.e. communities suffering from the greatest inequalities. This could integrate with, and add value to, other programmes targeting such issues, e.g. health and physical activity initiatives. Allotments can also be integrated with school curricular activities, again promoting healthy lifestyles and teaching important skills to young people.	allotments, identify other areas the community could use for cultivation and how the Council intends to increase the provision or allotments or such other areas of ground. In these circumstances we consider that it would be inappropriate for the Open Space Strategy to pre-empt the proposed review of allotment provision and the preparation of the food growing strategy. Nonetheless we accept the point that allotments may be a suitable alternative use for potentially surplus open space and will amend the Strategy accordingly to reflect this.	
LST CC	Allotments	When we were looking at space around FVRH, the use of ground for allotments was discussed. No suitable space was found, but there is clearly a market for allotments. Rather than just creating housing, space for allotments might be considered to enrich the lives of the community.	Allotments are primarily dealt with by Falkirk Greenspace – A Strategy for our Green Network which contains a number of priority actions under the theme of “Community Growing” and a related objective: “to review allotment provision and other community growing opportunities within Falkirk Council area.” The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 also places a duty on the Council to: prepare a food growing strategy for the area which identifies the land the Council considers may be used as allotments; identify other areas the community could use for cultivation; and how the Council intends to increase the provision or allotments or such other areas of ground.  This issue can be looked at as part of the preparation of the forthcoming Food Growing Strategy	None
Online respondent	Allotments	The Strategy should take account of the need for the Council to provide community growing spaces to meet local need, in line with legislation.	Community growing is primarily dealt with by Falkirk Greenspace – A Strategy for our Green Network which contains a number of priority actions under the theme of “Community Growing” and a related objective “to review allotment provision and other community growing opportunities within Falkirk Council area.” The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 also places a duty on the Council to prepare a food growing strategy for the area which identifies the land the Council considers may be used as allotments, identify other areas the community could use for cultivation and how the Council intends to increase the provision or allotments or such other areas of ground. In these circumstances we consider that it would be inappropriate for the Open Space Strategy to pre-empt the proposed review of allotment provision and the preparation of the food growing strategy.	None.
Online respondent	Fields in Trust	It would be good if Fields in Trust status was described in the strategy and parks with this status highlighted in the document.	Comment noted. Adding a short section to the Strategy on Fields in Trust and the parks with protected status seems reasonable.	Insert new paragraph after paragraph 4.5.1 as follows:  There are currently 14 Fields in Trust (7 King George V Fields, 6 Queen Elizabeth Fields and 1 Centenary Field) across the Council area which have legal protection to ensure that these valuable



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				<p>community fields are protected for existing and future generations. These Fields in Trust cannot be identified as surplus to requirements and are shown within the various area strategy maps in section 5.</p> <p>Insert new footnote in section 4.5:</p> <p><i>“The rationale of Fields In Trust and more in depth details on the individual Fields classification, status and value can be found on <a href="http://www.fieldsintrust.org">www.fieldsintrust.org</a>”</i></p> <p>Introduce new “Fields in Trust” designation into the various Area Strategy Maps on section 5 for the following parks:</p> <p>Overton Park, Redding; Crownest Park, Stenhousemuir; Valley Park, Westquarter; McLaren Park, Stenhousemuir, Stenhouse Park, Stenhousemuir; Carronvale Road Playingfields, Larbert; Stewartfield Park, Larbert; Gairdoch Park, Carronshore; Sunnyside Playing Fields, Falkirk; Douglas Park, Bo’ness; Avonbridge Park; Duncan Stewart Park; Bonnybridge and Herbertshire Castle Park; Dunipace; Zetland Park, Grangemouth.</p>
CGI	Fields in Trust	Herbertshire Castle Park has been given Fields in Trust status. Fields in Trust status should be included in the strategy and Falkirk Council parks with this status highlighted in the document.	Adding a short section to the Strategy on Fields in Trust and the parks with protected status seems reasonable.	See above
Polmont Woodlands Group	General Comments	Keep up the good work	Support welcomed	None
Online respondent	General Comments	Admirable that the strategy has been put together - think it's important you actively engage with the community to promote the strategy's existence and aims. It will be key to have the understanding and support of local communities in the limitations of investment in the current climate.	Comment noted. The finalised and approved Strategy will be widely publicised in due course.	None
Online respondent	General Comments	The report reflects my thoughts about the area in which I live- lots of great play areas, cycle tracks and pathways from Bonnybridge east but not much in our area. There was a big consultation a few years ago in the Community centre about our area but nothing	Comment noted.	None

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
		much has improved since opinions sought then.		
Online respondent	General Comments	Confused as to which are run by council and what is run by Falkirk Community Trust	Falkirk Community Trust manage Callendar Park, Helix Park, Kinneil Estate and Muiravonside Country Park. They also manage Grangemouth Golf Course and any bookable sports pitches.  It would be appropriate to add a short section to the Open Space Strategy to clarify this matter.	Insert the following sentence between the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> sentences of paragraph 1.3.1: “ Falkirk Community Trust for example manages Callendar Park, Helix Park, Kinneil Estate and Muiravonside Country Park. They also manage Grangemouth Golf Course and any bookable sports pitches.
Friends of Dollar Park	General Comments	Good quality green spaces are an essential element of urban neighbourhoods and make a profound contribution to the quality of life of communities. My main concern is with the drastic budget cuts can a lot of the proposed strategies be implemented and to much reliance on the voluntary sector and friends groups to achieve end results.	Comment noted. In the current budgetary circumstance it will take a long time for the Council to carry out all of the actions in the Parks Development Plan, however with increased partnership working with external organisations and community groups the Strategy should maximise the amount of investment that can be made even with our currently constrained budgets.	None
Online respondent	General Comments	Having read through the document, it reads more like an excuse to sell of land for housing and other developments rather than to improve the quality of life of local residents.	Comment noted.	None.
Online respondent	General Comments	keep up the good work	Support welcomed.	None
Friends of Dollar Park	General comments	At our last meeting the consultative draft was discussed in detail and the general consensus was that the concept of the strategy was to be commended.	Support welcomed	None
Friends of Dollar Park	General comments	Concern was expressed with regard to the implementation especially with the recent savage budget cuts.	Comment noted.	None
Friends of Dollar Park	General Comments	A recent report “Learning to Rethink Parks” published jointly by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Big Lottery Fund and Nesta bring together insights and lessons from a previous report “Rethinking Parks” is excellent in complementing the Strategy re: alternative funding. Have you had an opportunity to look at the report?	Learning to Rethink Parks was published in February 2016 at the tail end of the consultation period so it wasn’t able to influence the draft Strategy. Nonetheless the Strategy already embraces many of the principles espoused by the key findings of the report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public parks need to diversify their funding sources to meet size of cuts;</li> <li>New partners and people will contribute to parks; and</li> <li>Cost savings needn’t be at the expense of people’s enjoyment of parks</li> </ul>	None
Larbert, Stenhousemuir and Torwood Community Council (LST CC)	General Comments	While the strategy is comprehensive in dealing with open spaces, that comprehension itself may have deterred people from contributing. The document is vast and requires considerable time and effort to understand what is being said.	Comments noted. We received 239 responses to our online survey and a further 11 written responses to the consultative draft Strategy. This is considered to be a reasonable level of response to what is quite a high level strategic document.	None
LST CC	General Comments	There also needs to be more consideration of open space within new housing developments. It is difficult to see how open space can be produced other than in new developments. It makes it all the more unsatisfactory when the Kinnaird area continues to build on without much in the way of consideration being given to open space. We would contest the report when it states that Kinnaird is over provided with open space. There may be open space but not space that can be made much use of.	Open Space within new development is given specific consideration within the Council’s Local Development Plan Supplementary Guidance SG13 “Open Space and New Development” This will be reviewed to reflect the standards and policies contained within the Open Space Strategy once it is finalised and approved by the Council.  It is perhaps over simplifying things to say that the Strategy states	None

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			that Kinnaird is over provided with open space. The Strategy identifies a number of playspaces within Kinnaird and the Inches which are potentially surplus to requirements i.e. their loss would not decrease the amount of households within an 800m walk of an open space containing a playspace, however it also identifies that much of the Kinnaird area isn't within a 1200m walk of an open space containing a sports area.	
LST CC	General Comments	While the creation of play areas is welcomed, perhaps the Council might consider the creation of a town farm or similar to attract people. The animals at Muiravonside are always an attraction for smaller children, and indeed, for those looking after the children. Perhaps something on those lines might be possible. As with all such initiatives vandalism is a major issue and security would have to be a major concern.	The Council is required to produce a Food Growing Strategy, it may be that this idea can be explored as part of that Strategy's remit.	None
LST CC	General Comments	It would be good to think that perhaps something of our industrial heritage might be put to good use. The Carron Dams are now a Wildlife sanctuary but some positive attractions could be made by replicating something of the history. There are other sites in the area that might link up to create a major attraction.	<p>Opportunities for the interpretation of the industrial heritage of parks and open spaces is best considered at an individual park level. This can be explored further during the preparation of individual parks masterplans for our key open space assets or at the design phase of projects at the parks and open spaces which have been identified as priorities for quality improvement.</p> <p>Strategically this issue is perhaps best considered through the Council's Tourism Strategy or its Built Heritage Strategy.</p> <p>The Tourism Strategy was most recently updated in 2015 and already proposes to provide enjoyable and marketable experiences through cultural and heritage tourism. Making more of our industrial heritage would align with this proposal.</p> <p>The Council's Built Heritage Strategy is currently under review with public consultation planned in late 2016.</p>	None
LST CC	General Comments	There has clearly been much work put in to the strategy document. The document is so comprehensive it has defeated many residents in making any sort of meaningful comment.	The Strategy is indeed comprehensive but this reflects the complexity of the issues surrounding the management development and maintenance of parks and open spaces. Notwithstanding this 83% of respondents to the online survey indicated that they understood the Open Space Strategy. In all we received 239 responses to the online survey and this has enabled a wide range of meaningful comments to be made. Larbert and Stenhousemuir residents made up approximately 15% of the total number of respondents.	None
LST CC	General comments	The Community Council however, remains unclear how the definition of open space is arrived at. The figures seem to show that there is adequate open space in Larbert and Stenhousemuir while we are of the opinion that that is not the case. The fact that a private golf course and a cemetery are included as accessible space shows that the figures do not provide a true representation. We do not, of course, contest the figures for Torwood which show there are no open spaces.	Comments noted, these have been previously addressed in our responses to different comments made by LST CC.	None
Banknock, Hags and	General Comments	We welcome the work done and methodical approach adopted.	Support welcomed	None

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Longcroft Community Council (BHL CC)				
RSPB Scotland	General Comments	We very much welcome the new vision and in particular the inclusion of encouraging these spaces to have significant ecological value and helping to mitigate climate change. This is further emphasised in point 6 of the section 'Delivering the Vision' which states "We will change the management of the parks and open space resource to: exploit opportunities to further the conservation of biodiversity; and reduce overall flood risk". These areas could easily deliver for these two aims and together provide an excellent sustainable solution and opportunity for communities to learn and engage with these topics.	Support welcomed	None
SNH	Clarity and presentation	Area Strategies - the colour coding in the local area strategies can be misleading, where green represents "above the Falkirk mean" and red "below the Falkirk mean". It would be more useful to allow at least a 5-10% buffer above and below the mean. Thus, those factors scoring close to the mean would not be marked as green or red. This would provide a more accurate visual representation highlighting an area's real good and bad points rather than those that are only marginally better or worse than average.	This seems to be a reasonable suggestion	In the analysis content subsection of the table at section 5.1 delete the 2 <sup>nd</sup> sentence and replace with: <i>"Where the area performs 10% or more above the Council average the indicator is shaded green, where it performs 10% or more below the Council average the indicator is shaded red and where is performs within 10% of the Council average the indicator is un-shaded."</i>
Online respondent	Clarity and presentation	The strategy is very detailed with a lot of complex information making it difficult to easily read and understand.	Comment noted.	None
Online respondent	Clarity and presentation	All of it was unclear	Comment noted	None
Online respondent	Clarity and presentation	I merely skimmed through it. With more time to read, it might have been clearer. It is by its nature a bureaucratic document.	Comment noted	None
Online respondent	Clarity and presentation	Too many figures, percentages & not enough easy to understand, short, concise sentences explaining purpose.	Comment noted	None
Online respondent	Clarity and presentation	It was waaaaay too detailed for me. I appreciate that you're being thorough but as someone who isn't working on this project all the detail and jargon is too much to wade through. It's also a huge PDF which is hard to read even on my laptop on a broadband connection.	Comment noted	None
CGI	Online survey	CGI considers that there is bias in the wording used in some of the questions in the online survey	Surveys are used to gather mostly quantitative data from a relatively large number of respondents. This means that the majority of questions are closed, i.e. they have a prescribed range of available answers. A common fault of surveys is that some questions can be leading, i.e. there is a very limited range of answers. Respondents are effectively pushed into selecting an answer they aren't comfortable with or not answering the question at all. Our online survey does not have that issue: a. Where there are a limited number of available responses, we include an 'Other, please specify' field (see Question 6, for example). b. We allow for multiple responses to questions where	None

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			<p>appropriate (again, see Question 6).</p> <p>c. We use Likert Scales, which allow for a neutral response ('Neither agree nor disagree' or 'No opinion').</p> <p>d. We don't use binary questions, i.e. people can answer 'Yes', 'No' or 'Don't know'.</p> <p>e. We only use mandatory questions where absolutely necessary, thus people can opt not to answer questions.</p> <p>f. We ask a question asking if people have any other questions about parks and open spaces.</p> <p>g. Limited options may be presented because resources are limited. That is stated very clearly in the main document and the introductory paragraph for the survey itself.</p>	
Online respondent	Online Survey	Some of the questions in the survey are very open, could be read in various ways, and do not give room to expand one's answer.	<p>Surveys generally use mainly closed questions, this is because asking too many open ended questions increases the time it takes to complete a survey and thus reduces the number of complete responses.</p> <p>To counterbalance this the online survey asks the open ended question, 'Do you have any other comments about parks and open spaces?' and a significant amount of issues were raised in this way. Respondents were also encouraged to write to us if they had any other issues that they wanted to raise</p>	None
SNH	Environmental Report	We have concerns that because environmental assessment of the individual area strategies and the actions within them has not been carried out as part of the Environmental Report, some actions which have the potential to impact on the Firth of Forth Special Protection Area (SPA) or the Slamannan Plateau SPA, in particular by causing disturbance to migratory birds, will require further assessment	<p>Comment noted. Further assessment has since identified that the following actions have the potential to disturb migratory birds associated with the Firth of Forth SPA or bean geese associated with the Slamannan Plateau SPA:</p> <p>MVAL.02 – Expand the Kinneil Estate Masterplan to incorporate Bo'ness Foreshore and Kinneil Foreshore;</p> <p>MNATREG.05 – Improve the quality of Bo'ness Foreshore East;</p> <p>MNATREG.07 – Consider temporary greening at Bo'ness Foreshore West;</p> <p>MGNT.05 – Carry out landscape and access improvements along the length of the John Muir Way;</p> <p>MGNT.22 – Create new habitat along the coastline to the north of the River Carron to support Firth of Forth SPA species;</p> <p>MGNT.31 – Create a missing link in the Round the Forth Foreshore Path between Airth Sewage Works and Dunmore;</p> <p>MGNT.33 – Improve the access network along the River Avon upstream from Avonbridge to Slamannan;</p> <p>MGNT.35 – Create new greenspace specifically managed for bean geese at Hillend Farm, Slamannan; and</p> <p>MQUAL.36 – Improve the quality of the open space at Ferry Road, South Alloa.</p> <p>Habitats Regulations Appraisal has subsequently been carried out and consulted on with SNH which demonstrates none of these proposals will have a likely significant effect on either the Firth of Forth SPA or Slamannan Plateau SPA so long as the following mitigation measures are implemented:</p>	<p>Delete action MQUAL.36 from the Rural North Area Strategy and the Parks Development Plan</p> <p>Add the following wording to the context/detail column of actions MVAL.02; MNATREG.05; MNATREG.07; MGNT.05; MGNT.22; and MGNT.31 in the Parks Development Plan:</p> <p><i>"The programming of any works on site should be timed to avoid disturbance of migratory birds associated with the Firth of Forth Special Protection Area."</i></p> <p>Add the following wording to the context/detail column of actions MGNT.33 &amp; MGNT.35 in the Parks Development Plan:</p> <p><i>"The programming of any works on site should be timed to avoid disturbance of migratory birds associated with the Slamannan</i></p>

Respondent	Subject	Comment	Proposed Response	Proposed change to OSS
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Works are restricted to ensure that they don't coincide with the bird wintering period;</li><li>• Appropriate Assessment is carried out on the expanded masterplan for Kinneil Estate which demonstrates that proposals can be implemented without causing adverse effects on the integrity of the Firth of Forth SPA either alone or in combination with other plans or projects; and</li><li>• Action MQUAL.36 is deleted.</li></ul>	<p><i>Special Protection Area."</i></p> <p>Add the following wording to the context/detail column of action MVAL.02 in the Parks Development Plan:</p> <p><i>"Appropriate Assessment of the expanded masterplan should be carried out which should demonstrate that proposals can be implemented without causing adverse effects on the integrity of the Firth of Forth SPA either alone or in combination with other plans or projects"</i></p>

## **Appendix 2**

### **Finalised Open Space Strategy**

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 The value of parks and open space

1.1.1 Parks and open spaces are vital to the quality of the urban environment and the physical and mental health of its residents, they can also provide valuable wildlife habitat. They help to define a sense of place within settlements, contribute to their landscape structure and provide areas for recreation and physical exercise. Where linked into networks, parks and open spaces can be extremely valuable for active travel and can form corridors through which wildlife can migrate through the urban area. Parks and open space also have a role to play in sustainable flood management, providing areas for flood water to go without adversely impacting houses or businesses.

### 1.2 Progress made since 2010

1.2.1 The Council recognises the value of its parks and open space and has delivered an investment programme over the last five years guided by its Open Space Strategy and its Parks Development Plan focussing on:

- setting up Falkirk Community Trust to manage our high profile parks;
- creating and establishing the Falkirk Helix;
- improving the quality of the 7 Core Parks previously identified in the 2003 Culture and Leisure Strategy;
- improving the quality of the poorest quality play areas; and
- installing Multi Use Games Areas at several locations around the Council area

1.2.2 Significant investment has been made in the parks and open space resource by the Council and its partners in every one of the last five years. Total investment by all partners<sup>1</sup> over that period is shown in table 1 below:

	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
Total excluding the Helix	£505,000	£2,067,000	£2,750,000	£3,542,000	£4,840,000
Total	£2,805,000	£5,067,000	£19,150,000	£20,052,000	£8,640,000

**Table 1: Investment in Parks and Open Space.**

1.2.3 Although the quantity of open space across the Council area has remained broadly the same since 2010, the quality of open space across the Council area has significantly improved. The average score of open spaces in the fitness for purpose assessment carried out as part of the audit of open spaces has improved: in every area other than Bonnybridge and Banknock; at all levels of open space importance (national, regional, settlement and neighbourhood) and in all functions of open space (park and amenity, playspace, sports area and natural/ semi natural). Further details are contained within appendix 2

### 1.3 The purpose and scope of the Open Space Strategy Review.

<sup>1</sup> Partners include BIG Lottery Fund, Forestry Commission Scotland, Central Scotland Forest Trust, the Central Scotland Green Network Trust, Falkirk Environment Trust, LEADER, Sportscotland, Scottish Canals, NHS Forth Valley, Callender Estates and SUSTRAN.



1.3.1 The responsibility for managing, maintaining, protecting and regenerating the parks and open spaces across the Falkirk Council area is shared between different Council Services and other organisations such as Falkirk Community Trust, the Forestry Commission, NHS Forth Valley, Scottish Canals and Callendar Estates. Falkirk Community Trust for example manages Callendar Park, Helix Park, Kinneil Estate and Muiravonside Country Park. They also manage Grangemouth Golf Course and any bookable sports pitches. With such a range of organisations involved there is the need for a single strategic document to:

- provide a unified vision for the future of the parks and open space resource across the Council area;
- outline the challenges that we face if we are to realise the vision
- set shared objectives which will overcome these challenges; and
- set out a detailed action plan which outlines the actions that need to be taken to achieve the shared objectives.

1.3.2 This review will amalgamate and replace two existing Council strategies, the Open Space Strategy 2010-2015 and the Parks Development Plan 2008-2011.

## 1.4 Strategy Structure

1.4.1 The structure of the Open Space Strategy and Parks Development Plan is outlined in table 2 below:

Section Name	Content
Section 2 - Vision	This section reviews the vision contained within the previous Open Space Strategy and develops a vision for the future of the parks and open space resource.
Section 3 - Delivering the Vision - Summary	This section summarises the Council's proposed key decisions in relation to parks and open space investment presented under the four key themes of the vision.
Section 4 - Open Space Standards and Policies	This section reviews the open space standards set out in the previous Open Space Strategy and sets out policies that will apply to: the level of support the Council will offer community organisations; parkland and open space being considered for sale; and the destination of proceeds from the sale of such land.
Section 5 - Area Strategies	This section outlines an indicative Spatial Strategy for each settlement across the Council area setting out what open space improvements should be made and what the priorities for open space improvement are.
Appendix 1 – Delivering the Vision	This appendix breaks down the vision into its four key themes; analyse the strategic choices that relate to each theme; and contains a narrative which explains why the Council's has decided on its proposed approach to each strategic choice.
Appendix 2 - Context	This appendix describes the policy context the Open Space Strategy and Parks Development Plan will sit within. It also summarises the findings of the Council's second open space audit carried

	out between 2013 and 2015 summarising how much open space there is, what quality it is and how it is distributed.
Appendix 3 - Parks Development Plan	This appendix contains a 5 year action plan for implementing the Open Space Strategy identifying which service of the Council (or which external organisation) is responsible for delivering each action and identifying partner organisations to aid delivery.
Appendix 4 – Pre consultative draft consultation report	A report of the findings of the programme of pre-consultative draft consultation.
Appendix 5 – The open space audit and fitness for purpose assessment	An explanation of how a fitness for purpose assessment was carried out on the parks and open spaces surveyed as part of the open space audit.
Appendix 6 – Accessibility standard review	Involves a review of the accessibility standards of the 2010 Open Space Strategy and consideration of different options for changing them

**Table 2: Strategy Structure**

## **2. Vision**

### **2.1 Previous Vision**

2.1.1 The vision of the 2010 Open Space Strategy was:

*“to secure the long-term improvement to the quality and accessibility of Falkirk’s open spaces, so that they can provide a truly sustainable and diverse resource for the benefit of the communities they serve.”*

### **2.2 Developing a new vision for our parks and open spaces**

2.2.1 A policy development panel was convened to oversee the review of the Open Space Strategy and Parks Development Plan. The policy development panel undertook a programme of consultation to inform the preparation of the consultative draft open space strategy and parks development plan. The programme involved consultation with elected Members, national and local organisations with an interest in parks and open spaces, Council officers working with parks and open spaces and the general public. A report of this pre-consultative draft strategy consultation programme can be seen at appendix 4.

2.2.2 In drawing together the findings of the programme of consultation four key themes emerged which were considered to be important for the open space strategy and parks development plan to address:

- Modernising our parks and open spaces;
- Addressing inequality and fostering community through open space investment;
- Working and investing more efficiently; and
- Generating capital and revenue for investment in parks and open space.

2.2.3 We have developed the previous vision to encompass these four key themes and deliver the greatest environmental benefit. This vision will guide the direction of the open space strategy and parks development plan:

*“Our parks and open spaces will be high quality, well used and well connected and will provide a modern, sustainable and diverse resource which will: improve the health and enrich the lives of the communities at the heart of them; be of significant ecological value; and help to mitigate the effects of climate change”*

### **3. Delivering the Vision**

#### **3.1 Summary**

3.1.1 To deliver the vision of the Open Space Strategy we propose to make the following proposals under each of the four key themes.

##### Modernising our parks and open spaces

1. We will invest in our poorer quality parks and open spaces where there is no better quality alternative provision nearby; (See actions MQUAL.01-48 in the Parks Development Plan)
2. We will invest in the parks and open spaces which are particularly valued by the local community; (See actions MVAL.01-14 in the Parks Development Plan)
3. We will maintain investment and revenue budgets in the higher level open spaces which serve a more strategic function and raise the tourism profile of the Council area; (See section 4.11 in the Open Space Strategy and actions MNATREG.01-08 in the Parks Development Plan)
4. We will invest in a rationalised, more modern portfolio of play and sports facilities to improve overall play and sports development value; (See sections 4.7 and 4.9 in the Open space Strategy and actions MSPOR.01-18 and MPLAY.01-13 in the Parks Development Plan)
5. We will make investment decisions which encourage people to improve their health by:
  - increasing their use of parks and open spaces; and
  - walking or cycling to parks and open spaces. (See actions MUSE.01-04 in the Parks Development Plan)
6. We will change the management of the parks and open space resource to:
  - exploit opportunities to further the conservation of biodiversity; and
  - reduce overall flood risk (See section 4.8 in the Open space Strategy and actions MNAT.01-04 in the Parks Development Plan)
7. We will promote improvement projects which help to develop a high quality, multi-functional green network which will provide a range of benefits for people, businesses and wildlife and to the ecological status of water bodies across our area. (See actions MGNT.01-35 in the Parks Development Plan)

##### Addressing inequality and fostering community through open space investment

8. We will give investment priority to those areas and open spaces which need improving the most (See actions MQUAL.01-48; MVAL.01-14; MNATREG; MPARK.01-19; MPLAY01-13; MSPOR01-18; and MSEM.01-02 in the Parks Development Plan)
9. Building on recent work in establishing “friends” groups and the exemplar of community partnership working at Forth Valley Royal Hospital, we will actively encourage the increased involvement of community groups in the management

and improvement of parks and open spaces (See section 4.6 in the Open Space Strategy and action I&CCOM.01 in the Parks Development Plan)

10. When preparing individual parks masterplans, formulating proposals for park improvement and improving play facilities, where appropriate, we will aim to maximise access for all groups including wheelchair users. (See actions MQUAL.01-049; MVAL.01-14; MNATREG01-08; MPARK01-19; MPLAY01-14; MSPOR01-18; and MSEM.01-02 in the Parks Development Plan)

#### Working and investing more efficiently

11. We will identify those parks and open spaces where: high intensity maintenance regimes are necessary to maintain an appropriate image; and lower intensity maintenance regimes would be more appropriate to save money and enhance value for wildlife. (See action EMAIN.01-02 in the Parks Development Plan)
12. To ensure that investment can be focussed on providing good quality local provision within a reasonable walking distance, we will revise minimum walking distance standards to the different functions of open space (public park or amenity space, playspace, sports area, natural/semi natural open space). (See section 4.3 and Appendix 6 of the Open Space Strategy)
13. Where an area is not within the minimum walking distances to the different functions of open space (park or amenity space, playspace, sports area, natural/semi natural open space), we will:
  - promote the provision of new open space within new development sites. (See actions EACC.01-09 in the Parks Development Plan)
  - encourage wider unrestricted public access to privately managed sports facilities (See actions EACC.10-11 in the Parks Development Plan)
  - introduce new facilities into existing open spaces (where possible this could be funded through developer contributions.)
  - Create new entrances to existing open spaces which shorten travel time; (See action EACC.12 in the Parks Development Plan) and;
  - Create missing links in the local path network which shorten travel time. (See action EACC.13 in the Parks Development Plan)
14. We will develop a set of projects and priorities help to:
  - deliver the vision of the Open Space Strategy and Parks Development Plan;
  - deliver the aims of other related Council strategies; and
  - align with the priorities of external funding partners. (See Parks Development Plan)

#### Generating money for investment in parks and open space.

15. We will explore opportunities to generate money for investment in park and open space improvement and maintenance through:
  - Seeking appropriate alternative uses for parks and open spaces which are no longer needed; (See section 4.5 of the Open Space Strategy and action GINV.01 of the Parks Development Plan)
  - building on our impressive track record of partnership working to lever grant funding from other organisations; (See Parks Development Plan)

- charging for the commercial use of parks and open space whilst safeguarding their free use by community groups; (See section 4.4 of the Open Space Strategy and action GINV.02 of the Parks Development Plan)
- Developing a business case to commercialise appropriate parts of the park and open space resource (See section 4.4 of the Open Space Strategy and action GINV.03 of the Parks Development Plan)
- using innovative fund raising methods. (See action GINV.04 of the Parks Development Plan)

3.1.2 A detailed explanation of: the strategic choices we face; the rationale behind making the decisions we propose to make; and the actions we will take to implement these proposed decisions is contained within appendix 1.

## 4. Standards and Policies

### 4.1 Park and Open Space Quantity

4.1.1 The Council's open space audit included 632 parks and open spaces across the Falkirk Council area. Each site was allocated to an individual town or village which allowed us to gain an understanding of how much open space there is within each settlement. Table 3 below shows the results of the open space audit:

Settlement Area	Number of open spaces	Area of Open Space (Hectares)	Population (2013 mid year estimate)	Hectares of open space/1000 people 2013
Bo'ness	48	243.7	14,531	16.8
Bonnybridge and Banknock	82	127.8	12,424	10.3
Denny	51	154.5	13,184	11.7
Falkirk	124	795.0	38,886	20.4
Grangemouth	33	100.1	17,269	5.8
Larbert and Stenhousemuir	109	223.6	25,498	8.8
Polmont Area	97	274.0	22,308	12.3
Rural North	21	70.9	2,691	26.3
Rural South	61	458.6	7,178	63.9
Rural Villages	82	529.5	9,869	53.7
Urban Settlements	550	1919.4	144,100	13.3
<b>Falkirk Council</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>2448.9</b>	<b>153,969</b>	<b>15.9</b>

**Table 3: Quantity of open space**

Quantity Standard: Each community should have access to open space at a rate equivalent to 5 hectares per 1000 people.

Quantity Policy: If the quantity of open space within any community is below 5 hectares per 1000 people (currently Avonbridge, California, Dunmore, Shieldhill and Skinflats fall below this level) then:

- 1) The sale of Council owned open space will not be supported unless it results in replacement provision of equal or greater size.
- 2) Planning applications which would result in the loss of open space will not be supported unless they enable replacement provision of an equal or greater size, or there is particular support for the development within the local community, or material considerations outweigh the need to retain the open space.

For the avoidance of doubt, "open space" refers to any open space surveyed as part of the Council's open space audit. These open spaces are shown on the individual area strategy maps in section 5.

## 4.2 Parks and Open Space Quality

4.2.1 As part of the open space audit, an assessment of overall quality (or fitness for purpose assessment) was carried out for 612 of the 632 open spaces. The overall quality of each open space was measured on a scale of 1 to 5 as follows:

- 1 = poor quality
- 2 = fair quality
- 3 = good quality
- 4 = very good quality
- 5 = excellent quality

4.2.2 A detailed description of how the fitness for purpose assessment was carried out is contained within appendix 5. Table 4 below shows that the quality of open space varies across the Council area.

Settlement Area	Number of open spaces	Average score of an open space in the fitness for purpose assessment	Percentage of the total number of open spaces which scored 3.0 or better in the fitness for purpose assessment	Percentage of total area of open space which scored 3.0 or better in the fitness for purpose assessment
Bo'ness	48	2.49	33.3%	69.3%
Bonnybridge and Banknock	82	2.29	15.0%	44.0%
Denny	51	2.48	19.6%	47.9%
Falkirk	124	2.62	36.4%	69.8%
Grangemouth	33	2.55	28.1%	50.3%
Larbert and Stenhousemuir	109	2.38	18.6%	40.5%
Polmont Area	97	2.53	31.3%	66.0%
Rural North	21	2.83	35.0%	5.1%
Rural South	61	2.52	34.4%	84.4%
Rural Villages	82	2.60	34.6%	73.8%
Urban Settlements	550	2.48	26.6%	61.3%
<b>Falkirk Council</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>2.50</b>	<b>27.6%</b>	<b>64.0%</b>

**Table 4 Quality of open space within settlement areas**

4.2.3 Each audited park and open space has been assigned a place in a hierarchy of importance. To decide where to place each open space on the hierarchy of importance we considered whether people would be likely to travel to that open space from across Scotland, from across the Council area, from across the settlement or only from within their neighbourhood to visit. Table 5 below shows how the quality of an open space can vary depending on where it sits in the hierarchy of importance.



Hierarchy Level	Number of sites surveyed	Average Score	Area covered by sites in hectares	Percentage of total sites scored 3.0 or better fitness for purpose	Percentage of total area which scored "good" or better fitness for purpose.
National	23	3.61	356.8	90.0%	98.9%
Regional	26	3.28	957.6	73.1%	84.4%
Settlement	162	2.77	764.3	41.6%	45.9%
Neighbourhood	421	2.27	370.3	15.7%	14.5%

**Table 5: Quality of open spaces at different levels of the hierarchy of importance**

**Quality Standards:**

National and Regional level open spaces should achieve a score of 3.0 or better in the fitness for purpose assessment.

Settlement level open spaces should achieve a score of 2.5 or better in the fitness for purpose assessment

Neighbourhood level open spaces should score 2 or better in the fitness for purpose assessment

**Quality Policy:** The Council will make investment decisions which aim to increase the percentage of open spaces which meet the quality standard appropriate to their place on the hierarchy of importance.

### 4.3 Park and Open Space Accessibility

4.3.1 Each open space surveyed as part of the open space audit has been allocated one or more functions dependent on how it is used, those are:

- Public park or garden
- Amenity open space
- Playspace
- Sports Area
- Natural/ Semi Natural Open Space
- School/ Institution
- Allotment
- Churchyard/ Cemetery

4.3.2 To assess the relative levels of accessibility to parks and open space, we have analysed the distribution of certain functions of open space. This has allowed us to identify what proportion of households within each settlement can access different functions of open space within certain walking distances. Table 6 below shows the results:

Settlement Area	Open space which scores 3.0 or better in the fitness for purpose assessment within 400m (5 minutes walk)	Park or amenity open space bigger than 0.2ha within 400m (5 minutes walk)	Open space containing a playspace within 400m (5 minutes walk)	Open space containing a sports area within 800m (10 minutes walk)	Natural/ Semi Natural Open Space within 1200m (15 minutes walk)
Bo'ness	75.0%	98.8%	63.1%	80.0%	98.5%
Bonnybridge and Banknock	55.8%	92.9%	75.1%	44.5%	99.5%
Denny	78.8%	90.7%	73.3%	92.5%	99.0%
Falkirk	74.5%	87.5%	68.2%	71.8%	99.4%
Grangemouth	60.5%	78.3%	76.1%	89.8%	86.2%
Larbert and Stenhousemuir	58.1%	90.8%	86.9%	89.3%	99.6%
Polmont Area	66.0%	81.9%	71.9%	72.1%	99.1%
Rural North	59.9%	51.9%	73.8%	79.1%	93.0%
Rural South	24.8%	82.4%	68.5%	86.9%	74.8%
Rural Villages	34.1%	74.3%	69.9%	84.8%	79.6%
Urban Settlements	67.7%	87.9%	73.3%	77.7%	97.7%
<b>Falkirk Council</b>	<b>65.7%</b>	<b>85.7%</b>	<b>73.1%</b>	<b>78.1%</b>	<b>96.6%</b>

**Table 6: Percentage of households within the minimum walking distance of different types of open space by settlement area**

4.3.3 Based on the levels of performance above the Council has decided to set its open space accessibility standards at a level which will drive improvements but which is also realistically achievable in a climate of declining resources. Appendix 6 sets out the accessibility standard review process.

Accessibility Standards:

- 1) People should live no more than 400m (5 minutes walk) from a surveyed open space which scores 3.0 or better in the fitness for purpose assessment.
- 2) People should live no more than 400m (5 minutes walk) from a public park, garden or amenity space of greater than 2000m<sup>2</sup>.
- 3) People should live no more than 800m (10 minutes walk) from an open space containing a playspace.
- 4) People should live no more than 1200m (15 minutes walk) from an open space containing sports area.
- 5) People should live no more than 1200m (15 minutes walk) from a natural/semi natural open space.

The walking distance times noted in the accessibility standards are based on travelling at a rate of 3mph.

Accessibility Policy: The Council will make investment decisions which aim to increase the percentage of households which meet the various accessibility standards set out in the Open Space Strategy.

## **4.4 Commercial Use of Parks and Open Space**

### Charges for the commercial use of parks and open space

4.4.1 Increased use of our park facilities is being made by large commercial organisations or by local small businesses, particularly in the health and fitness sector. Whilst the use of our parks is to be encouraged and supported, such increased use can have an adverse impact on the condition of certain areas. For example local 'bootcamp' sessions which may continually use a particular area will simply lead to additional wear and tear of an area that may affect the overall impression of the open space as a whole. There will then be additional costs to the land manager to repair or reinstate such areas.

4.4.2 To compensate for these additional costs many other local authorities across the country have already introduced specific charges for commercial use of parks and open spaces which they manage. Falkirk Community Trust have also introduced a similar scheme for the 2015/16 financial year. We therefore propose to devise an appropriate scheme of charging for the use of our parks and open spaces by small businesses or commercial organisations (see action GINV.02 of the Parks Development Plan)

### Commercialising our parks and open spaces

4.4.3 Parks and open spaces can provide a very attractive setting within which to do business, particularly because there are a large number of potential customers who use parks and open spaces regularly.

4.4.4 People using parks and open spaces can have their overall experience enhanced by having access to the goods and services which some businesses provide. Examples include cafes and restaurants; adventurous activities like Go Ape; and hire of bicycles and segways.

4.4.5 Many parks and open spaces have buildings, land or other physical resources in them which are either empty or under-utilised. Leasing these resources for appropriate business use will benefit the Council by:

- Improving the security of the sites by increasing the footfall, and hence eyes and ears reporting problems;
- Providing a potential source of revenue for the land manager through rental income;
- Giving start-up businesses a chance to grow thereby improving the local economy;
- Preventing buildings from falling into disrepair through disuse, or providing an opportunity to restore derelict structures/areas.

4.4.6 Given these mutual benefits, we propose to carry out a study to identify what opportunities there are to commercialise the park and open space resource and develop a business case for taking this forward (see action GINV.03 in the Parks Development Plan).

## **4.5 Surplus Parks and Open Spaces**

### Identifying surplus parks and open spaces

4.5.1 There is an abundance of open space across the Council area. At 15.9 hectares per 1000 people, the Council wide rate of open space provision is more than 3 times the proposed 5 hectare per 1000 people standard. It follows therefore that some open spaces could be used for other purposes without causing the overall rate to fall below the 5 hectare standard.

4.5.2 There are currently 14 Fields in Trust (7 King George V Fields, 6 Queen Elizabeth Fields and 1 Centenary Field) across the Council area which have legal protection to ensure that these valuable community fields are protected for existing and future generations. These Fields in Trust cannot be identified as surplus to requirements and are shown within the various area strategy maps in section 5<sup>2</sup>.

4.5.2 In order to identify whether an open space is surplus to requirements or not all of the following factors should be considered:

- Will there be an adverse effect on the character or appearance of the area?
- Will the loss of the park or open space lead to any households no longer being within the maximum walking distance threshold for different functions of open space (set out in section 5.3)?
- Will the loss of the park or open space cause the rate of open space provision within the settlement to fall below 5 hectares per 1000 people?
- Is the area of significant ecological value?
- Does the park or open space have any other important green infrastructure function? e.g. as flood storage or as a carbon sink
- Will the loss of the park or open space threaten the connectivity within and functionality of the wider green?
- Will the loss of the park or open space make it more difficult to manage and maintain remaining open space in the vicinity?
- Can the open space be brought into functional use to meet a need identified in the open space strategy or the food growing strategy?
- Have the concerns of the local community been fully taken account of?
- In the case of open spaces which contain outdoor sports facilities, does the Council's Sports Pitches Strategy show that there is a clear excess of sports pitches to meet current and anticipated future demand in the area and that the site could be developed without detriment to the overall quality of provision?

4.5.3 Rather than trying to decide whether a park or open space is surplus to requirements on an ad hoc basis when an enquiry about an alternative use is received, it is proposed that the Council carries out an exercise to identify surpluses at a settlement wide level and consult with the local community about any surplus parks or open spaces identified. We will only carry out this exercise once the Open Space Strategy and the standards within it have been approved following consultation (see action GINV.01 in the Parks Development Plan).

### Improving existing open spaces through re-use of surplus areas of parkland and open space

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<sup>2</sup> The rationale of Fields In Trust and more in depth details on the individual Fields classification, status and value can be found on [www.fieldsintrust.org](http://www.fieldsintrust.org)

4.5.4 Surplus areas of parkland and open space will be marketed for sale for alternative use. Potential purchasers will be notified of the likelihood that the Council will seek financial compensation through the planning process from development proposals which involve the loss of open space.

4.5.5 The value of compensation for the loss of open space will be determined through the planning process by applying policy INF03 of the Falkirk Local Development Plan and Supplementary Guidance 13 Open Space and New Development i.e. £21/m<sup>2</sup> for loss of passive open space and £42/m<sup>2</sup> for loss of active open space. These rates may be reviewed as part of an updated version of the Supplementary Guidance.

4.5.6 Any compensatory payment for the loss of parks and open space must be spent on: improving existing parks and open spaces; enhancing maintenance (including wildlife and woodland management) of existing parks and open space, or on creating new ones. Any compensation for the loss of an outdoor sports facility must be used to improve existing outdoor sports facilities or to provide new ones. In general the park and open space improvement projects funded by compensatory payments should be of some benefit to the community who have lost the surplus open space and must also comply with the policy tests set out in the Scottish Government's planning circular 3/2012 in relation to: necessity; planning purpose; relationship to proposed development; scale and kind; and reasonableness.

4.5.7 Where an open space improvement project for investment has not been identified at the planning application stage, authority to determine priorities for investment in accordance with the Open Space Strategy will normally be delegated to the Director of Development Services. In general, priorities for investment will be in line with the Council's strategic aims for improving the open space resource as set out in the Open Space Strategy, Core Paths Plan and Falkirk Greenspace Strategy and there will be no need for further consultation with the public.

## **4.6 Promoting Community Involvement in Parks and Open Spaces**

4.6.1 We recognise that the community will want to be involved in the decision making process and in delivering change on key open space sites throughout the area.

### Involving the community in the decision making process

4.6.2 Community input into future plans for individual parks and open spaces is vital and this summary outlines the 'rules of engagement' for this aspect of delivery. Falkirk Council or Falkirk Community Trust as lessees of open spaces owned by Falkirk Council, will inform the public about plans for significant change to open spaces.

4.6.3 The information will be available to everyone, but may be targeted to the communities using an individual site, and could be presented in various formats including

- a) Information signs on site
- b) Articles in local media
- c) Updates on the public websites for the managing body

4.6.4 Where there is the opportunity for the public to influence decisions about proposed changes there will be consultation in advance of planning any work and the views of the community will be taken into account in any decision making. The community cannot always decide what happens on every site as there are legal and budgetary restrictions on activity within open spaces and officers managing open spaces need to balance several functions, of which recreational public use is only one.

4.6.5 Consultation will be open to everyone, but it likely to be targeted to the communities and user groups with the strongest links to the site or the proposed change. The consultation could take many forms including for example

- a) A web based survey, advertised on site and through any existing community groups
- b) Open days on site or at venues near the site
- c) Postal surveys sent to residents
- d) Questionnaires through the community panel
- e) Formal approaches to specific stakeholder groups such as friends of parks groups, access forums, community councils or in the case of outdoor sports facilities, sports users, including clubs and governing body representatives.
- f) Engaging with children through local schools and nurseries to find out exactly what they want.

### Helping the community to deliver change

4.6.6 We recognise the added value local people can bring to plans for park development through volunteering their time either with physical tasks (vegetation clearance, community litter picks) or through fundraising (through fundraising events ; preparing funding bids or taking part in 'Friends of Group' meetings). Volunteering is beneficial both for the sites where community action happens and for the participants. Volunteers can learn practical skills, improve their physical fitness and mental health and gain self-confidence and experience which can help in entering employment.

4.6.7 To encourage and reward volunteering we propose to set up a fund to assist local communities who have formed a recognisable/ constituted group and who wish to fundraise for projects related to their open space which fit with the principles within the Strategy and help deliver recognisable benefits. The fund would support pilot or preparatory work required for a feasible external funding bid, or act as match funding for an agreed external funding bid (see action I&CCOM01 in the Parks Development Plan)

4.6.8 Support will be given to communities wishing to set up their own group linked to open space and officer attendance at meetings will be accommodated at a reasonable and sustainable level.



## **4.7 Sports Pitches and Sports Development**

4.7.1 The provision of sports areas to meet informal local demand and the provision of sports pitches to meet: demand for playing formal organised pitch sports and the area's sports development needs are two separate issues. To meet local demand, we will aim to ensure that every household is within 1200m (15m walk) of an open space containing a sports area (see section 4.3). This section of the strategy deals with the Council's proposed policy for meeting demand for playing formal organised pitch sports and the area's sports development needs.

4.7.2 Strategic issues relating to sports pitches and sports development can be split into two categories those relating to the quality of the facilities available, and those relating to the customer base for these facilities. The strategic issues are as follows:

### Facility-related Issues

- Many football pitches are located in parks and this limits their use at times
- Some football pitches and changing pavilions are too small; many pavilions are also of poor quality and unpleasant to use
- Grass pitches have very low carrying capacity and are often unplayable but require high levels of subsidy
- Investing in grass pitches and changing pavilions to complement them is poor value for money as they require high levels of subsidy
- There is a clear need for more high capacity 3G pitches
- Planning policy may be protecting a number of pitches that are not fit for purpose
- The Dollar Park tennis courts are not usable in the winter months

### Sports Development Issues

- Only a few football clubs are "development-minded" and looking to the future
- Girls' and women's participation is low
- The vast majority of demand is at the weekend so grass pitches lie idle for most of the week and the year
- Many of the football clubs have low membership and are economically fragile
- Players regard the Council's pitches and changing as poor value for money
- The rugby and cricket clubs are self-sufficient but lack the resources they need to improve their facilities and make them fit for the future

4.7.3 The most important strategic decision facing the Council and Trust – and the one with the greatest implications in terms of sports and club development, land use and both capital and revenue costs - is whether to invest in upgrading existing grass football pitches and changing accommodation or to concentrate on developing a strategic network of a limited number of sites with artificial surfaces and good quality changing and ideally social facilities.

4.7.4 Although grass is the traditional playing surface and many players prefer it to an artificial one, investment in grass pitches is not always cost effective as improved drainage can be expensive without increasing carrying capacity significantly. Set against this the arguments in favour of investing in artificial turf pitches are numerous including: they can be used much more intensively; they require a much lower level of public subsidy; their playing condition isn't adversely affected by bad weather; and fewer of them are needed to meet local demand.

4.7.5 It is therefore proposed that the Council and Trust should work to encouraging the development of a network of strategic sports pitch sites, each with at least one floodlit “third generation” (3G) ATP, designed primarily for football, plus one and ideally more floodlit 5 or 7-a-side pitches with 3G surfaces and possibly one or more grass pitches, complemented by good quality changing and other ancillary accommodation, including social facilities. This has the potential to provide teams with much better facilities for weekend matches; to allow more teams to take part in mid-week training and therefore raise standards of play; and to support the development of mid-week leagues, potentially reducing the need for pitches at the weekend. (See action MSPOR.19 in the Parks Development Plan)

4.7.6 In addition the Council should not:

- Facilitate the provision of a new strategic football site to compete with existing nearby privately run sports facilities;
- Directly financially fund youth football clubs without any form of SFA Quality Mark; or
- Enhance grass pitches and related pavilions unless there is a sound economic case for doing so.

4.7.7 Falkirk Council is working with Falkirk Community Trust to agree a strategy for sports pitch provision across the district. The document will identify principles behind determining appropriate quantity, location and quality of sports pitch provision and once adopted will be used as a material consideration in the planning process and to support funding bids with the aim of successfully resourcing the best possible sports pitch facilities for the people of Falkirk.

## **4.8 Reducing Flood Risk**

4.8.1 As part its programme to modernise our parks and open spaces to improve the range of benefits they provide the Council has chosen to change the management of the parks and open space resource to reduce overall flood risk.

4.8.2 The Flood Risk Management Strategy for the Forth Estuary Local Plan District is expected to be published by SEPA in late 2015. It will confirm the immediate priorities for flood risk management in the area as well as setting out the future direction to be taken by all flood risk authorities.

4.8.3 It is likely that the Flood Risk Management Plan will identify a number of locations across the Council area where natural flood management measures such as the creation or restoration of intertidal areas river or floodplain restoration and runoff control actions will help to reduce overall flood risk.

4.8.4 Where the existing park and open space resource can be used to help deliver these measures, the Council will support the use of its parks and open spaces for this purpose.

## **4.9 Play Provision**

### Playspace rationalisation

4.9.1 The Council wishes to review its portfolio of playspaces in the context of rationalising its resources. This focused effort is needed if we are to continue to sustain and improve the overall play value of our playspaces utilising the defined revenue and capital budgets that are available.

4.9.2 To achieve this we propose to increase the accessibility standard in relation to access to an open space containing a playspace from a 5 minute to a 10 minute walk (400m to 800m). As a consequence of this, a large number of existing playspaces, the vast majority of which are Council owned and maintained, can be considered to be potentially surplus to recreational requirements. The potentially surplus playspaces are shown within the area strategies in section 6 of this document.

4.9.3 Of the identified playspaces, a small number of Council owned sites could be removed from services immediately. The core of the remainder would remain in service subject to the following:

- When a play item is heavily vandalised or coming to the end of its useful life, it will be removed from service and not replaced.
- When the playspace has minimum play value e.g. aged or a single active play item only remains in active service it will be considered for removal and the playspace taken off the inventory.
- Sites identified as having a high sustainable cost e.g. repeated vandalism by fire may be considered for priority removal .

4.9.4 The above measures would reduce the strain on both capital and revenue budgets and have a less drastic impact on public expectations than removing the potentially surplus sites in one action. The overall reduction in the number of play items/sites will allow what funds that are available to be targeted more meaningfully.

4.9.5 We recognise that the potential loss of play facilities is a very important issue for local communities. To address this we propose to carry out a comprehensive review of the 69 potentially surplus playspaces identified within the Strategy recommending which of them should be confirmed as surplus to operational requirements. We will then consult communities on the results of this exercise before finalising it. (See action MPLAY.16 in the Parks Development Plan) The review will collect further information on:

- The ownership of the playspace;
- The financial savings which could be gained from playspace removal;
- The operational life and play value of equipment within the playspace;
- The indicative year/month of removal from service;
- The proximity of the playspace to other playspaces in the vicinity; and
- Local issues and considerations of note which indicate that the playspace should be retained.

4.9.6 Where a playspace has been identified as surplus to operational requirements and there is a strong desire within the community not to lose the facility then, under the Community Empowerment Act, the Council will consider requests to transfer the asset to the community where they have organised themselves as a community transfer body. Following transfer, it will be the responsibility of the

community transfer body to manage and maintain the playspace and to raise any funding for its improvement.

#### Standard of play provision in remaining playspaces

4.9.7 In the remaining play areas we will aim to provide play equipment to serve three different age groups (See action MPLAY.14 in the Parks Development Plan):

- months to 4 years (toddler zone);
- to 11 (junior zone); and
- 12 and older (teen zone).

4.9.8 On some sensitive sites e.g. those in very close proximity to residential properties, teen provision may not be considered as part of any potential future development of the playspace.

4.9.9 Where space and funding allows, we will continue to improve the quality and diversity of play in our remaining Council owned playspaces by providing diverse and stimulating new fixed play equipped items with appropriate safer surfacing. These will offer some or all of the following play opportunities: balancing; climbing; rocking; swinging; sliding; crawling; problem solving; and opportunities for social and inclusive play.

4.9.10 Where opportunities and site conditions allow we will also aim to develop and provide natural play features. These will be balanced against the need to minimise sustainable site costs. Natural play differs to fixed play equipped items by taking advantage of utilising natural elements e.g. undulating topography, water, felled timber, sand, glacial boulders and by utilising other natural non manufactured play elements to contribute to the overall play experience. (See action MPLAY.15 in the Parks Development Plan) To avoid stifling opportunities for natural play we commit to not putting up any new “no ball games” signs within our parks and open spaces and will insist on the same within new open space created in association with new development.

4.9.11 Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA) are essentially tarmac court surfaces with integral basketball and football goalsets set in rebound fence enclosures. These have been proven to be popular and valuable assets widening the play experience in several of our parks and open spaces including within school sites that have open public access beyond school hours. These are costly assets to provide but have minimum impact on sustainable costs, therefore any future opportunities via external funding would be welcomed but additional provision is unlikely to be driven as a priority need through capital bids.

#### Standard of play provision in new residential developments

4.9.12 In new developments, where there is not a nearby play facility which could serve the recreational needs of new residents, we will require the provision of new play facilities of a standard and specification matching that which we aim to provide in our playspaces which have not been identified as potentially surplus to requirements.

#### **4.10 Council Ownership**

4.10.1 Details of which parks and open spaces the Council owns are still not comprehensively known. Over the last few years the Council has begun the process of gradually digitising its ownership records and have completed the process for the Bonnybridge and Banknock, Denny & Grangemouth areas as well as for the rural villages, however digitisation of ownership records for the Bo'ness, Falkirk, Larbert and Stenhousemuir and Polmont areas has yet to be completed.

4.10.2 Understanding which open spaces the Council owns is crucial if the aspirations of the Open Space Strategy are to be realised as it will influence:

- where open space improvements can be made;
- where maintenance regimes can be changed; and
- where open spaces can be sold off to finance other open space improvements

4.10.3 To address this, the Council will redouble its efforts to digitise its ownership records and where necessary allocate additional resources to complete the exercise. (See action EMAIN.03 in the Parks Development Plan)

## **4.11 High Profile Parks and Open Spaces**

4.11.1 The setting of the Council area, and the impression visitors gain when they come here, affects their perception of the Falkirk area as a whole and contributes towards the Falkirk 'brand'. Our high profile parks and open spaces have dual functions: helping to serve the recreational needs of the whole of the local population; and contributing to the positive impression visitors, including businesses looking to invest, receive when they come to Falkirk. Key factors affecting place setting are:

- The visitor experience within the site;
- The appearance of sites from key transport routes; and
- The external signage of these sites on key transport routes

4.11.2 Our high profile parks and open spaces are the ones that we would expect people to come from across the country to visit. They have been identified in the hierarchy of importance as national level open spaces (see section 4.2); they are:

- Falkirk Wheel;
- Callendar Park;
- Muiravonside Country Park;
- Helix Park;
- Helix North/Kelpies;
- Kinneil Estate;
- The Forth and Clyde Canal; and
- The Union Canal

4.11.3 The quality of these sites must be retained and improved if the function they serve as adverts for the quality of life are to be safeguarded. A decline in quality on a large site will be harder to reverse, especially if it gathers momentum over several years. In addition any site which has attracted external grant aid must be maintained as detailed in the funding offer to prevent grant being reclaimed and reputational damage for the managing organisation with the funder which could affect future bids for assistance.

4.11.4 Because they receive higher numbers of visitors from a range of areas, including visitors from outside the Falkirk area, investment in maintaining and improving them must recognise the wide range of benefits they provide. Families are more likely to visit for significant periods of time and come from a range of communities not just the neighbouring settlements. Therefore there are a wider range of customers who need to be consulted on when significant change is proposed, and a larger number of residents who benefit from the park. Key facilities these parks may need which other local sites may not include:

- Car parking (these are destination sites and the majority of residents will not live close enough to walk or cycle to them);
- Internal and external signage to ensure the sites are easy to find and navigate within (see section 4.12); and
- Catering and toilet facilities proportional to the number of expected users (people will travel further to these sites and stay longer meaning toilet provision has more of an impact on their experience)

4.11.5 The visitor experience at parks and open spaces along corridors of tourist interest may also need to be reviewed. In addition to the canal network, those corridors are:

- The John Muir Trail; and
- The Antonine Wall



## **4.12 Signage within Parks and Open Spaces**

4.12.1 Signage and notice boards within parks and open spaces are often the only contact that people using them have with the people who are managing and maintaining them. Having clear, high quality signage within parks and open spaces is an important way of presenting a positive image of the Council and of the Council area. It is proposed that all parks and open spaces should have signage at the entrance to the site stating:

- the name of the park or open space,
- who manages it; and
- how to contact them to report problems/raise queries.

### High Profile Sites

4.12.2 For a high profile site (see section 4.11) it is important that visitors as well as residents can find the site and so directional signage on key routes to the park, as well as a clear welcome message at the entrance is important in maximising the impact of the open space. The welcome signage at a high profile site should include:

- information about what can be found within the site;
- a map to help with navigation; and
- information about other nearby places of interest.

4.12.3 Internal signage should not only way-mark visitors around the site but also interpret the natural and man-made heritage of the site and promote routes such as the John Muir Way and features such as the Antonine Wall.

## 5. Area Strategies

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Area strategies have been produced for each of 9 sub areas as defined in the Council's Local Development Plan. These are: Bo'ness; Bonnybridge and Banknock; Denny; Falkirk; Grangemouth; Larbert and Stenhousemuir; the Polmont Area; the Rural North and the Rural South. The area strategies all follow the same structure as follows:

Sub section name	Content
Analysis	This sub-section summarises the findings of the open space audit for the relevant sub area, showing how it performs against some key performance indicators in comparison with the Council average. Where the area performs 10% or more above the Council average the indicator is shaded green, where it performs 10% or more below the Council average the indicator is shaded red and where it performs within 10% of the Council average the indicator is un-shaded.
Relevant objectives	<p>This sub-section lists the relevant strategic objectives which specific actions within the sub area will be trying to achieve. The full list of strategic objectives is as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Investing in the parks and open spaces that are particularly valued by the local community</li> <li>2. Raising the quality standard of our national and regional level open spaces</li> <li>3. Investing in poorer quality parks and open spaces where there is no better quality alternative provision</li> <li>4. Developing new play facilities in areas of identified need</li> <li>5. Developing new sports areas in areas of identified need</li> <li>6. Developing new park or amenity open space in areas of identified need</li> <li>7. Developing new semi natural space in areas of identified need</li> <li>8. Improve the green network in and around the Council area by improving open space sites, corridors and connectivity.</li> <li>9. Rationalise our portfolio of playspaces and sports areas to improve overall quality</li> <li>10. Provide new open space where the rate of open space provision is below the 5ha/1000 people standard</li> </ol>
Priority Actions	<p>This sub-section highlights the specific actions needed within each sub area to achieve the relevant strategic objectives of the Open Space Strategy. Where specific open spaces are mentioned a reference number is quotes in brackets which can be cross referenced to that open space on the indicative spatial strategy map.</p> <p>For each specific action the following details are given: the strategic objectives the action will help to deliver; the agencies who will be involved in delivery and the mechanisms that could be used to fund the action; and the Council wide priority of the action within that particular strategic objective in relation to other actions which also help to deliver that strategic objective<sup>3</sup>. There is also a column for recording the local priority of the action where this has been identified during the consultation process.</p>
Indicative Spatial Strategy	This comprises a map spatially representing the information contained in the sub sections above

<sup>3</sup> The criteria used for prioritisation within each strategic objective are detailed within the Parks Development Plan at appendix 5.

## 5.2 Bo'ness

### Analysis

	Number of surveyed open spaces	Area of open space (hectares)	Rate of open space provision (hectares per 1000 people)	Percentage of total area of open space which scores 3.0 or better in the fitness for purpose assessment	Percentage of households with access to an open space which scores 3.0 or better in the fitness for purpose assessment within a 400m walk (5mins)	Percentage of households with access to a park or amenity space of 2000m <sup>2</sup> or greater within a 400m walk (5mins)	Percentage of households with access to an open space containing a playspace within 800m (10mins)	Percentage of households with access to an open space containing a sports area within 1200m (15mins)	Percentage of households with access to an open space containing a natural/ semi natural open space within 1200m (15mins)
Bo'ness	48	243.7	16.8	69.3%	75.0%	98.8%	97.2%	95.7%	98.5%
FC Area	632	2448.9	15.9	64.0%	65.7%	85.7%	96.9%	92.9%	96.6%

Bo'ness is very well provided for in terms of open space scoring above the Council average in every measure. It has the third highest amount of open space, the third highest proportion of the total area of open space which is fit for purpose and the highest percentage of households with access to parks and amenity space of over 0.2ha within a 400m walk amongst all settlement areas. Its key open space assets have been identified as Kinneil Estate, Bo'ness Foreshore and Kinneil. Despite this high performance the areas of Borrowstoun and Carriden do not have access to an open space containing a playspace within an 800m walk and the area around Borrowstoun Mains does not have access to a sports area within 1200m.

### Relevant Objectives

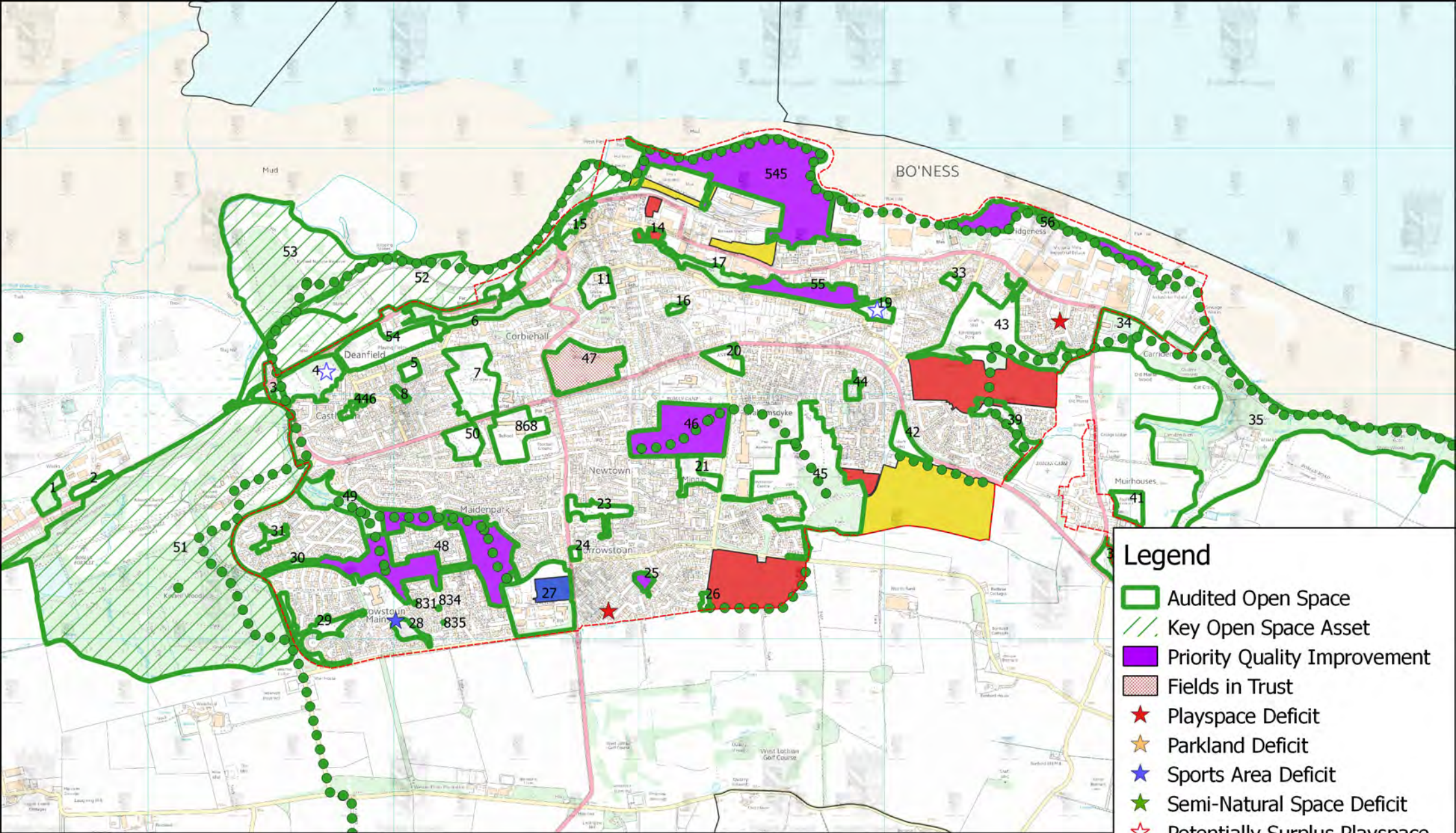
1. Investing in the parks and open spaces that are particularly valued by the local community
2. Raising the quality standard of our national and regional level open spaces
3. Investing in poorer quality parks and open spaces where there is no better quality alternative provision
4. Developing new play facilities in areas of identified need
5. Developing new sports areas in areas of identified need
8. Improve the green network in and around the Council area by improving open space sites corridors and connectivity
9. Rationalise our portfolio of playspaces and sports areas to improve overall quality

## Priority Actions

<b>Action</b> (Parks Development Plan action reference in bold, open space reference number in brackets)	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Agency/Mechanism</b>	<b>Strategic/Thematic Priority</b>	<b>Local Priority</b>
<b>MVAL.01 &amp; 02</b> - Implement Kinneil Estate (51) masterplan and expand masterplan to incorporate Bo'ness Foreshore (52) and Kinneil Foreshore (53)	1,8	Falkirk Council. External funding to be sought	Kinneil Estate: priority 4 Kinneil and Bo'ness Foreshore: priority 2	Top local priority
<b>MNATREG.05 &amp; 07</b> - Improve Bo'ness Foreshore East (56) and consider temporary greening at Bo'ness Foreshore West (545)	2,8	Falkirk Council. External funding to be sought. Improvements at Bo'ness Foreshore East could be delivered in conjunction with mixed use development at Bo'ness Foreshore	Priority 2 Dependent on timing of development	Top local priority
<b>MQUAL.01-03 &amp; 46</b> - Improve open spaces at Maiden Park (48); Newtown Park (46); Victoria Park (55) and Borrowstoun 1 (25)	3,8	Falkirk Council. Developer contributions may be available	Priority 4	
<b>MPLAY.01 &amp; 02</b> - Investigate the potential to create new playspaces in the Borrowstoun and Carriden areas	4	Falkirk Council. Developer contributions may be available to assist	Priority 3	
<b>MSPOR.01</b> - Investigate potential for new sports area in Borrowstoun Mains	5	Falkirk Council	Priority 3	
<b>MGNT.05</b> - Carry out landscape and access improvements along the length of the John Muir Way which runs along the coastline and through Kinneil Estate	8			
<b>MGNT.04</b> - Improve quality, function and diversity of open space corridors within Bo'ness	8	Falkirk Council		
<b>MGNT.01</b> - Develop link between Drum open space (39) Kinningars Park (43) and the Crookies (35)	8	In conjunction with development of Drum Farm North site	Dependent on timing of development	
<b>MGNT.02</b> - Develop green corridor along Drum Farm South frontage	8	In conjunction with development of Drum Farm South	Dependent on timing of development	
<b>MGNT.03</b> - Develop woodland corridor along	8	In conjunction with	Dependent on timing of	

<b>Action</b> (Parks Development Plan action reference in bold, open space reference number in brackets)	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Agency/Mechanism</b>	<b>Strategic/Thematic Priority</b>	<b>Local Priority</b>
urban edge at Kinglass Farm		development of Kinglass Farm 1	development	
Rationalise sports area provision in the Deanfield and Grange areas	9	Falkirk Council		





## Legend

- Audited Open Space
- Key Open Space Asset
- Priority Quality Improvement
- Fields in Trust
- ★ Playspace Deficit
- ★ Parkland Deficit
- ★ Sports Area Deficit
- ★ Semi-Natural Space Deficit
- ★ Potentially Surplus Playspace
- ★ Potentially Surplus Sports Area
- Green Network Opportunity
- Mixed use development
- Housing development
- Economic development
- Idp urban village limit

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## Bo'ness Area Strategy Map



### 5.3 Bonnybridge and Banknock

#### Analysis

	Number of surveyed open spaces	Area of open space (hectares)	Rate of open space provision (hectares per 1000 people)	Percentage of total area of open space which scores 3.0 or better in the fitness for purpose assessment	Percentage of households with access to an open space which scores 3.0 or better in the fitness for purpose assessment within a 400m walk (5mins)	Percentage of households with access to a park or amenity space of 2000m <sup>2</sup> or greater within a 400m walk (5mins)	Percentage of households with access to an open space containing a playspace within 800m (10mins)	Percentage of households with access to an open space containing a sports area within 1200m (15mins)	Percentage of households with access to an open space containing a natural/ semi natural open space within 1200m (15mins)
Bonnybridge and Banknock	82	127.8	10.3	44.0%	55.8%	92.9%	96.2%	71.9%	99.5%
FC Area	632	2448.9	15.9	64.0%	65.7%	85.7%	96.9%	92.9%	96.6%

Although there is an abundance of open space within Bonnybridge and Banknock, it has the lowest average quality, lowest percentage of open spaces which are fit for purpose and second lowest percentage of the total area of open space which is fit for purpose of any settlement area. It is also the only settlement area where the quality of open space has deteriorated between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> open space audits. Improving the quality of open space in Bonnybridge and Banknock should be one of the Council's highest investment priorities. The area has an above average number of households with access to: park or amenity space of over 2000m<sup>2</sup> within 400m; and natural/ semi natural open space within 1200m. Access to fit for purpose open space within 400m and to a sports area within 1200m is well below the Council average and access to an open space containing a playspace within an 800m walk is marginally below the Council average with a notable deficit in north east Bonnybridge. There appears to be localised scope for rationalisation of the portfolio of playspaces in the High Bonnybridge, Milnquarter and Hags areas without reducing the percentage of households which have access to an open space containing a playspace within an 800m walk.

#### Relevant Objectives

1. Investing in the parks and open spaces that are particularly valued by the local community
2. Raising the quality standard of our national and regional level open spaces
3. Investing in poorer quality parks and open spaces where there is no better quality alternative provision
4. Developing new play facilities in areas of identified need
5. Developing new sports areas in areas of identified need

8. Improve the green network in and around the Council area by improving open space sites corridors and connectivity
9. Rationalise our portfolio of playspaces and sports areas to improve overall quality

<b>Action</b> (Parks Development Plan action reference in bold, open space reference number in brackets)	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Agency/Mechanism</b>	<b>Strategic/Thematic Priority</b>	<b>Local Priority</b>
<b>MVAL.03</b> - Develop and implement a joint masterplan for Duncan Stewart Park (397) and Bonnyfield Nature Park (396) and improve the quality of Duncan Stewart Park	1,8	Falkirk Council. External funding to be sought	Priority 1	Top local priority
<b>MVAL.04 &amp; MQUAL.04</b> - Develop and implement a masterplan for Hollandbush Park (404)	1,3,8	Falkirk Council. Developer contributions may be available to assist	Priority 1	Top local priority
<b>MNATREG.01 &amp; 02</b> - Improve the quality of the Bonny Water Corridor (400) and Seabegs Wood (395)	2,8		Bonny Water Corridor: Priority 4 Seabegs Wood: Priority 3	Top local priority
<b>MQUAL.05 &amp; 07-09</b> - Improve open spaces at Anderson Park (401); Reilly Road (393); Anderson Terrace (747) and Ure Crescent 4 (765)	3,8	Falkirk Council. Developer contributions may be available	Priority 2	Improving Anderson Park is a top local priority
<b>MPLAY.03</b> - Investigate the potential to create new playspace in North East Bonnybridge	4	Falkirk Council.	Priority 4	
<b>MSPOR.02,03 &amp; 05</b> - Investigate the potential to create a new sports area in Banknock, Longcroft and the Milnquarter area of Bonnybridge	5	Falkirk Council. Developer contributions may be available to assist	Priority 1	Creating a new sports area is a top local priority in Banknock and Longcroft
<b>MGNT.05</b> - Carry out landscape and access improvements along the length of the John Muir Way which runs along Bonnyside Road, Bridge Street and the Forth and Clyde Canal	8	Falkirk Council, Scottish Canals		
<b>MGNT.06</b> - Develop green corridor along the dismantled Kilsyth to Bonnybridge Railway in Dennyloanhead	8	In conjunction with development at Dennyloanhead	Dependent on timing of development	
<b>MGNT.07</b> - Develop link between the Bonny Water corridor and the Denny to Falkirk footpath	8		Dependent on progress with the Denny-Falkirk path project	



<b>Action</b> (Parks Development Plan action reference in bold, open space reference number in brackets)	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Agency/Mechanism</b>	<b>Strategic/Thematic Priority</b>	<b>Local Priority</b>
<b>MGNT.12</b> - Expand Bonnyfield Local Nature Reserve to incorporate wetland habitat at Parkfoot Moss to the west of the bonded warehouse complex, enhance riparian habitat along the Bonny Water and improve access to LNR via the Seabegs Pend.	8	Falkirk Council, Diageo		
<b>M.GNT08</b> - Develop green corridor along the Rowan Tree Burn	8	In conjunction with development of East Bonnybridge	Dependent on timing of development	
<b>M.GNT09</b> - Develop nature park specifically managed for use by Great Crested Newts in Banknock	8	In conjunction with development of Banknock North	Dependent on timing of development	
<b>MGNT.10</b> - Develop a managed wetland park alongside the Doups Burn corridor in Banknock	8	In conjunction with development of Banknock South	Dependent on timing of development	
<b>MGNT.11</b> - Improve sports area provision at Loch Park (392)	8	Falkirk Council. Sportscotland. Funding to be secured through the sale of Broomhill Park (394)	Short Term, dependant on timing of the sale of Loch Park	
Rationalise play space provision in High Bonnybridge, Milnquarter and Haggs	9	Falkirk Council		
Rationalise sports area provision in High Bonnybridge	9	Falkirk Council		