

Social Spaces

A Strategy for Parks in Hackney

Table of Contents

1.0	Foreword by Councillor Nargis Khan.....	3
2.0	Introduction.....	3
3.0	The Parks Strategy.....	4
4.0	Commitments and Achievements.....	5
5.0	Priority Areas.....	6
6.0	London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.....	9
7.0	Strategy Priority Areas.....	10
7.1	Children and Young People.....	10
7.2	Planning for the Future.....	12
7.3	Conservation and Biodiversity including Nature and Heritage Identification of Areas of Interest.....	13
7.4	Tree Preservation and Management.....	14
7.5	Activities and Events.....	15
7.6	Feeling Safe.....	16
7.7	Green Corridors.....	17
8.0	Partnership Working.....	18
9.0	Key Agencies and the Policy Context.....	20
9.1	National Level.....	20
9.2	Regional Level.....	21
9.3	Local Level.....	21
9.4	The National Context.....	21
9.5	The Regional Context.....	22
9.6	The Local Context.....	22
10.0	The Next Steps.....	23
APPENDICES.....		25
Appendix 1	Open Space by Ward.....	25
Appendix 2	Areas of Open Space Deficiency by Ward.....	26
Appendix 3	Parks and Open Spaces in Hackney.....	26
Appendix 4	Classification of Green Space.....	27
Appendix 5	Hackney – other green spaces.....	28
Appendix 6	Hackney – A Profile.....	29
Appendix 7	Strategic Links.....	30
Appendix 8	Parks and Open Spaces Managed by the Parks Service (in alphabetical order).....	32
Appendix 9	Indicative Action Plan.....	34
Appendix 10	Facilities Planning Matrix.....	45

Social Spaces

A Parks Strategy for Hackney

1.0 Foreword by Councillor Nargis Khan

This strategy outlines the strategic role and use of Hackney's parks, and underlines their importance in the everyday life of local people. It will enable the long-term strategic and structured planning and management of the Borough's parks taking into account their use for organised and informal leisure activities by individuals and groups as well as environmental and heritage considerations.

2.0 Introduction

Parks constitute a vital part of public life and are often referred to as the lungs of an area. Attractive, safe and accessible parks and green spaces deliver social, economic and environmental benefits in addition to improving public health and well being. They make important contributions to our overall quality of life. Hackney's parks are public open spaces where communities mix and enjoy themselves and are a major focal point of community life.

At the same time, parks provide many specific facilities for particular groups – sports players, children and carers, event organisers, nature conservationists and many others. Underpinning this, and of special importance in an inner city area like Hackney, is the pure pleasure of being able to enjoy quiet green open space.

Hackney has some superb parks and, with 467.27 hectares across 255 sites, is comparatively rich in green spaces compared to other London Boroughs. The Council manages 301.21 hectares of green space, including 62 parks. In total Hackney has **twice** as much green space as some of its larger neighbouring boroughs. Green space in Hackney accounts for 16.9% of the total area of the Borough.

Hackney is a culturally diverse Borough which has high levels of deprivation against almost all indicators measured by the government and other agencies. A summary profile of the Borough is given at Appendix 6. Parks have no cultural boundaries and positively encourage social interaction and a sense of inclusion. They also go a long way to improving the environmental quality of the borough by making positive contributions to air and water quality.

In the development of the Community Strategy, parks and green spaces were identified as a priority for Hackney. The Borough has well developed environmental support groups including local user groups, the Hackney Parks Forum, Hackney Environmental Forum, Biodiversity Partnership and Tree Musketeers. The Local Strategic Partnership, Team Hackney has recognised the role of parks and green spaces in enhancing the quality of life for residents. In addition there are a number of agencies who are active in the Borough and which support the natural environment. This strategy sets out our shared priorities for safeguarding, enhancing and developing Hackney's parks.

3.0 The Parks Strategy

The preparation of an Open Spaces Strategy is a requirement for all London Boroughs as part of the London Plan. As such the Parks Strategy plays a significant chapter in the London Borough of Hackney's Open Spaces Strategy which is being prepared by the Neighbourhoods & Regeneration Directorate.

The Parks Strategy is a statement by the London Borough of Hackney that outlines the strategic role and use of parks, taking into account the needs of organised and informal leisure activities, environment, heritage and local groups. It will enable the long-term strategic and structured planning and management of the Borough's parks.

It covers the 62 parks and gardens run by the Parks service, a full list is shown at Appendix 8. There are a range of other open spaces in the Borough which are detailed in Appendix 5. These will be covered in more detail in the Council's Open Spaces Strategy, which will be published in 2008/09.

The strategy sets out the priorities for improving all types of parks in Hackney so that they are more accessible and provide an environment that can enhance the quality of life for local people. These improvements to parks should not be undertaken in isolation. They should be undertaken in consultation and partnership with the owners and controllers of other green spaces in the Borough; including those in housing estates, alongside waterways and adjacent to highways.

The core of the strategy is to ensure that parks play a relevant part in the life of the communities they serve through the contribution they make to fostering better community relationships. This can be achieved through partnership working with local tenants' associations, user groups, voluntary agencies & organisations, and other green space providers such as the Lea Valley Regional Parks Authority.

The strategy recognises that parks, with good planning and management, can perform multiple functions and provide a variety of benefits which cut across the Council's strategic priorities. Hackney's parks have a significant untapped potential to deliver more to those who live, work in and visit the borough.

Hackney's major parks are underpinned with management plans¹ which detail the history, management and future development of the park. Service standards which detail what users can expect are displayed in each park and performance is monitored quarterly.

The strategy confirms the Council's commitment to build on the improvements which have already been made to Hackney's parks and to work with the local community and other green space providers to ensure the availability of a high quality network of green spaces within the Borough.

The vision for Hackney's parks can be summarised as:-

“To ensure that all residents of the Borough have access to safe, well maintained and welcoming parks which enhance their quality of life and increase enjoyment opportunities whilst contributing to health and environmental improvement.”

4.0 Commitments and Achievements

For the past two years Green Flag accreditation has been achieved for Hackney's parks. Two, Haggerston and Clissold have been accredited for some time. In the past two years, in addition to retaining the accreditation for those two sites, additional awards have been achieved for Springfield Park and Hackney Downs. The Borough now has four parks with Green Flag accreditation and, in addition to seeking to retain those awards, will seek accreditation for a further three parks in 2008 and 2009.

The Borough has been successful in attracting significant investment from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the restoration of St John's Churchyard and for the initial phases of the restoration of Clissold Park and Mansion. This endorsement from the Heritage Lottery Fund and English Heritage has matched investment by the Council. Team Hackney has committed funds towards the restoration of the White Lodge, Stables and Glasshouses in Springfield Park.

Partnership working with the Shoreditch Trust has been successful in improving Shoreditch Park and its amenities. The Council is also working with the Abney Park Cemetery Trust on improvements to the Abney Park Cemetery. Other successful partnership arrangements include working with local user groups to further enhance local sites. Examples of such partnership working include the reinstatement of the historic features of Clapton Pond and Well Street Common.

The Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012 will provide an important vehicle for improvements to the playing pitches and changing rooms at Hackney Marshes, the home of grass roots football. The London Development Agency and the Football Foundation will be significant partners in the realisation of

¹ Copies of which can be obtained upon request

these plans over the coming years.

The provision of amenities in parks has been transformed with the opening of the London Fields Lido, the only 50 metre heated outdoor swimming pool in London, together with refurbished Artificial Turf Pitches (ATPs) with floodlighting in Haggerston Park and Mabley Green and refurbished tennis courts across the borough. Shoreditch Park is now home to the only beach volleyball court in the capital.

Investment in children's play equipment has been supported by local park user groups. The groups have actively fund-raised to bring about improvements in their local areas and this has been matched by the Council, together with the undertaking of general improvements to play equipment and the re-opening of the Borough's two paddling pools.

The energy and commitment of local people through park user groups has been an important contribution in undertaking the shared role of stewardship of local parks. The partnership has got us to where we are today and though the Parks Strategy these partnerships will grow to improve and increase delivery against this broader agenda for parks.

Residents' Satisfaction (Ipsos Mori Best Value Survey 2006) with the Borough's parks has increased from 68% in 2003/4 to 73% in 2006/7. This, together with external accreditation of our parks through the Green Flag Awards, gives a very clear signal that the Council, through the Parks Strategy, is building on strong foundations to take forward the stewardship of parks in Hackney.

5.0 Priority Areas

The Parks Strategy is defined by seven key priority areas; these have been identified through consultation with residents and users and each one contributes to the Manifesto for Public Open Space produced by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE). These priority areas are:-

1. Children and Young People
2. Planning for the future
3. Conservation and biodiversity
4. Tree Preservation and Management
5. Activities and Events
6. Feeling Safe
7. Green Corridor

The Parks Strategy and the delivery of its Indicative Action Plan will contribute to the delivery of Hackney's Community Strategy, 'Mind the Gap' and Local Area Agreement outcomes.

These seven priority areas translate into seven key aims:

- Key Aim 1: **To provide children and young people with parks that meet their needs and enhance their quality of life**
- Key Aim 2: **To protect and develop high quality parks and enhance facilities across the Borough**
- Key Aim 3: **To ensure Parks make a significant contribution to conservation and biodiversity**
- Key Aim 4: **To protect and enhance the Borough's tree stock**
- Key Aim 5: **To ensure that Hackney residents of all ages and abilities have the opportunity to enjoy a range of activities and events in Parks**
- Key Aim 6: **To provide Parks that are welcoming and safe to use**
- Key Aim 7: **To link Parks with other green spaces so as to assist in the development of green corridors**

The proper stewardship of Parks within Hackney is a priority for the Council. Significant capital investment has resulted in improvements to parks. The improvement in residents' satisfaction with parks and the four green flag awards demonstrates that the Council's financial investment in its Parks and has led to an overall recognition that their quality has improved.

It should also be recognised that significant improvements, including enhanced planting and infrastructure provision, to green spaces maintained by partners is ongoing as part of a rolling programme.

In addition to capital investment in Parks, the Council is also enhancing management and maintenance regimes so as to improve Parks for the benefit of users, as well as make a positive contribution to the Borough's performance against National Best Value Performance Indicator 199 (Presence of Litter & Detritus in all classes of Open Spaces).

Hackney Homes is seeking differing funding streams and partnerships with community groups to help fund different and new methods of management which will be in accordance with the Tree Policy and Parks Strategy. Hackney Homes has also produced a Biodiversity Policy for the estates which will be congruent with the Parks Strategy.

Resident satisfaction with the estate environment has, over the last three years, been steadily rising and is currently showing a year to date average of 94%. This is a direct reflection of the investment and additional services which have been provided to the estates.

A range of programmes within the Neighbourhood and Regeneration Directorate will complement the implementation of the Parks Strategy. These initiatives include:-

- Contributing to the wider Tree Strategy to ensure that street trees complement those in parks open spaces and are part of a co-ordinated maintenance programme
- Upgrading Highway related spaces, including reviewing soft landscaped and planted areas adjacent to the Public Highway to ensure they can be maintained to the same standards as parks
- Participation by Hackney Streetscene in the Transport for London 'Green Links' Programme which funds upgrades and new links to and through Green Spaces for pedestrians and cyclists
- The creation of pedestrian and cycling links to the Olympic Park – both for the duration of the Games and as a legacy contribution
- Linkages within the Council's Travel Plan and Healthy Walks provided by the Learning and Primary Care Trusts
- Upgrading of walking and cycling routes funded by successful Recreational & Environmental Action Planning (REAP) applications together with the use of Green Spaces for Cycling Training funded by Transport for London.

The Strategy recognises the relationships between the Parks Strategy and other higher level plans and strategies developed by the Council and its partners. To this end, the Parks Strategy will constitute a major pillar of the wider Open Spaces Strategy to be developed in accordance with the London Plan. Future initiatives are being developed from the Open Spaces Assessment undertaken in 2004 in accordance with PPG 17. The following Council Strategies and Plans have explicit links and synergies with the Parks Strategy: -

- Local Development Framework (LDF)
- Hackney Physically Active 2006-2009
- Mind the Gap Community strategy 2006-2015
- Children's Plan
- Play Strategy
- Local Area Agreement
- Biodiversity Action Plan
- Creative Futures
- The Youth Offer
- Community Safety Strategy

The initiatives within the Indicative Action Plan to this Strategy have been defined on the basis of consultation with the users and User Groups of specific sites. They also recognise and support other Strategies relative to the Borough. Of particular significance are the Children's Plan and the Sport & Physical Activity Strategy. Initiatives within the Indicative Action Plan are designed to ensure that Parks make their proper contribution to bringing about improvements to individuals' health and the development of children & young people.

The Strategy also recognises the outcome & recommendations of the 2007 CPA Culture Block Inspection by seeking to more closely align the provision of Parks and activities within them with higher Community Strategy and Team

Hackney objectives.

The Parks Service and the implementation of the Strategy by that service must demonstrate the achievement of Value for Money (VFM) by and on behalf of the Council.

As regards revenue expenditure, the Strategy and the initiatives contained within the Indicative Action Plan can be delivered within existing levels of Budget Provision. However, given the wider financial position it is recognised that the service will need to identify and achieve efficiencies throughout the life of the Strategy and beyond.

The service cannot demonstrate a history or culture of benchmarking or comparison with other organisations. Consequently, it is difficult to comment on its delivery in VFM terms. This has been recognised as an issue and the Parks Service has joined the London Parks Benchmarking Group so as to be able to properly compare performance data both with other organisations and also over time. As the process develops, this data will allow objective judgements to be made as to the levels of VFM delivered by the service.

As regards capital expenditure, a number of the initiatives included within the Indicative Action Plan will be funded by the Council through its Capital Programme. Others will be subject to bids from external funders such as the Heritage Lottery Fund. So as to protect the Council no capital projects will be finally committed to until funds have been secured and no projects will be embarked upon without the Council's procurement policies & processes being strictly adhered to. Fundamentally though, any capital project, be it internally or externally funded, must be able to demonstrate how it delivers against the priorities and objectives within this strategy.

All projects within the Indicative Action Plan will be subject to ongoing review and re-evaluation so as to ensure their delivery accords with the Council's wider strategic objectives.

6.0 London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

In 2012 London will host the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. The location for the Olympic precinct will be the northern end of the Lower Lea Valley which extends into the Boroughs of Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Newham, Waltham Forest and Greenwich.

With approximately 30% of the Olympic zone in Hackney, the Borough's focus is clearly on the legacy of London 2012 for local people. This will include improving sports facilities, the economy and the environment.

Hackney Wick is the area of the Borough which will be most directly affected by the Games. Regeneration of the commercial and industrial parts of Hackney Wick has been a long held ambition of the Council which the Olympic and Paralympic Games are now helping to drive forward. The media facilities and the handball arena for 2012 will be located within Hackney and

will contribute towards establishing strong employment and sporting legacy. In August 2006, Hackney Council and the London Development Agency agreed a plan for long term benefits for the Borough from London 2012. The plan provides for up to £4 million of new investment. Benefits will include improved sports pitches and ancillary facilities on Hackney Marshes before 2012, and new high quality green space within the legacy Olympic Park.

Plans for a major sports regeneration programme on Hackney Marshes are being finalised. The London Development Agency is committing £2 million and Hackney Council a further £1 million to the programme. The Council consulted users of Hackney Marshes and local people on these proposals in the autumn of 2006.

The London Development Agency is committing a further £1 million towards environmental improvements on and around Hackney Marshes and the Hackney Wick neighbourhood.

Land within Hackney that will host the 2012 Games includes East Marsh, Arena Fields, White Hart Field, Morris Fields and the Waterden Crescent Travellers site. The new green space that Hackney will gain from the Olympic Park after the Games is in exchange for these areas. This new park will constitute an equivalent amount of land in terms of size, condition and use.

East Marsh will host a temporary facility for coach drop off, disabled and cycle parking for London 2012. It will remain in use for football until 2011 and return to football use by mid-2013. The agreement between Hackney Council and the London Development Agency guarantees this return to use for football for the benefit of future generations. Hackney will also benefit from improvements to other pitches on Hackney Marshes. There is also a replacement plan for any trees that are lost because of the Games.

East Marsh will be connected to the new Olympic Park by a bridge to be constructed prior to the Games. The new bridge will remain after the Games as a permanent legacy feature, connecting Hackney to the new park and neighbourhoods to be created in the Lee Valley through to the River Thames. Another pedestrian bridge will link Gainsborough School to playing fields in the Olympic Park after 2012.

7.0 Strategy Priority Areas

7.1 Children and Young People

To provide children and young people with green spaces which meet their needs and enhance their quality of life

Children and young people use parks for a variety of activities. They are generally introduced to parks by their parents or carers at an early age through the use of playgrounds and as a safe place to learn to ride a bike.

Good quality public parks, together with well designed school grounds, can provide children with opportunities for fun, exercise and learning.

The average age of Hackney's population is significantly lower than either the rest of England or London. In this context, the provision of parks and the creation of a Parks Strategy to consolidate and develop those facilities plays an important part in contributing to the quality of life of residents.

Parks in Hackney have a significant role to play in helping to deliver Every Child Matters – which aims to ensure the well-being of children and young people from birth to age 19.

The Government's aim is for every child, whatever their background or their circumstances, to have the support they need to:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being

The Parks Strategy can assist in the delivery of these aims by:

- 1 Delivering the above five outcomes - particularly enjoying and achieving and making a positive contribution - through participation in activities and events and also by having fun when using the range of facilities available including playgrounds, and sports pitches.
- 2 Reaching children and young people through positive out-of-school activities and contributing to improved health and well being.

These outcomes are mutually reinforcing. For example, children and young people learn and thrive when they are healthy, safe and engaged. The evidence clearly shows that educational achievement is the most effective route out of poverty.

In the development of the strategy children and young people told us that there is a need to provide more organised activities for them to participate in as well as improving facilities for teenagers.

A survey undertaken by the Youth Service on sports provision for young people in April 2006 identified where and what facilities are required. The strategy will seek to deliver these opportunities through a planned approach to facility enhancement.

There was also a feeling that security should be improved to provide a safe setting for children and young people in order that their local areas are seen as good places to grow up.

The Objectives for Children and Young People are:

Objective 1: To encourage children and young people to actively use parks

Objective 2: To facilitate opportunities in Parks for children and young

people to learn about the environment

Objective 3: To ensure that all children within the Borough have access to areas of formal and informal play provision within 400m from home; linking to the Play Strategy²

Objective 4: To engage children and young people in future management of Parks & Green Spaces

In addition to the objectives for children and young people which flow from the 'Every Child Matters' agenda, Hackney's Parks Service can and will make the Borough's 'Youth Offer', currently being worked on with colleagues from The Learning Trust.

Collaborative working with colleagues from not only The Learning Trust but also Leisure & Sports Development and Culture will allow Hackney's Parks to provide platforms for the delivery of opportunities for young people both within and outside of the formal curriculum.

7.2 Planning for the Future

To protect and develop high quality Parks and Green Spaces and enhance facilities across the Borough

Hackney enjoys a wide variety of parks and green spaces and there is a need to protect them from development. Parks are contributing to the Council's Local Development Framework (LDF) to ensure that Parks together with other green spaces remain a high priority for the Borough. Policies need to be developed within the LDF to address the areas of deficiency highlighted by the open spaces assessment undertaken by Atkins in 2004 in response to PPG17. Appendices 1 to 5 inclusive give summary details of open spaces in Hackney.

The government has recognised the value of good quality parks and other public green space and external funding opportunities are available for improvements. An integrated approach to the strategic development of parks, together with effective partnerships, will build on the current provision and offer opportunities for future enhancement. This should also address the wider facilities and value that parks provide to the local community.

In planning for the future we have identified the need to regenerate existing facilities to provide community spaces that can enhance social cohesion and create sustainable environments.

It is important to consider the effect of climate change and adopt new methods in the management of Parks. This will include adapting planting plans to reflect changing climatic conditions and developing sustainable maintenance regimes. Reduced availability of water will play a major part in the future management of parks.

² LBH in conjunction with The Learning Trust – Hackney Play Strategy 2007-2012

As part of planning for the future there is a need to look at the areas of deficiency identified by the Atkins assessment and reduce these by upgrading the roles and functions provided by Parks and other publicly accessible open spaces and negotiating their usage as community facilities.

The Council is committed to improving its Parks and significant investment has already been made to the general fabric of and development of new facilities within them. Further opportunities are available through working with Team Hackney, Hackney Homes and other partners to bring owners and managers of green spaces together to work towards a common standard of provision for all. A Hackney Environment Standard will contribute to equality of service to residents, regardless of where they live or who the service provider is. The standard will provide a measure of excellence that cuts across all types of public land use categories and places responsibility for attainment on all landowners.

The use of section 106 planning gain contributions will be fully utilised to upgrade and provide quality Parks across the Borough and address areas of deprivation.

The Objectives for Planning for the Future are:

- Objective 1: To engage all communities in future management of Parks
- Objective 2: To secure and develop New Parks to assist in addressing deficiencies in Green Space
- Objective 3: To develop and preserve areas within Parks that are of historic interest
- Objective 4: To ensure the opportunities from the 2012 Olympic and Paralympics are realised
- Objective 5: To provide high quality Parks and other Green Spaces across the Borough

7.3 Conservation and Biodiversity including Nature and Heritage Identification of Areas of Interest

To ensure that Parks and Green Spaces make a positive contribution to conservation and biodiversity

The provision of Parks is in itself of environmental importance. The heritage aspects need to be conserved for future generations and visitors should be able to enjoy heritage features. Nature conservation is important in its own right and is also essential to social and economic well being.

Parks within urban areas perform vital functions as areas for nature conservation and biodiversity. By acting as 'green lungs' they can assist in improving air and water quality. Parks and other green spaces also have an important role to play in sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS) that will reduce water use and mitigate against the impact of flooding.

The Borough has well developed environmental groups supporting the natural environment, including the Hackney Environmental Forum and Biodiversity Partnership.

Within the Borough there are 9 Sites of Metropolitan importance, 4 Sites of Borough Importance Grade 1, 7 Sites of Borough Importance Grade 2, 3 Sites of Local Importance and 4 Local Nature Reserves.

Hackney Council is committed to enhancing its Parks for both wildlife and people. A range of voluntary activities is provided by user groups and Hackney's Biodiversity Partnership (HBP).

HBP works in partnership with the Council and local groups to offer a range of environmental and conservation projects. These include:

- mapping and surveying the trees/plants, birds and animals in Hackney
- undertaking practical tree planting and tree care with the local community
- identifying sites in Parks and schools to enhance biodiversity
- practical activities to encourage people to help enhance their local environments

Despite its built up nature, there are significant parks within Hackney, of which some are particularly important to wildlife.

The Council intends to retain sites of nature conservation importance for its residents and to develop new areas.

The Objectives for Conservation and Biodiversity are: -

Objective 1: To ensure Parks make a significant contribution to nature conservation

Objective 2: To raise awareness of and promote biodiversity in Parks

Objective 3: To increase knowledge and understanding to protect Hackney's waterways and wetland habitats

7.4 Tree Preservation and Management

To protect and enhance the Borough's tree stock

Trees are an important component of the Borough's Parks. The development of the strategy has identified the need to produce proactive management plans and a database for the Borough's tree stock to enable trees to be protected and maintained for years to come. The database will maintain a record of the tree stock and ensure that accurate records of inspection, maintenance and replacement are kept.

Hackney benefits from an abundance of mature and exotic trees and also from a number of voluntary groups working in partnership to increase the tree stock in the Borough.

Woodlands exist at Hackney Marshes, Wick Woodland, Abney Park Cemetery and Springfield Park. Many of the trees at these sites were planted by Hackney residents as a result of partnerships with User Groups, Tree Wardens and Tree Musketeers.

Tree planting has added significantly to the biodiversity, amenity and environmental interest of Hackney's Parks. It has also meant that the Borough's air and water quality are better than they might otherwise be.

The Objectives for Trees are:

Objective 1: To manage and maintain the Council's tree stock

Objective 2: To promote the value of trees, woodlands and hedges

7.5 Activities and Events

To ensure that Hackney residents of all ages and abilities have the opportunity to enjoy a range of activities and events in Hackney's Parks & Open Spaces of major outdoor events

The provision of accessible spaces is an important contribution to helping people choose healthier lifestyles. It can help to improve physical and mental health by encouraging individuals, groups and families to walk more, to play sport or simply enjoy a green and natural environment.

Hackney's Parks already offer a range of opportunities that contribute to this health agenda.

The Sport and Physical Activity Strategy – Hackney Physically Active - recognises the role that Parks and other green spaces play in contributing to improving health through physical activity. They not only provide for formal sporting activities such as rugby, football, tennis, basketball and cricket but also informal activity such as walking, jogging and cycling.

The Exercise on Referral scheme in partnership with the City and Hackney Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) recognises the importance open spaces play in providing opportunities for healthy physical activities. To complement the scheme, referrals are made to the healthy walks programme which operates within Parks.

The Open Space Assessment undertaken by Atkins identifies the need for a Playing Pitch Strategy; this will be developed as part of the indicative action plan and will provide the focus for future investment.

Hackney Marshes is the best known community football venue in the country with the largest concentration of football pitches in Europe. It provides a valuable resource not just for Hackney but also the wider East London region. As part of the legacy from the Olympic and Paralympic Games, new hub facilities will be developed on Hackney Marshes. This will realise the site's

potential in delivering sporting and physical activity opportunities across a wider audience in addition to bringing about pitch improvements.

Hackney City Tennis Club was one of the first Lawn Tennis Association nationally accredited mini tennis centres in the country. In April 2003 the Club received County Performance standard.

The events programme in Hackney's Parks has developed mainly in response to applications from organisers to hold both community based and commercially driven events. The number of applications has grown over recent years following the introduction of user groups and active promotion of the benefits of Parks. The Cultural Olympiad, as part of the 2012 programme, is expected to stimulate additional use.

A range of events are held in Parks; ranging from small community fun days and activity days to circuses, funfairs and festivals. Each event contributes towards the delivery of the Council's priorities.

The development of an events policy will ensure that a range of opportunities will be offered to local communities and larger event promoters.

The Activities and Events Objectives are:-

Objective 1: To ensure that events held in Hackney Parks contribute to Community Objectives and the Cultural Olympiad

Objective 2: To provide opportunities for people to participate in events and activities in Parks

Objective 3: To increase awareness of Parks in Hackney

Objective 4: To contribute to Community Cohesion

Objective 5 To increase the range of people using Hackney's Parks

Objective 6 To ensure equality of access for all

7.6 Feeling Safe

To provide Parks and Green Spaces that are welcoming and safe to use

Research and consultation consistently demonstrates that security is a major concern for park users, particularly women, older people and people from ethnic minorities.

Fear of crime can deter people from using even good quality Parks. Children and young people are often prevented from using Parks because of their parents' fears about crime. Physical changes and enhanced management regimes can help to allay such fears.

In 2004, Hackney Council commissioned LeisureNet to undertake a survey of residents concerning safety in Parks & green spaces. The results showed that

crime/antisocial behaviour was a factor in preventing about a third of residents from visiting Parks and open spaces, with non-users generally thinking that Parks and open spaces are not as safe as their surrounding neighbourhoods.

In order to address some of these perceptions, the strategy identifies a range of actions to improve safety and security within Hackney's Parks.

We will work with other agencies including the Police and Community Safety Teams to increase patrols and respond to enforcement issues in Parks to assist users to feel safe in such environments.

The Feeling Safe Objectives are:

Objective 1: To deal effectively with enforcement issues in Parks

Objective 2: To provide Parks that are safe

Objective 3: To address and review security issues

7.7 Green Corridors

To link all Parks and Green Spaces by the development of Green Corridors

Parks cater for a variety of needs. It is important that there are routes created to enable people to move around and experience all types of green spaces, including parks and waterways.

The provision of an adequate, well-distributed network of green spaces can play an important role in enhancing the environment as well as contributing to the overall quality of life of residents.

The East London Green Grid Partnership Project involves Boroughs and Strategic Partners working together to develop a framework for creating a network of interlinked green spaces. When green spaces are creatively designed and properly managed they can improve public health, link communities and enhance biodiversity. Hackney's Parks will constitute key sites within such a network.

The identification of a green network also provides a basis to consolidate the existing Green Network within the Borough and for investigation of possible new linkages between presently unconnected parks and other green spaces.

Existing routes run primarily along railways along river/canal corridors and through Parks and amenity areas.

There are already some linked areas of green spaces, including Parks, within Hackney but these can be improved by better publicity, the planting of trees and greening of buildings and streets. There is potential to increase the numbers of footpaths between Parks and other green spaces, thereby allowing or encouraging people to walk between them.

Transport for London is developing a London 2012 Walking/Cycling Route which will link Finsbury Park with the Olympic Park. This route will include Clissold Parks, Hackney Downs and Well Street Common. The Parks team is actively contributing to the creation of this route.

Informal recreation has considerable benefits for physical and emotional wellbeing; this is important, as the majority of the population are more likely to participate in informal, rather than formal, recreation or organised sport.

The Objectives for Green Corridors are:

Objective 1: To encourage the linking of established Parks

Objective 2: To establish cross Borough and inter-agency links in order to identify opportunities

Objective 3: Create safe routes through Green Corridors

8.0 Partnership Working

Working with a range of partners is essential in order to enhance and enrich our Parks. Local user groups can provide valuable information and as frequent users can assist in ensuring that Parks are safe.

We are committed to working with voluntary and commercial partners to continually improve the Borough's Parks and to provide future opportunities. Such partnerships will assist in accessing external funding opportunities that can provide lasting benefits to users.

The Council already works with a number of partners and we acknowledge the importance to the delivery of this strategy of maintaining and developing these partnerships. We will continue to seek new partnerships to further develop the range of services and opportunities for public enjoyment of Parks. We will engage more widely with community groups and users in order to gain a wide range of contributions to future strategic planning.

In order to deliver the Strategy a new Green Spaces Forum will be developed which will include key stakeholders, including Lea Valley Regional Park Authority and British Waterway, of parks and other green spaces. The Forum will monitor the implementation of the actions within the strategy Indicative Action Plan.

We are committed to working in partnership at the local level to deliver the outcomes of this strategy and further the opportunities available to local people.

Current local partners include:

Abney Park Cemetery Trust – the trust which manages the cemetery is part funded by the council. It works with the council on ecological projects.

City Lawn Tennis Clubs – is a Lawn Tennis Association funded City Tennis Club providing opportunities for local players to try tennis and to improve their skills.

East London Recycling – is a scheme based at Hackney Marshes which recycles green waste from the parks service and from other borough sources.

Greater London Authority – has helped in the development of the Borough's Habitat Action Plan. The GLA is developing London wide strategies for green space and is a potential source of funding.

Groundwork East London – has sponsored a number of local open space projects. Most notably, it has led the Heritage Lottery Fund application for St John at Hackney Churchyard Gardens.

Hackney Biodiversity Partnership – is an umbrella body for environmental interest groups working to improve nature conservation in Hackney.

Hackney Football Foundation – funds the development of football facilities and programmes.

Hackney Marsh Football User Groups – form part of the consultative process for the improvement and development of football facilities on Hackney Marshes.

Hackney Parks Forum – is a representative body for park user groups which meets regularly with Councillors and officers involved in parks management.

Hackney Society – works with and supports organisations in 'preserving the unique heritage of Hackney'.

Team Hackney – is the Local Strategic Partnership which brings together local businesses, council representatives and other local agencies to distribute government funding.

Heritage Lottery Fund – is a distributor of national lottery funds.

Hoxton Trust – with the assistance of grant aid from the council, manages and maintains a Community Garden.

Lea Valley Regional Park Authority- a Regional Park, established by statute to operate the Lee Valley as a park and which abuts the Borough.

London Thames Gateway Development Corporation – is the key government agency responsible for transforming the London Thames Gateway, and this includes eastern parts of the Borough, most notably Hackney Wick. It has significant power to effect change, including the power to determine certain planning applications within its boundaries.

London Wildlife Trust – is a campaigning and educational body which works closely with London boroughs on a wide range of environmental projects.

Olympic Delivery Authority – is regenerating parts of the Hackney Wick area in preparation for the Games. The ODA is committed to a Legacy Masterplan Framework to facilitate the delivery of well planned community facilities after the Games.

Park User Groups – are local representative groups which meet with Park Managers to input to discussion about parks issues.

Shoreditch Trust – is an executive body for planning developments and allocating funds as part of the government's New Deal for Communities programme

St John at Hackney Church – is a partner with the council in the management of St John at Hackney Churchyard Gardens

Tree Musketeers – are volunteers throughout the borough who work with the council's Arboricultural Team to monitor the borough's trees, carry out some low maintenance tasks and help with planting projects.

Other potential partners include:-

EcoActive Conference – is a local voluntary organisation which promotes environmental awareness and good environmental practice.

Living Spaces – is a government funded agency which awards grants of up to £25,000 to community groups to improve open spaces in their neighbourhood.

New Opportunities Fund – is a government funded agency which runs a number of funding programmes including several relating to green open space.

Sport England – manages the Sports Lottery Fund.

Sure Start – is a government programme which funds initiatives which will create a better start in life for under 4's experiencing various forms of disadvantage.

9.0 Key Agencies and the Policy Context

A number of local agencies whose policies will influence the overall framework against which Green Space in Hackney is provided are listed above.

However, the Strategy also needs to recognise the National and Regional contexts within which parks are provided and the organisations which develop and implement policy at those levels. These include:-

9.1 National Level

CABE (Commission for Architecture & the Built Environment) Space
The Environment Agency

English Heritage
The Urban Parks Forum
Natural England
Groundwork
British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, English Partnerships
British Waterways

9.2 Regional Level

London Parks and Open Spaces Forum
London Wildlife Trust
London Biodiversity Partnership
Government Office for London
Thames Water
London Playing Fields Association
Lee Valley Regional Park Authority
The Greater London Authority

9.3 Local Level

Hackney Parks Forum
Park User Groups
Local sports clubs and organisations
The Hackney Football Partnership
The Learning Trust
Community Organisations and Faith Groups
Neighbouring Boroughs

National, Regional and Local Policies and Strategies create the framework within which the Parks Strategy will be developed and implemented. Sport, Open Spaces and Recreation all make significant contributions to the quality of life of residents and can contribute to the achievement of a number of Local and National priorities, including planning, health, education and community safety. Appendix 7 details links between the Parks Strategy and the Local Area Agreement and the Mayor's Priorities.

9.4 The National Context

Central Government has taken a strong and increasing interest in parks and open spaces, which it views as significant contributors to the wider quality of life agenda. Government has demonstrated its support for public space, including parks, by recognising it as a component of sustainable communities. Most recently, the Sustainable Communities Plan (Feb, 2003) underlined its commitment to the 'liveability' agenda that includes parks, open spaces and the wider public realm.

In November 2000 the Government published its Urban White Paper "Our Towns and Cities: The Future - Delivering an Urban Renaissance" This paper recognised that well managed public open spaces improve urban areas and help promote a healthier lifestyle. This paper identified the need for more imaginative thinking about open space planning and design.

The Urban Task Force was set up in 2001 to advise the Government and take forward the proposals outlined in the White Paper. Its objective was to create parks and green spaces which are safe, accessible and sustainable and which cater for everyone. Further publications – “Green Spaces, Better Places” in May 2002 together with “Improving Urban Parks, Play areas and Green Spaces” emphasised the need for comprehensive and integrated approaches towards parks management.

In 2002 the Government published ‘Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation’ which outlined its objectives with regard to open space, sport and recreation. These objectives are summarised as:-

- supporting an urban renaissance
- promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion
- health and well being
- promoting more sustainable development.

9.5 The Regional Context

The London Plan, the spatial development strategy for London (2004), sets the strategic context for open space planning that is based on protecting and promoting the network of open spaces throughout London. Policy 3D.11 of the London Plan states that the London Boroughs should prepare Open Space Strategies to understand the supply and demand of open spaces and identify ways of creating, protecting and enhancing them and improving their quality through better management. Those parks Strategy will constitute a significant chapter of Hackney’s wider Open Spaces Strategy.

London Plan Policies which influence the provision and management of parks and other green spaces are detailed within:-

- Guide to Preparing Open Space Strategies: Best Practice Guidance March 2004
- East London Green Grid Framework: Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (November 2006)
- Providing for Children and Young People’s Play and Informal Recreation: Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (October 2006)

The Greater London Authority has also produced an Opportunity Area Planning Framework (OAPF) for the Lower Lee Valley. This OAPF is a planning policy statement by the Mayor of London, and will be a material consideration for Hackney when considering planning applications within Hackney Wick. The vision of the OAPF is to integrate into the urban fabric ‘an unrivalled landscape that contains new high quality parkland and water features’.

9.6 The Local Context

Hackney’s Unitary Development Plan (1995) provides the statutory framework to guide, develop, protect and enhance the environment of Hackney. Along with protecting parks and open space, the framework commits the Council to seek to realise the potential of the Borough’s parks and open spaces and to promote a greater awareness of nature conservation and ecological issues.

The Council is including similar provisions in the emerging Local Development Framework (LDF) that will replace the Unitary Development Plan once adopted.

As part of the emerging LDF an assessment of Open Space and Indoor & Outdoor Sports Facilities was carried out by Atkins to fulfil the requirement within Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG 17). This work determined that the most popular reasons for visiting parks and open spaces were:-

- Walking (50%)
- Children's play (24%); it being the case that Hackney's parks provide 25 children's play areas

The work identified the following key themes for service improvements:-

- Providing parks that are accessible, welcoming and safe
- Ensuring that parks are well managed
- Maximising opportunities for recreation and physical activity
- Promoting and protecting local heritage and the environment

Following this assessment, a number of major improvements have been made to parks. These have led to the making of successful applications for Green Flag accreditation for Clissold, Haggerston & Springfield Parks and Hackney Downs.

In addition, the Council has provided additional capital and revenue investment for Hackney's parks so as to bring about further physical improvements together with the development and delivery of activity programmes These further improvements include:-

- The redevelopment and re-opening of the open-air Lido in London Fields
- Resurfacing of tennis courts
- Refurbishment of Artificial Turf Pitches
- The development of new Multi Use Games areas (MUGA's)
- General infrastructure improvements, including repairs to pathways, and the replacement of boundary fences, benches and litter bins

10.0 The Next Steps

In the recent past, Hackney has successfully concentrated on improving the physical condition of its parks. This success is evidenced by the gaining of Green Flag accreditation for four sites. However, as indicated in the Strategy, parks can and should constitute social spaces in which the various communities within Hackney can take active and/or passive leisure, including sport, other physical activity and culture.

Whilst future investment in the fabric of parks is planned, it is necessary, in addition to maintaining and building on the physical improvements already achieved, to develop a greater understanding of the needs and opinions of parks users and non-users. This will assist in ensuring effective community engagement and the future development of Hackney's parks and activities delivered within them in line with the needs and wishes of local communities.

The Indicative Action Plan for Hackney's parks has been developed and is attached as Appendix 9. This Indicative Action Plan has been developed within the context set by National, Regional and Local Policies and initiatives as well as wider issues such as Climate Change. It is designed, over the next 5 years, to not only complete the application of investment already planned by Hackney for its parks but also to respond to the key themes for service improvements identified by the Atkins study.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Open Space by Ward

Ward	Total Area of public parks (Ha)	Total Open Space (Ha)	Population 2001	Public Park area per 1,000 population (Ha)	Total Open Space Area per 1,000 population (Ha)
Brownswood	0.34	16.81	11332	0.03	1.48
Cazenove	0.26	4.95	10499	0.03	0.47
Chatham	1.42	15.11	10729	0.13	1.41
Clissold	1.45	5.73	10438	0.14	0.55
Dalston	0.00	4.22	10359	0.00	0.41
De Beauvoir	5.41	10.50	9926	0.54	1.06
Hackney Central	0.00	6.23	10291	0.00	0.60
Hackney Downs	16.56	23.82	10275	1.61	2.32
Haggerston	8.57	23.23	10366	0.83	2.24
Hoxton	8.49	14.12	10697	0.79	1.32
Kings Park	134.54	139.95	10963	12.27	12.77
Leabridge	14.60	18.15	9859	1.48	1.84
Lordship	23.86	39.28	11299	2.11	3.48
New River	4.44	34.01	11504	0.39	2.96
Queensbridge	13.68	17.77	10180	1.34	1.75
Springfield	27.70	36.66	10859	2.55	3.38
Stoke Newington Central	0.55	3.12	10132	0.05	0.31
Victoria	0.36	6.07	12065	0.03	0.50
Wick	38.99	47.53	11049	3.53	4.30
Total	301.21	467.27	202822	1.49	2.30

Appendix 2 Areas of Open Space Deficiency by Ward

Ward	Total Area of public park deficiency (Ha)
Brownswood	1.79
Cazenove	20.18
Chatham	1.05
Clissold	1.27
Dalston	60.05
De Beauvoir	7.96
Hackney Central	12.24
Hackney Downs	35.52
Haggerston	1.65
Hoxton	0.33
Kings Park	0.00
Leabridge	1.26
Lordship	21.45
New River	22.11
Queensbridge	5.75
Springfield	2.20
Stoke Newington Central	0.47
Victoria	0.28
Wick	1.47
Total	197.01

The above table demonstrates that the Dalston Ward has by far the greatest area of public park deficiency in terms of access, with over 60ha of the ward outside of the 400m catchment area. Hackney Downs, Cazenove, Hackney Central, Lordship and New River wards also have deficiencies in terms of the total area of the ward outside of the 400m catchment area to public parks.

Appendix 3 Parks and Open Spaces in Hackney

Parks only form part of the green space provision within the Borough. The council manages 329.21 hectares of green open space across 62 different sites. This includes 9 major parks – Clissold Park, Hackney Downs, Hackney Marshes, Haggerston Park, London Fields, Millfields, Shoreditch Park, Springfield Park and Well Street Common.

Expressed as a percentage of the area of the Borough, green open space accounts for 16.9% of the total. This is four times as much as in Waltham Forest [4.2%] and three times as much as Haringey [5.5%]. For an inner

London borough, Hackney is well endowed with green open space. However, the benefits of open space are not shared equally across the borough and an analysis of spaces by community offers a useful insight to the types and levels of provision made in different parts of Hackney. This highlights some sharp contrasts.

Community	No. of Open Spaces	Ground Area
Clapton	9	187.98 hectares
Hackney and Dalston	17	59.63 hectares
Shoreditch	19	15.83 hectares
Stamford Hill	6	24.74 hectares
Stoke Newington	12	41.03 hectares

Appendix 4 Classification of Green Space

The strategy recognises that there is some inequality of provision between different parts of the Borough and that there is a need to define a minimum desired standard of provision for all parks, this is shown in appendix 10. It also recognises that the detailed information and assessment processes necessary to make objective comparison between green spaces are not readily available and that these need to form an important part of strategic planning.

The public parks have been classified as follows:

TYPE	NO	Area (HA)	%OPEN SPACE AREA
Regional Park	4 (including 15 individual sites)	182.72	39.10
Metropolitan park	0	0.00	0.00
District Park	4	59.69	12.77
Neighbourhood Parks & Amenity Green Spaces	4	21.50	4.60
Small local parks/ open spaces & linear open spaces/ green corridors	39	37.83	8.10
Total individual sites	62	301.73	64.57

Definitions:

Regional Park – Large areas and corridors of natural heathland, downland, commons, woodland and parkland also including areas not publicly accessible but which contribute to the overall environmental amenity.

Primarily these areas provide for informal recreation with some non-intensive

active recreation uses.

Metropolitan Park – Either

- i) natural heathland, downland, commons, woodland etc,
- ii) formal parks providing for both active and passive recreation.

May contain playing fields, but at least 40 hectares for other pursuits.

District Park – Landscape setting with a variety of natural features providing for a wide range of activities, including other sports facilities and playing fields, children’s play for different age groups, and informal recreation pursuits.

Neighbourhood Park - Providing for court games, children’s play spaces or other areas of a specialist nature, including nature conservation areas.

Small local park/open space – Gardens, sitting-out areas, children’s play spaces or other areas of a specialist nature, including nature conservation areas

Linear open space/green corridors – The Thames, canals, other waterways and associated open spaces and towpaths, paths, disused railways, nature conservation areas and other routes which provide opportunities for informal recreation.

Appendix 5 Hackney – other green spaces

There is an abundance of Green and Open Spaces other than parks within the Borough that are provided through the Learning Trust and Hackney Homes as detailed in the table below:

Open Space Provision by Type			
Open Space Type	No of Sites	Area (Ha)	%Open space area
Allotments, community gardens and urban farms	8	0.5	0.11
Amenity green space	138	86	18.4
Cemeteries and church yards	17	20.57	4.4
Civic spaces/pedestrianised areas	4	0.44	0.09
Greenspaces within grounds of institution	5	2.21	0.47
Natural or semi-natural urban greenspaces	14	32.11	6.87
Outdoor sports facilities / playing fields (education)	16	7.92	1.69
Outdoor sports facilities / playing fields (private)	1	0.41	0.09
Outdoor sports facilities / playing fields (public)	0	0	0
Provision for children/teenagers	9	15.4	3.3
Other open space total	212	165.54	35.43
Total open space	255	467.27	100

The total number of green space sites within Hackney is 255 and they are managed through a range of providers including London Borough of Hackney

Parks and Leisure Services, Streetscene, Hackney Homes, The Learning Trust, Registered Social Landlords, LVRPA and British Waterways.

Overall within the Borough there are 2.3 hectares of open space and 1.49 hectares of public park provision per 1000 population. However, the level of Green Space provision varies significantly between wards, ranging between no provision in Hackney Central to 12.27 hectares in Kings Park. This is detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 above.

Appendix 6 Hackney – A Profile

Hackney has an area of 1,898 hectares and a population of 207,000 (Census 2001) 57,500 are under 19 years of age of which 8.3% are under 5 years of age.

The population of Hackney is constantly changing and growing. The growth is expected to continue with the GLA predicting that Hackney's population will reach 257,093 by 2031 (Borough profile 2006).

Hackney is one of the most health deprived areas in the country. The majority of the Borough falls within the top 30-40% of health deprived areas in the country and rates poorly on most health indicators.

One of the most striking demographic characteristics of Hackney is its rich ethnic diversity. Residents from white ethnic backgrounds make up 59.4% of Hackney's inhabitants, Black and Black British residents are the second largest accounting for 24% of Hackney's residents.

Air quality in Hackney is a concern with all indicators being significantly above threshold levels. Significant parts of the Borough are Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA). There are similar concerns for water quality in the borough's waterways with the rivers being graded poor to fair in terms of chemical and biological pollutants. In the east of the Borough, there is a high risk of flooding that poses a threat to existing properties and is a constraint to future development in the area.

The profile of the borough raises these issues in relation to parks:-

- a. The Borough's parks are free and offer a diverse range of experiences at an equal level to all users. It is recognised that in a Borough with a high density population, parks contribute significantly to the quality of life of residents and provide an important counterbalance to the built urban environment.
- b. Many local children experience high levels of deprivation making access to outdoor recreation and play opportunities a more urgent requirement than elsewhere.
- c. Hackney ranks poorly against health indicators such as the Jarman Index of Health Deprivation. Reducing levels of pollution and encouraging exercise are increasingly seen as important contributors in raising health standards. Parks offer opportunities for simple, free exercise.
- d. Hackney needs to attract employers into the Borough to facilitate

economic regeneration. Attractive parks and other public open spaces build a picture of Hackney for employers as a good place to locate.

- e. Poor air quality in the Borough can have a negative effect on the health of residents and can cause damage to the historic built environment. Poor river quality within the Borough can cause damage to the aquatic life and reduce the biodiversity of the surrounding area. Well located and well maintained parks and other green spaces can go a long way towards mitigating these impacts. Similarly, parks can reduce the amount of carbon dioxide that is released into the atmosphere; helping the Borough to reduce its contribution to climate change.
- f. Parks are also an important element in sustainable urban drainage systems and can go a long way towards mitigating the impact of flooding and reducing water use.

Hackney's Parks are serving a community which is densely populated, very diverse in ethnic and cultural backgrounds and has high levels of social and economic disadvantage. In determining its priorities, the strategy takes these factors into account and aims to provide opportunities for the local population to enjoy the Parks and other green spaces on offer and improve their quality of life.

Appendix 7 Strategic Links

Local Area Agreement:

Team Hackney, the Local Strategic Partnership has recently updated the Local Area Agreement (LAA), developing the following 'Story of Place' for Hackney in 2018:-

'A prosperous, cosmopolitan, aspirational, working borough – a unique borough with safe, strong and cohesive communities and a shared sense of citizenship, pride, social responsibility and environmental consciousness.

This is a Hackney that is characterised by a greater prosperity and opportunity for all of Hackney's residents – both those living here today and those that will arrive in the future – a Hackney that continues to take pride in its diversity, with a social cohesion that grows stronger.'

In realising the Story of Place for 2018, the existing Community Strategy themes will continue to be focussed on over the next ten years:-

1. Tackling worklessness, creating pathways to work and promoting employment opportunities
2. Improving educational outcomes and raising aspirations
3. Providing mixed, affordable, high quality, attractive housing

4. Building safe and cohesive communities
5. Promoting health and well-being, supporting independent living and reducing health inequalities
6. Building a sense of citizenship and pride in Hackney and its environment and working towards a carbon neutral borough

Within these themes, Team Hackney has highlighted four areas with regard to which significant interventions need to be developed. These are :-

- Tackling worklessness;
- Addressing the housing gap;
- Enhancing the education trajectory;
- Environmental sustainability.

A suite of 33 indicators for the period 2008 to 2011 has also been defined by Team Hackney. The implementation of the Parks Strategy will contribute to Hackney's achievement against these indicators.

The delivery of the actions contained within the Parks Strategy will be co-ordinated with the delivery of the Updated LAA to ensure that, in addition to achieving Parks Strategy objectives, the delivery of the strategy supports and contributes to the achievement of the Updated LAA outcomes.

Mayor's Priorities

This Parks strategy has to fit with Hackney's corporate aims. The Mayor has outlined his priorities for Hackney:

Mayor's Priority 1: Improving services and increasing opportunities for all, raising the life chances of the most disadvantaged

Mayor's Priority 2: Making sure the Council is high performing and efficient

Mayor's Priority 3: Providing effective community leadership and involving the whole borough in what we do

Team Hackney aims to represent the interests of all sections of our community and has representatives from the Council, Police, Primary Care Trust, local businesses, educational organisations, community and voluntary organisations, faith communities and other partners. The partnership has updated the Local Area Agreement (LAA) and has developed a 'Story of Place' for Hackney in 2018.

To assist in achieving this vision, Team Hackney has defined a suite of indicators for the period 2008 to 2011 and will continue to work on the existing Community Strategy themes of:-

1. Tackling worklessness, creating pathways to work and promoting employment opportunities;

2. Improving educational outcomes and raising aspirations;
3. Providing mixed, affordable, high quality and attractive housing;
4. Building safe and cohesive communities;
5. Promoting health and well-being, supporting independent living and reducing health inequalities;
6. Building a sense of citizenship and pride in Hackney and its environment and working towards a carbon neutral borough.

The Parks strategy will contribute to delivering the vision.

Appendix 8 Parks and Open Spaces Managed by the Parks Service (in alphabetical order)

Site	Hectares	Hierarchy – see append 4 for definition
Albion Parade N16	0.05	SLP/OS
Albion Square Gardens E8	0.16	SLP/OS
Allens Gardens N16	1.82	SLP/OS
Aske Gardens N1	0.32	SLP/OS
Broadway Market Green E8	0.61	SLP/OS
Butterfield Green N16	2.43	NP
Cassland Crescent E9	0.15	SLP/OS
Charles Square N1	0.13	SLP/OS
Church Street Garden N16	0.02	SLP/OS
Clapton Common E5	3.04	AGS
Clapton Pond Gardens E5	0.40	SLP/OS
Clapton Square E5	0.64	SLP/OS
Clissold Park N16	22.06	DP
De Beauvoir Square N1	0.53	SLP/OS
East Bank N16	0.20	SLP/OS
Goldsmith Square Recreation Ground	0.30	SLP/OS
Hackney Downs Open Space E5	16.90	DP
Hackney Marshes	153.51	RP
Hackney Road Recreation Ground E2	0.17	SLP/OS
Haggerston Park E8	6.09	DP
Homerton Grove Park E9	1.02	SLP/OS
Hoxton Square N1	0.25	SLP/OS
Kynaston Gardens N16	0.11	SLP/OS
Levy Memorial Garden	0.08	SLP/OS
London Fields E8	12.65	DP
Mark Street Garden EC2	0.20	SLP/OS
Millfields Open Space E5	25.86	RP
Quaker Burial Ground N16	0.40	SLP/OS
Shacklewell Green E8	0.27	SLP/OS
Shepherdess Walk Garden N1	0.93	SLP/OS
Shepherdess Walk Park N1	0.06	SLP/OS
Shore Gardens E9	0.08	SLP/OS
Shoreditch Park N1	4.08	DP
Spring Hill Sports Ground E5	4.05	RP
Springfield Park E5	15.51	RP
St John of Jerusalem Churchyard E9	1.21	SLP/OS
St John the Baptist Churchyard N1	0.51	SLP/OS
St John's Gardens E8	1.01	SLP/OS

Site	Hectares	Hierarchy – see append 4 for definition
St Leonard's Gardens N1	0.48	SLP/OS
St Mary's Old Church E2	0.12	SLP/OS
St Thomas Long Burial Ground E8	0.24	SLP/OS
St Thomas's Recreation Ground E8	0.19	SLP/OS
St Thomas's Square E8	0.29	SLP/OS
St John's Gardens Annex Playground E8	0.10	SLP/OS
Stoke Newington Common N16	2.12	AGS
Stonebridge Common E8	0.04	SLP/OS
Stonebridge Gardens E8	1.34	SLP/OS
Ufton Gardens Part One N1	0.10	SLP/OS
Ufton Gardens Part Two N1	0.10	SLP/OS
Well Street Common E9	8.60	NP
West Bank N16	0.12	SLP/OS
West Hackney Recreation Ground N16	0.61	SLP/OS
Windsor Terrace Open Space N1	0.04	SLP/OS

Key to Hierarchy column

SLP/OS	Small Local Park/ Open Space
NP	Neighbourhood Park
AGS	Amenity Green Space
DP	District Park
RP	Regional Park