

SALFORD CITY COUNCIL

SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

SALFORD GREENSPACE STRATEGY

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL
JULY 2006

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL
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DEVELOPMENT) (ENGLAND)
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Non-Technical Summary

1.0 Background

- 1.1 This short section provides a non-technical summary of the Sustainability Appraisal, setting out the process and appraising the likely impacts of the Greenspace SPD against a range of desired sustainability outcomes.
- 1.2 This section also includes information about how to comment on the report during the consultation period.
- 1.3 The Salford Greenspace Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) sets out a long term spatial strategy to identify a range of appropriate sites to be managed in order to meet the standards of recreation provision outlined in Policy R2 of the Draft Replacement Plan. The Greenspace SPD will help to prioritise resources and ensure consistent and transparent decision-making.
- 1.4 The purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is to examine the contribution that the Greenspace SPD will make in relation to a range of desirable sustainability outcomes. The predicted impacts are measured against baseline data, which paints a picture of the environmental, social and economic position of Salford.
- 1.5 SA is mandatory for SPDs under the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004). SAs of SPDs should also fully incorporate the requirements of the European Directive 2001/42/EC, known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive. This Directive is transposed into English law by the Environmental

Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 – the SEA Regulations.

The Appraisal Methodology.

- 1.6 The approach adopted to undertake the SA was based on the process set out in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) Consultation Paper “Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents” November 2005.
- 1.7 The level of detail and the scope of the SA covered were set out in the SA Scoping Report. This report was put to statutory consultees who were in broad agreement with the suggested approach.

The following steps were undertaken in completing the Sustainability Appraisal:

- Relationship to Other Plans, Programmes and Objectives
 - a. Establishing Baseline and Key Issues.
 - b. Sustainability Objectives
 - c. Appraisal of Strategic Options
 - d. Appraisal of Effects of Preferred Strategic Option
 - e. Mitigation
 - f. Monitoring

Relationship to Other Plans, Programmes and Objectives

- 1.8 The purpose of reviewing other plans and programmes and sustainability objectives is to ensure that the relationship between these Documents and the draft SPD has been fully explored. This will in turn ensure that Salford City Council is able to act on any identified inconsistencies between international, national, regional and local objectives.

- 1.9 A range of national, regional and local strategies were reviewed as part of the SA process and no major inconsistencies were found between policies. The key links identified related were with Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development; PPG3 Housing; PPG13 Transport; PPG17 Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation; Green Space Strategies – A Good Practice Guide; Providing Accessible Natural Greenspace in Towns and Cities (English Nature); North West Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS13); North West Regional Assembly’s Regional Sustainable Development Framework – ‘Action for Sustainability’ (AfS); Salford Community Plan and the City of Salford Unitary Development Plan - Revised Deposit Draft Replacement Plan 2003–2016.

Establishing Baseline and Key Issues

- 1.10 Data was collected to show the current position of the city in relation to a range of environmental, social and economic issues. This was used to establish key issues, and trends against which to measure the impact of the Greenspace SPD.
- 1.11 Sources for the baseline data included: National Population and Travel to Work Census; Health Inequalities in Salford – a local strategy for action (2004); Salford PCT Annual Report (2003/2004); Neighbourhood Statistics website (<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk>); Indices of Deprivation (2004); Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan (2000); Salford City Council Quality of Life Survey (2003/2004); GMP Crime Analysis Data; Environmental Services Parks Survey and Complaints database; Housing and Planning Greenspace Database; Salford Annual Baseline Review (2004).
- 1.12 Whilst there are high levels of greenspace provision across the city, levels of access to a range of outdoor recreation is low in general and very poor in highly urbanized parts of the city. The overall standard of

health in Salford is poor with an above average chance of premature death, part of which is attributable to unhealthy lifestyles. People value their parks and greenspaces, but anti social behaviour and juvenile nuisance can deter people from using them. Greenspace is considered an important component of urban regeneration, and can play an important role in relation to improving levels of biodiversity, addressing the consequences of climate change (particularly reducing flood risk) and poor air quality. Greenspace is an important local facility and encouraging its full use could help to reduce local short journeys by car. An increasing number of local communities are becoming involved in parks support groups.

Sustainability Objectives

- 1.13 The establishment of a framework of sustainability objectives against which to measure the ability of the SPD to deliver sustainable outcomes is central to the SA process and provides a way in which sustainability effects can be described, assessed and compared.
- 1.14 The sustainability objectives used for the SA were identified in the Scoping Report. The following Sustainability Objectives are the ones towards which the Greenspace SPD would be expected to contribute significantly.
- Health (Supporting healthy lifestyles and preventing illness)
 - Biodiversity (Supporting wildlife)
 - Air Quality (opportunities for new landscapes)
 - Reducing Impacts of Climate Change (Flood Control / SUDS)
 - Cultural Heritage (Protection and management of assets in parks)
 - Landscape / Townscape (Improving setting of neighbourhoods)
 - Light (Impact of artificial light on local amenity)
 - Noise (Impact of legitimate and antisocial activities)
 - Crime (Focus for nuisance behaviour)
 - Accessibility (Proximity of facilities to neighbourhoods)

- Reduce Volumes of Traffic (encourage journeys by foot and cycle)
- Community Cohesion (Local pride)
- Decision Making (Community involvement in Greenspace issues)
- Image (Perceptions of the city for resident and investors)

Appraisal of Strategic Options

1.15 Sustainability Appraisal is required to consider alternative options as part of the appraisal process in order to weigh the relative advantages / disadvantages and agree appropriate mitigation in order to minimise harmful impacts and maximise potential beneficial impacts.

1.16 The Strategic Options Appraisal examined the overall likely impact of three broad options against each of the Sustainability Objectives. These related to:

- Do Nothing Option (Business as Usual)
- Balanced Option (Greenspace SPD)
- Maximising Accessibility Option (Additional Sites)

1.17 The Balanced Option performs very well when compared with the Do Nothing Option. There are no Sustainability Objectives against which the Do Nothing Option is likely to perform better. Maximising Accessibility Option has positive benefits in promoting greater levels of access to Equipped Areas for Play, but would be likely to result in greater levels of Noise and Fear of Crime.

The conclusion was that the Balanced Option should be taken forward for detailed appraisal of effects.

Appraisal of Plans Effects.

1.18 The preferred option was broken down into two key policy Groupings – 1) Achieving the Standards of Provision and 2) High Quality Design and Management.

1.19 Each Policy Grouping was assessed against a matrix, which summarized its effects in terms of time period, degree of certainty, geographical scale and degree of permanence.

Generally the Greenspace SPD performed well against the sustainability objectives and the majority of effects identified were very positive. There were some potential negative effects identified, principally in relation to noise, light and nuisance.

Mitigation

There are four key areas of negative impact mitigation:

- 1 Policies written to:
 - Address potentially harmful amenity issues (nuisance, noise, light.
 - Ensure an appropriate level of consultation
 - Secure resources for long term management and maintenance
 - Inclusion of buffer zones around equipped play sites.
- 2 Reduction in the number of equipped play sites, particularly in relation to older children / teenagers.
- 3 Location of all NEAPs within existing or proposed parks
- 4 Removal of all equipped play sites that are not able to meet the required noise buffer distances.

The Detailed Effects Matrices also identify how the potential positive impacts of the SPD can be maximized, particularly through the engagement of health, and community safety partnerships.

Conclusions:

The net impact of the Balanced Option (Greenspace SPD), allowing for the beneficial effects of mitigation, is considered the best Option in terms of achieving the policy objectives of the Greenspace Strategy SPD and as a contributor to long-term sustainability objectives in Salford.

Monitoring

1.20 A key part of the SA process is to establish how any significant sustainability effects of implementing the SPD will be monitored. Some potential indicators have been proposed as a starting point for developing the SPD and sustainability-monitoring programme. The indicators proposed are based on data already collected by the Council. It is envisaged that the monitoring will be on an annual basis, although updates of some indicators may not be available with this frequency.

Difference The Process Has Made

1.21 The SA process has been undertaken as a requirement of the Local Development Framework .The SA has shown that implementing the draft SPD will have overall positive benefits on long term sustainability outcomes. Several assumptions have been made in arriving at this conclusion.

- That the adoption of the Greenspace Strategy SPD will secure high levels of external funding.
- That the Greenspace Strategy SPD will act as a catalyst to a wide range of partners who will be important in addressing cross cutting issues.
- That over time, the increasing range and quality of facilities will attract a greater range of users.

How To Comment On This Report.

1.22 Public consultation on the draft SPD: Salford Greenspace Strategy and its Sustainability Appraisal Report took place from 17th February to 30th March 2006.

1.23 The deadline for comments was by 4:30pm on 30th March. Comments could be submitted by:

Post to: Salford Greenspace Strategy Draft SPD
Spatial Planning
Housing and Planning
Salford City Council
Civic Centre, Chorley Road
Swinton
Salford M27 5BW

Email to: plans.consultation@salford.gov.uk

Via the web through: www.salford.gov.uk/spdconsultation

2.0 Background

Purpose of Sustainability Appraisal

- 2.1 SA is mandatory for Local Development Documents under the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
- 2.2 The purpose of the SA is to test the Greenspace Strategy SPD against a range of Sustainability Objectives. It considers the impact that it is expected the SPD would have on social, economic and environmental objectives. Where negative impacts are identified it seeks to identify how they will be minimised through appropriate mitigation. It also seeks to maximise the positive impacts, particularly by identifying the complementary role of other initiatives, partners and programmes.
- 2.3 This report is the key output of the Sustainability Process. It documents the detailed appraisals undertaken and summarises the conclusions drawn.

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

- 2.4 The Scoping Report for the Greenspace Strategy SPD was produced in accordance with SEA Regulations and the Guidance prepared by ODPM (Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks).

SA Consultation Arrangements to Date

- 2.5 In June 2005 an SA Scoping Report was produced to set out the initial context and findings of the SA and the proposed approach to the rest of the appraisal. The aim was to ensure that the SA was comprehensive and addresses all relevant issues and objectives, by

enabling input from key stakeholders and consultation bodies at an early stage in the process.

2.6 The Scoping Report set out an initial assessment of:

- The relationship between the SPD and other relevant plans and programmes.
- Relevant sustainability objectives established at the national, regional and local level.
- The current environmental, social and economic baseline and any trends.
- The likely key sustainability issues.

2.7 The Report also set out the proposed methodology for the SA, giving details of its proposed level of detail and scope.

2.8 Comments on the Scoping Report were invited from the four consultation bodies required by the SEA Regulations together with other key consultees CABESpace, GONW, NWRA and Red Rose Forest.

2.9 Following the statutory consultation period of 5 weeks between 22nd November and 23rd December, responses were received from EA/CA/EN/and GONW. None were in disagreement with the suggested approach to the Sustainability Assessment.

2.10 Environment Agency was keen to stress the importance of Biodiversity and Climate Change Objectives. Particular mention was made of the potential benefits of planting near water courses, use of appropriate native species and the important role that greenspace can play in relation to flood storage.

2.11 Countryside Agency drew the City Council's attention to the policy document "The Countryside in and Around Towns" and the importance of access to land and recreational opportunities.

Plan Objectives and Content

2.11 Salford's Greenspace Strategy SPD seeks to establish spatial priorities for the future improvement and management of greenspace for formal and informal recreation.

2.12 The Greenspace Strategy SPD policies are based around the delivery of the following Objectives:

- To ensure that all households are within an appropriate distance of a full range of greenspaces.
- To ensure that greenspaces are interlinked and accessible by attractive walking and cycling routes
- To ensure that publicly accessible greenspaces are of a high quality and well maintained.
- To ensure that greenspaces meet the diverse needs of potential users including those with mobility difficulties.
- To ensure that greenspaces are safe and well used.
- To ensure that greenspaces do not detract from the amenity of the surrounding area.

2.13 The SPD itself seeks to identify the sites that will be required to be improved and managed in such a way as to meet the recreational standards outlined in Recreation Policies of the Revised UDP. The standards relate to:

- 1 Formal Recreation Sites – Sports Pitches, Equipped Play Areas, Neighbourhood and District Parks and Other Youth / Adult Recreation

- 2 Informal Recreation Sites – Strategic Greenspace and Local Greenspace Sites
- 3 Connecting Recreation Routes - Green Access Corridors

2.14 The achievement of the Greenspace Strategy SPD objectives will be entirely dependent on land that is already used or allocated for recreational purposes. There are no proposals to allocate additional sites for recreational purposes. Nevertheless, the document is long term and in some respects aspirational, relying in some cases on the cooperation / agreement of landowners other than the council.

3.0 Appraisal Methodology

Approach Adopted

- 3.1 The approach adopted for the SA was based on the process set out in the ODPM Consultation Paper “ Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Strategies and Local Development Documents” November 2005.
- 3.2 Table 1 below sets out the SA stages and tasks, based on those listed in the Government guidance. This SA Report represents the completion of up to Stage C of the SA process.

Table 1 Sustainability Appraisal stages and tasks

<p>Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding the scope.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and review other relevant plans, programmes and sustainable development objectives that will affect or influence the SPD. • Collect relevant social, environmental and economic baseline information. • Identify key sustainability issues for the SA to address. • Develop the SA framework, consisting of the sustainability objectives, indicators and targets. • Test the SPD objectives against the sustainability objectives and whether the SPD objectives are consistent with one another.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce Scoping Report and carry out necessary consultation with key stakeholders on the scope of the appraisal and the key issues and possible options for solutions.
Stage B: Developing and Refining Options
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out appraisal of the SPD options and make recommendations for improvement.
Stage C: Appraising the effects of the draft SPD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predict the effects and carry out detailed assessment of the effects of the draft SPD. • Propose measures to maximize beneficial effects and mitigate adverse effects. • Develop proposals for monitoring. • Prepare the final SA Report along with the draft SPD.
Stage D: Consultation on the SA Report and Draft SPD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult on the final SA Report along with the draft SPD. • Carry out, where necessary, appraisal of any significant changes made as a result of representations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform consultees that SPD has been adopted. • Issue statement summarizing information on how the SA results and consultees' opinions were taken into account, reasons for choice of options and proposals for monitoring, including in relation to any recommended changes. • Make SPD and SA Report available for public viewing.
Stage E: Monitoring implementation of the SPD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor significant effects of the SPD to identify at an early stage any unforeseen adverse effects. • Undertake appropriate remedial action where necessary.

Timetable and Responsibility

- 3.3 The Sustainability Appraisal of the effects of the draft Greenspace Strategy SPD was undertaken in January 2005, in advance of the formal consultation on the draft SPD taking place in February and March 2006.
- 3.4 The timing of key SA outputs and tasks is set out in Table 2 below.

Table2: Timetable of SA outputs and tasks

Preparation of the SA Scoping Report	October / November 2005
Consultation on SA Scoping Report	November / December 2005
Appraisal of strategic options	December 2005
Preparation of responses to comments from consultees	January 2005
Preparation of SA Report	January 2005

- 3.5 The SA was undertaken by a team of planning officers from Salford City Council.

Limitations of Information

- 3.6 In any appraisal process, the relationship between the impacts of the Policy Document and the Sustainability Objectives are dependent on good quality data to illustrate a range of Indicators relevant to the Objectives. The data on which the City Council has relied has sometimes only provided partial evidence for establishing the baseline position. Similarly, data has often been for a single point in time, which has made predicting impacts difficult. Assessment of impacts has therefore sometimes relied on local knowledge and best professional judgement.
- 3.7 The work on the Sustainability Appraisal has demonstrated that there are areas of data which are not available to the City Council and which it would be unrealistic to expect the council to collect in the time available. The gaps in data are considered in the chapter on Implementation and Monitoring.

Changes to the Scoping Report Methodology.

- 3.8 The shortage of good robust / timelined data has limited the capacity of the Sustainability Appraisal to objectively predict the likely impact of the Greenspace Strategy SPD on a number of Sustainability Objectives.
- 3.9 The Draft SA Scoping Report suggested that 4 Broad Options would be assessed. In the event, only two broad options appraisals have been undertaken in entirety – the “Do Nothing” (Business as Usual) Option and the “Balanced” (Greenspace Strategy SPD) Option. These demonstrated that in all respects, the sustainability outcomes brought about by the Greenspace SPD would be an improvement on the existing situation.
- 3.10 After due consideration, it was recognised that examination of the Option to Maximise Access by increasing the number of sites (to the possible detriment of amenity) would also meet the requirements of the Option to Maximise Amenity (by reducing the number of accessible sites). The two options were in effect the “reverse sides of the same coin.” On this basis, the third option was restricted to examining the impacts of increasing the number of Equipped Play areas. Such consideration has also been limited to a selected number of highly relevant Sustainability Objectives (To ensure light levels are appropriate to the situation; To minimise noise pollution; To reduce crime and fear of crime). The outcomes are discussed in Chapter 5 (Appraisal of Broad / Strategic Options).

Assumptions

- 3.11 In appraising the impacts of the Greenspace SPD Policies, a number of assumptions have had to be made relating to the way in which it is anticipated the SPD will be used. These are:

- 1 That the adoption of the Greenspace Strategy SPD will provide a “hook” on which to hang a wide range of bids for external funding which will allow the delivery of a wide range of site improvements and establishment of the network of Green Access Corridors.
 - 2 That the Greenspace Strategy SPD will act as a catalyst to a wide range of partners who will be able to make the connections into key cross cutting issues relating to Healthy Lifestyles, Community Safety, Sports Development, Youth Partnerships etc. The spatial outputs of Greenspace Strategy SPD cannot deliver sustainability outcomes in isolation.
 - 3 That over time, the increasing range and quality of facilities will provide increasing number of outlets for all age ranges. Clearly the timing of this is very uncertain.
- 3.12 It is uncertain at this point in time the extent and precise form that these assumptions will take. Nevertheless, a positive view has been taken on the outcome of each of the above, bearing in mind the corporate cross cutting role that the Greenspace Strategy SPD is anticipated to have in delivering cross cutting aspects of the Community Plan.

4.0 Sustainability Objectives, Baseline and Context.

Links to Other Plans Programmes and Policies.

- 4.1 As part of the SA Scoping Report a comprehensive review of relevant plans programmes and policies was undertaken in order to identify the range of sustainability objectives that were consistent with the objectives of the SPD. The Table below shows a list of the documents that were reviewed.

Table 3 Links to Plans, Programmes and Policies

<p>International and National</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EC Directive - Conservation of Natural Habitats of Wild Fauna and Flora 92/43/EEC. • EC Directive - Establishing a framework for the Community action in the Field of Water Policy • Kyoto Protocol 1997. • Sustainable Communities: People, Places and Prosperity (A 5-year Plan from the ODPM) 2005. • Sustainable Communities: Homes for all (A 5-year Plan from the ODPM) 2005. • PPS1 Delivering Sustainable Development • PPG 2 Green Belts. • PPG3 Housing. • PPS7 Sustainable Development in Rural Areas • PPS 9 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation. • PPG 13 Transport. • PPG 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation • PPG 17: Companion Guide (ODPM) • PPG 25 Development and Flood Risk. • Green Space Strategies – A Good Practice Guide • The Six-Acre Standard (NPFA 2001). • Providing Accessible Natural Greenspace in Towns and Cities. (English Nature) • The Wood land Trust – Access Standard • A New Deal for Transport: Better for Everyone • Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland 2000. • Climate Change: The UK Programme. • Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). • Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. • Securing The Future: delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy 2005. • UK Biodiversity Action Plan. • Working with the Grain of Nature: A Biodiversity Strategy for England 2002.
<p>Regional</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) (RPG13) • Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan • Greater Manchester Transport Plan • Red Rose Forest Plan 1994 • Red Rose Forest Supplementary Review 2000. • Red Rose Forest Business Plan 2003 - 2008 • NWRA's Regional Sustainable Development Framework – 'Action for Sustainability' (AfS).

<p>Local</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Salford Unitary Development Plan - Revised Deposit Draft Replacement Plan 2003–2016. • Community Plan – Our Vision for Salford 2001-2006. • Draft Replacement Community Plan 2005 • Salford's Cycling Strategy • Area Development Framework 2004 –11 Charlestown and Lower Kersal New Deal for Communities • Central Salford Draft Vision and Regeneration Framework (2005). • Lower Broughton Design Code SPD (Consultation Draft 2005)
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4.2 The objectives of the Greenspace Strategy SPD were found to be quite compatible with the policy framework examined at National, Regional and Local levels. The key sustainability linkages were found to be in relation to those documents highlighted in bold in Table 3.

Establishment of Sustainability Objectives

4.3 In terms of its ability to deliver sustainable outcomes, the Greenspace Strategy SPD has been assessed against a series of Sustainability Objectives. These objectives are outlined below. They reflect the objectives outlined in the Scoping Report and which were agreed by Statutory Consultees.

SA Topic

SA Objectives

Population

To secure a sustainable increase in the city's population

Health

To improve physical and mental health

Biodiversity Flora and Fauna

To protect and enhance biodiversity

<u>Soil and Land</u>	To protect and improve soil and land resources
<u>Water</u>	To protect and enhance water resources
<u>Air</u>	To improve air quality
<u>Climatic Factors</u>	To reduce contributions to climate change To minimise the impacts of climate change
<u>Material Assets</u>	To ensure the prudent use of natural resources
<u>Cultural Heritage</u>	To protect and enable the appreciation of the city's heritage
<u>Landscape & Townscape</u>	To maintain and enhance the quality and character of landscape and townscape
<u>Light</u>	To protect residential amenity from light pollution
<u>Noise</u>	To minimise noise pollution
<u>Crime</u>	To reduce crime and fear of crime
<u>Economic health:</u>	To maximise sustainable economic growth To enhance economic inclusion
<u>Prosperity:</u>	To increase prosperity
<u>Education:</u>	To improve the city's knowledge base

<u>Housing:</u>	To ensure that everyone has access to a good home that meets their needs
<u>Accessibility:</u>	To improve accessibility to key facilities To reduce the need to travel To reduce traffic volumes
<u>Community cohesion:</u>	To improve community cohesion
<u>Decision making:</u>	To increase involvement in decision-making
<u>Image:</u>	To improve perceptions of the city

4.4 The Sustainability Objectives above have not been tailored to identify the impact of the Greenspace Strategy SPD alone. They represent long term, aspirational outcomes for a wide range of plans and programmes. However, there are some Objectives, towards which the Greenspace Strategy would be expected to contribute quite significantly. These were identified in The Scoping Report as:

- Health (Supporting healthy lifestyles and preventing illness)
- Biodiversity (Supporting wildlife)
- Air Quality (opportunities for new landscapes)
- Reducing Impacts of Climate Change (Flood Control / SUDS)
- Cultural Heritage (Protection and management of assets in parks)
- Landscape / Townscape (Improving setting of neighbourhoods)
- Light (Impact of artificial light on local amenity)
- Noise (Impact of legitimate and antisocial activities)
- Crime (Focus for nuisance behaviour)
- Accessibility (Proximity of facilities to neighbourhoods)
- Reduce Volumes of Traffic (encourage journeys by foot and cycle)
- Community Cohesion (Local pride)
- Decision Making (Community involvement in Greenspace issues)
- Image (Perceptions of the city for resident and investors)

Baseline Characteristics

4.5 Before assessing / predicting the impact that the Greenspace Strategy SPD is likely to have, it is important to outline the baseline characteristics of the city, particularly for those Objectives where the SPD is likely to have a direct and significant impact (Para 4.4).

Nevertheless, where it has been possible to collect data, the following baseline position, and where known, targets, have been established.

Baseline Characteristics and Trends
<p><u>Health:</u> There are a third more deaths in Salford as a whole than expected against the national average (SMR 136). Parts of Central Salford have an SMR of 200.</p> <p>Obesity and overweight are both conditions which put health at risk through coronary heart disease, hypertension, and diabetes and respiratory conditions. Sedentary lifestyles contribute to this and it is becoming an increasing problem for children.</p> <p>In line with national statistics it is estimated that 30000 (20%) adult residents in Salford are likely to exhibit obesity and two thirds to be overweight.</p> <p>At the launch of the Salford Food and Physical Activity Partnership in July 2005 the quality of the environment and open spaces was highlighted as a major barrier to physical activity.</p> <p>The Council's Healthy Walks Initiative often uses parks and informal greenspaces as a focus for its walks. Over a period of 3 years, the total of healthy walking groups has grown to 28 involving up to 160 participants.</p> <p><i>Target:</i> The government target is to halt the increase in rising levels of</p>

obesity.

Biodiversity: 19.6% (1958ha) of Salford is greenspace. 56 % of Salford's greenspace overlaps with wildlife corridor areas of search where planning policies seek opportunities to enhance wildlife value and to promote species diversity and movement. 12% of greenspace is designated as Sites of Biological Importance which is protected by planning policy, but where improved management is sought.

84% of the identified Strategic Greenspace Sites (415ha) and 64 % of the identified Local Greenspace sites (601 ha) fall within the Wildlife Corridors Area of Search.

Clearly there is a substantial opportunity, through landscape management of the identified Priority Sites for Semi Natural Greenspace, which are focussed on the important wildlife corridors, to maximise and concentrate on their improvement for the greater benefit of wildlife in Salford.

Target: None

Air Quality: The whole of Salford has been designated as an Air Quality Management Area. Excedences of NO₂ and Pm₁₀ occur along major road corridors, some of which adjoin major areas of greenspace.

Target: Citywide Target to reduce levels of NO_x gas and Particulates.

Climate Change: The Lower Irwell Valley presents a potential flood risk to a large area of urban development. Smaller streams and brooks have also been identified as presenting local risk. Significant areas of greenspace adjoin these areas of risk and present opportunities to help to mitigate flood risk particularly for new development.

Target: To reduce number of properties at risk from flooding

Cultural Heritage: 27% of the Statutory List (59 buildings / features) and 5% of the Local List (26 buildings / features) lie within Salford's greenspaces. ?? % of these features / buildings lie within sites which are identified as a priority for improvement / management.

Target: To protect listed buildings / features found within sites identified within the Greenspace SPD.

Landscape / Townscape: 89% of residents think that greenspace is an important part of their quality of life. By inference, it is therefore important to protect and manage greenspaces effectively.

Crime: In the Parks Survey of 2003, only 55% of residents said that they felt safe in parks and managed greenspaces. There is a strong link between on site presence and sense of personal safety. Only 10% of Salford's Parks and Country Parks currently have a site presence.

Of the 178 greenspace sites for which Greater Manchester Police has data in Salford recorded crime statistics only relate to 30 of them (17%). These tend to be the larger greenspaces including Clifton Country Park, Peel Park (East Salford), Campbell Road Playing Fields, Blackleach Country Park and Clarendon Park. The most common recorded crime is small fires and vehicle fires. It would seem likely that the number of recorded crimes is less than that which actually occurs.

Anecdotally, it is known that parks and small greenspaces attract nuisance behaviour. The best data available from Environmental Services demonstrates that the number of sites identified as "nuisance neighbour" (10 or more complaints received annually) has increased from 30% in 2003 to 37% in 2005.

The number of complaints received about the condition and maintenance of parks, playgrounds and cemeteries was 470 in 2003, 415 in 2004 and 463 in 2005.

Target: To reduce the proportion of sites for which complaints are received.

Accessibility: The following data demonstrates the existing and expected proportion of households that will lie within the maximum walking catchment distances for each recreation standard, following implementation of the SPD.

	Existing	Proposed Target
Local Greenspace	47%	76%
Strategic Greenspace	43%	73%
LEAP	34%	56%
NEAP	63%	82%
Neighbourhood Park	69%	87%
District Park	21%	93%

Only 23% of managed sports pitches are played to capacity. The Target is 100%.

Traffic Reduction: 84% of households own a car in Salford (increased from 52% in 1991). In common with the national picture it is expected that a very high proportion of short car journeys are made by car, including to parks and other recreation facilities, particularly when there are none available locally. Levels of cycling are low. Only 1.8% of the daytime population travel to work

by bicycle.

Target: To increase the proportion of journeys to key local recreational facilities by walking / cycling / public transport.

Community Cohesion: No meaningful data related to greenspace is available. The number of community groups associated with Parks has increased from 3 to 16 over the past 5 years.

Decision Making: There are now 16 Friends of Park Groups, 2 Park Watch Groups and 3 Volunteer Groups. . This represents an increase from a total of 3 in 2000.

Image: No meaningful data available.

Summary of Key Issues arising from the Baseline Data

4.6 A summary of key issues that have arisen from an interpretation of baseline data and SEA/SA Topics is presented below, which identifies to what extent Salford's Greenspace SPD could influence long term sustainability outcomes. Clearly there are some issues (e.g. accessibility) for which there is hard evidence and strong conclusions can be drawn. There are other issues (e.g. Reducing Short Journeys by Car) which at this stage are much less quantifiable and for which assumptions have had to be made.

Key Issues to be Addressed	Role of Salford Greenspace Strategy in Addressing Key Sustainability Issue
<p>Accessibility</p> <p>The proportion of households within easy walking distance of good quality play and other formal facilities is low.</p> <p>The proportion of households within walking distance of open space greater than 2ha in size is high, but access to the public is not always possible due to private ownership.</p> <p>We are only just meeting our Minimum Local Standard for Playing Pitches and the overall quality of them is poor.</p>	<p>The SPD will increase the proportion of H/Hs within easy walking distance of a range of recreational facilities.</p> <p>The SPD should identify those parts of the city where public access to large greenspace sites is low and where access agreements or better connections between greenspace sites and local communities can be made.</p> <p>The SPD should identify the pitches that are required to be protected, identify those parts of the City where there is a shortage and where quality and quantity needs to be improved. This will be linked to the Planning Obligations SPD and the specific requirements for Open Space / Recreation and new Housing.</p>

<p>Health</p> <p>The overall standard of health in Salford is poor. A third of Salford's population is likely to die prematurely by comparison with national trends. The picture is significantly worse than this in Central Salford. A common cause of premature death is coronary heart disease (caused in part by lack of exercise /obesity / circulatory problems)</p> <p>Stress levels caused by urban living are high and can manifest themselves in a wide range of anti social behaviour and depression.</p>	<p>The SPD should increase the level of good quality connected greenspaces available for use by people of all ages. This will encourage participation in sports and leisure activities, within walking and cycling distance of where people live.</p> <p>Greenspaces are considered an important aspect of relieving urban stress and the SPD should help to improve neighbourhood environments by securing a wide range of accessible informal semi natural greenspaces, which are attractive, safe and well managed.</p>

<p>Crime / Fear of Crime</p> <p>Some parks and formal play areas suffer from anti social behaviour, which results in poor quality facilities, deters their use and alienates nearby residents.</p>	<p>The SPD should prioritise those sites that are a priority in terms of meeting local standards and where design improvements, security measures and additional resources, including on site presence, are essential in order to protect amenity, meet expectations and encourage facilities to be used to capacity.</p>
<p>Air Quality</p> <p>Poor air quality exists across the whole City all of which is within an Air Quality Management Area. Most exceedences occur on main road corridors, where high levels of traffic and congestion are a major cause of high levels of dust and particulates, which exacerbate respiratory illness and poor health.</p>	<p>The SPD could provide a network of large greenspace sites, which are connected, by a network of off highway routes. These routes will encourage people not to use their cars and in many cases will take people away from the most congested road corridors.</p> <p>Many of the large areas of greenspace are already wooded or have the potential to be planted as community woodlands. Tree plantings play an important role in filtering out dust and particulate matter, thus helping to improve air quality locally and strategically.</p>

<p>Neighbourhoods and Community</p> <p>Local people value their greenspaces and need to be empowered so as to feel able to influence the way in which they are improved or managed.</p>	<p>The SPD identifies those parks and semi natural greenspaces where there will be a commitment to long-term improvements. It is hoped that these will increasingly be reflected in the improvement / spending strategies of internal and external partners. This will help to empower local groups to put parks at the heart of the community and help to deliver improvements.</p> <p>Local pride and community involvement should have a beneficial impact in securing better use and reducing nuisance behaviour.</p>
<p>Declining Population</p> <p>The City's population has been declining since 1992. The rate of decline appears to be slowing but there is still evidence of decline in inner city areas, where it is hoped that large-scale regeneration will encourage inward migration.</p>	<p>The SPD will be an important tool in ensuring that there is a high quality green infrastructure within which regeneration takes place. Although unquantifiable there is evidence that high quality green environments attract investment, lead to higher house prices, create community interest and are an essential component of places where people want to live. It is hoped that the Greenspace Strategy SPD will help to create confidence and attract people to Central Salford in increasing numbers. This will have a broad beneficial (but unquantifiable) impact on the economy of the City.</p>

<p>Climate Change</p> <p>Climate change is likely to affect Salford in a variety of ways including increased flood risk. It will be important to address carbon emissions in appropriate ways and to adapt to irreversible impacts caused by climate change.</p>	<p>The SPD could help, albeit in a very minor way, to mitigate rates of carbon emissions through the beneficial impact of woodland planting. Promoting access by walking and cycling could reduce the need for short car borne journeys. The protection of large areas of greenspace could help to mitigate flood risk by acting as retention basins and slowing down the rate of runoff. Other benefits could relate to the beneficial cooling effects of greenspace within heat islands.</p>
<p>Reducing Dependence on the Car</p> <p>A substantial number of short journeys to key local facilities are made by car, sometimes as a result of poor connections between large areas of greenspace. Play areas and recreation facilities are regarded as key local facilities, which should be accessible, by means other than the car.</p>	<p>The connectivity of large greenspaces and their easy accessibility for walkers and cyclists should ensure that the SPD has a role in reducing use of cars for short recreational journeys.</p>

4.7 The above baseline summary presents the issues on which it is expected that the Greenspace SPD might have an impact. The next

stage is to predict the nature and scale of impact against the Sustainability Objectives.

5.0 Appraisal of Broad / Strategic Options

- 5.1 One of the key requirements of Sustainability Appraisal is to consider alternative options as part of the appraisal process in order to weigh the relative advantages / disadvantages and agree appropriate mitigation in order to minimise harmful impacts and maximise potential beneficial impacts.
- 5.2 The first step in this Options Appraisal has been to assess the overall likely impact of three broad options against each of the Sustainability Objectives.

Do Nothing Option. (“Business as Usual”)

See Appendix 1.

- 5.3 This option would assume that improvements to greenspace and the way it is managed would carry on in similar vein to the present. This would involve carrying forward a programme of improvements to the District Parks over the next 5 years and using Section 106 financial contributions to improve equipped play facilities in response to increased demands from new housing development.
- 5.4 Sports pitch investment would be likely to remain low with continuing poor quality for many grass pitches. Provision of equipped play areas and other youth and adult facilities would remain at a very low level (currently only 20% of recommended national standard of provision and only 34% of households within local walking distance).

- 5.5 The City would lack a citywide strategic approach to meeting the recreation standards established in the Unitary Development Plan.
- 5.6 This option would rely on the existing policies of the Review UDP but with no guidance to explain how they would be implemented. There would be no agreed spatial priorities for how best to meet standards and address areas of the city, deficient in provision.
- 5.7 The Do Nothing Option would lead to an increasing disparity between the demands of an increasing population (including high numbers of young people) and a very low base level of recreation provision.
- 5.8 Notwithstanding the major funding opportunities from regeneration in Central Salford, it is not anticipated that a Do Nothing Option would lead to any significant increase of resources.

Summary of Do Nothing Option

- 5.9 The matrix in Appendix 1 shows that in most cases there is a neutral impact, implying that very little would get worse, but by the same token little would improve.
- 5.10 The main positive impact would relate to the slow improvement in the accessibility of formal facilities to an increasing number of households. The rate of improvement would be slow and untargeted. The proportion of households within the minimum walking distance of equipped play facilities only improved from 32% to 35% between 2003 and 2005.
- 5.11 Given the rapid rise in the numbers of people suffering excessive weight problems, it is unlikely that the greenspace resource would be capable of playing a major part in any citywide strategy for health improvement / illness prevention.

5.12 The impact on reducing the need to travel and reducing traffic volumes is regarded as minimal and outweighed by the rise in levels of car ownership and use of the private car for other short journeys.

5.13 Other small and incremental positive impacts would relate to biodiversity and heritage objectives.

5.14 There have been some very positive changes to the management of District Parks. This has resulted in two Green Flag Awards and an increase in the number of Friends of Parks Groups from 3 in 2003 to 16 in 2005. In addition there are 2 Park Watch Groups and 3 Volunteer groups. This, through positive publicity and community discussions will inevitably have resulted in increased involvement in local decision making and improved community perceptions of the city.

Balanced Option (Greenspace Strategy SPD)

Appendix 2

5.15 The balanced option would establish a suite of priority investment sites, providing a strategic “best fit” spatial distribution. This would enable the city to priorities its resources in a way that would progress towards the recreation standards established in the Review UDP.

5.16 Importantly, the Balanced Option would take account of the key messages that emerged from the community committee stakeholder consultation meetings during 2004. This consultation demonstrated the importance of balancing the benefits of providing additional local facilities with their potential impact on local amenity. To that extent the balanced option confines the equipped sites for older children / young teenagers to parks and includes design policies and minimum buffer distances to protect neighbour amenity for equipped sites.

5.17 A key benefit of taking a considered and strategic approach to Greenspace lies in the increased opportunities to make strategic bids for

funding to deliver the proposals and meet the standards. It is important to recognise therefore that underpinning the Balanced Option, would be a likely significant increase in the level of resources available to meet the proposed standards.

5.18 It is assumed that the adoption of the Greenspace Strategy SPD would provide a justification for additional resources being secured through regeneration in Central Salford and would help to engage the interest of an increasing number of partner agencies (and resources) through the LSP / Community Plan.

Summary of Balanced “ Greenspace SPD “ Option

5.19 The matrix in Appendix 2 indicates a more positive set of impacts against a wide range of Sustainability Objectives than for the Do Nothing Option.

Health

5.20 Data suggests that in the long term, more active lifestyles, stimulated by investment and promotion of Priority Sites in the Greenspace Strategy SPD could effectively target an increasing population of health conscious people as well as residents vulnerable to illness through inactive lifestyles with the support of health based agencies and healthy lifestyle initiatives. The benefits for physical and mental health will increase over time.

Biodiversity

5.21 The Access Standards relating to Local and Strategic Semi Natural Greenspaces will result in a greater level of site management in favour of wildlife, although this may be slow and untargeted. This, coupled with the new Nature Conservation and Biodiversity SPD, should provide a greater positive impact on the Biodiversity Objective.

Reducing Need to Travel

5.22 Another area of major positive impact is anticipated to be in respect to accessibility to key recreation facilities and reducing the need to travel by car. The data on accessibility (Baseline Characteristics and Trends) shows a substantial anticipated increase in the number of households expected to have access to a range of facilities within walking catchments. It is expected that as the Green Access Corridors are improved an increasing number of short journeys based around local leisure and recreation will be undertaken on foot or by cycle. There are clearly strong supporting links between the ability of the Greenspace Strategy SPD in reducing journeys by car and promoting strong links to physical and mental health.

Community Cohesion

5.23 Increasing investment in a range of key greenspace facilities will have a number of community benefits. Increasing numbers of people will use facilities that are well managed and maintained. The improvements already taking place through Salford's Parks for People Strategy is likely to be accelerated as a result of the Greenspace Strategy SPD and the availability of additional external resources. Increasing numbers of users will help to create places that are more at ease with themselves and where increasing levels of social interaction can take place through organised and informal activities.

Local Decision Making

5.24 At the same time it is expected that increased investment will help to create facilities in which there is an increasing level of local pride. It is expected that this would lead to an increase in the number of local groups wishing to get involved in the management / protection of local greenspaces and therefore increasing levels of local decision making (something which is happening already).

Other Issues

5.25 Other areas that are considered more likely to have a beneficial impact than a negative one relate to Population, Air Quality and Climate Change. Whilst the latter two are not objectives of the Greenspace Strategy SPD they may be beneficiaries through the multi functional role that greenspace plays in the wider physical environment. In particular, the links between greenspace management and opportunities to reduce flood risk are likely to assume an increasing importance as Flood Risk assumes a higher profile in the control of development.

Maximising Accessibility (Additional Sites)

5.26 The Maximising Accessibility Option would assume the same distribution of Sites as the Balanced Option, plus an additional 11 Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAP) and 2 Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAP). Clearly, the inclusion of these additional 13 Equipped Play Sites would exacerbate the potentially negative impacts on local residential amenity identified in the following objectives of the Balanced Option in Appendix 2.

- To ensure light levels are appropriate to the situation
- To minimise noise pollution
- To reduce crime and fear of crime.

5.27 A separate matrix has not been produced specifically for these three Objectives, but it would be a sensible conclusion that to Maximise Accessibility by increasing the number of play sites (particularly NEAPs) could result in a greater potential for negative impact requiring greater levels of mitigation and potential to prejudice community cohesion and raise negative neighbourhood perceptions.

5.28 In particular, 11 sites, identified as NEAPs have been taken out of the SPD. This is in recognition of a strong message received from community consultation. There is a concern that NEAP activities are

particularly noisy and attract large numbers of young people. This has the potential to cause nuisance and at times, anti social behaviour. The buffer zones required to protect amenity from facilities such as a skateboard park are large and it is difficult to accommodate such a facility other than within parks.

- 5.29 The implications of the removal of 13 sites has reduced the number of households potentially within easy walking distance of a NEAP facility from 95 % to 82 % (predicted for Balanced Option) . Clearly, this is an erosion of the standard outlined in Policy R2 of the Draft Replacement UDP, “.....All households to be within 1000 metres of a Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play”. It is however, recognised that this standard is long term and aspirational and is still a substantial improvement on the current level of 63%. Protecting the amenity of local residents and minimising fear of crime was considered an imperative.

Summary

- 5.30 The Council has rejected the Option for Maximising Access in deference to amenity considerations. It is considered that the level of NEAP sites accommodated in existing and proposed parks will still provide a substantial improvement over the current position and will be in conformity with the aspiration of Policy R2.

Conclusions form the Broad Options Appraisal

- 5.31 It is clear that from an assessment of the three Broad Options, that the Balanced Option performs very well in terms of positive impacts on a range of sustainability objectives, when compared with the Do Nothing Option. There is no Sustainability Objective against which the Do Nothing Option provides a better result.

5.32 The third Broad Option (Maximising Accessibility) has positive benefits in promoting greater levels of access to Equipped Areas for Play, but this has to be weighed against the potentially negative impact of increasing levels of Noise , increasing Fear of Crime, and eroding Community Cohesion.

5.33 The broad assessment of options has demonstrated the overall benefits of the Balanced Option. This would take forward the aspiration of the Access Standards contained in the R2 policy , yet restrict the potentially disruptive effects of NEAP sites to parks and include policies around Design and Management that would ensure high quality sites and protection of residential amenity.

6.0 Detailed Appraisal of Effects of Preferred Broad Option

6.1 Having established the clear sustainability benefits of the Balanced Option, the next stage is to examine the effect of the particular plan policies for that Option. These have been grouped in to two key policy areas

- Achieving the Standards of Provision
- Achieving High Quality Design, Maintenance and Management.

Summary of Effects

6.2 The effects of the plan have been assessed under a series of headings contained in the Appraisal Matrix in Appendices 3 and 4. Explanations of the terminology are outlined below.

6.3 Impact

The impact of the grouped plan objectives was scored on a 6-point scale as below.

++	Major Positive
+	Minor Positive
0	Neutral
-	Minor negative
--	Major Negative
?	Uncertain

6.4 Timescale

Three time cut-off points have been used to demonstrate whether the effect of the policies are considered likely to gather momentum over time or possibly peak at a certain point. They broadly equate to short (0-3 years), medium (5-10 years) and long-term (10 + years) scenarios, which are considered reasonable in the context of the ability to deliver changes .

6.5 Certainty

This relates to the level of confidence for which the predicted impact might be expected to occur.

6.6 Scale

This relates to the spatial scale of predicted impacts. Whether the impacts will occur citywide or at a local / neighbourhood / site level

6.7 Permanence

This is an assessment of whether the predicted impacts will be permanent or likely to undergo a reversal after a period of time.

6.8 Secondary/ Cumulative/ Synergistic

Secondary effects are not a direct result of the plan, but occur as a result of an alternative pathway or programme, which in itself is a result of the plan e.g., regeneration in relation to increasing population

Cumulative effects arise when several small impacts, which individually are not significant, result in a combined effect, which is significant. e.g. wildlife improvements to a single greenspace site might of itself not be significant, but when a lot of sites are improved , it might lead to the reestablishment of a species in decline.

Synergistic effects occur when the total impact has greater value than the sum of the individual impacts e.g. General interest in healthy living, which might be brought about, by the increased level of physical activity stimulated by the proposals in the SPD.

Note: the above terms are not mutually exclusive and may overlap.

6.9 Comments

The comments column allows some narrative to explain the predicted outcomes in terms of the detailed effects columns.

6.10 Mitigation

This column allows an explanation as to how it may be possible to minimise, reverse, slow down, compensate for negative impacts or encourage, speed up, create or perpetuate positive impacts.

Detailed Appraisal of Effects

Policy Grouping - Achieving the Standards of Provision (Policies GS1, GS2, GS3, GS4, GS5, GS6, GS7, GS8, GS9 and GS14)

6.11 Appendix 3 appraises the effects of the grouped policies, which will deliver the required Standard of Provision, against the long term Sustainability Objectives.

6.12 There are potentially some very positive long-term impacts , particularly in relation to Improvement of Physical and Mental Health, Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity, Improving Accessibility to Key Facilities, Maximising Sustainable Economic Growth, Reducing Need to Travel ,

Improving Community Cohesion , Involvement in Decision Making and Improving Perceptions of the City.

- 6.13 Whilst difficult to quantify, the potential negative impacts relate to amenity issues and fear of crime.

Fear of Crime / Nuisance

It is anticipated, given a proposed increase in the number of equipped play facilities, that there would be a proportional increase in the level of low-level nuisance crime (largely based around vandalism, litter , graffiti and nuisance behaviour) .

Noise

Given the increase in the number of play facilities being proposed, a proportionate increase in levels of noise might be anticipated . Much of this would be associated with the legitimate use of the facility, but a proportion may be as a result of inappropriate behaviour taking place at inappropriate times. Experience suggests that groups of teenagers are often considered a particular problem.

Lighting

The more intensive use of sports pitches and youth/ adult games areas might be anticipated to lead to an increase in the use of flood lighting with potential impact on the amenity of adjoining occupiers.

Policy Grouping – Achieving High Quality Design and Management (Policies GS10, GS11, GS14 and GS16)

- 6.14 Appendix 4 appraises the effects of the grouped policies aimed at delivering High Quality Design and Management, against the long term Sustainability Objectives.
- 6.15 High quality design will contribute to many positive impacts of the SPD. It will be essential in securing enjoyment of facilities and providing

confidence for people to use the facilities to their full potential. Good quality design and management would therefore secure the anticipated benefits for Improvement of Physical and Mental Health, Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity, Improving Accessibility to Key Facilities, Maximising Sustainable Economic Growth, Reducing Need to Travel, Improving Community Cohesion and Improving Perceptions of the City.

- 6.16 Whilst it might be anticipated that the increased number of sites could lead to a potential rise in levels of nuisance behaviour, it is expected that this will be offset by the benefits of good design and maintenance. High quality design will ensure that facilities are fit for purpose and appropriate to their location. Particular emphasis would be placed on minimising impacts on the amenity of local residents and in some cases this may result in positive amenity benefits. An emphasis on resources for maintenance and management will keep facilities in good condition, thereby increasing levels of confidence. With increasing levels of confidence will come increasing levels of use, thereby making people feel safer.
- 6.17 It is therefore anticipated that the potential negative impact on issues of crime, noise and light and amenity will be offset by the benefits of High Quality Design and Management. .

7.0 Mitigation

Mitigating Negative Impacts

- 7.1 Where negative impacts have been identified, it is important to demonstrate that appropriate mitigation will take place to minimise harmful impacts.

Policies

- 7.2 Policy GS10 recognises the importance of addressing possible harmful impacts of nuisance, noise and light through good greenspace design.

- 7.3 Policy GS7 includes the requirement for LEAP sites to have a 30 metre (or more) buffer zone between the Equipped Playspace and the curtilage of the nearest residential property.
- 7.4 Policy GS8 includes an expectation that NEAP sites would be expected to include a “significant buffer zone” around them.
- 7.5 Policy GS11 places an emphasis on the importance of consultation in order to address concerns of the local community and GS 16 seeks to ensure that no scheme proceeds without adequate funding to achieve an agreed specification for maintenance.

Reduction in number of Amenity Sensitive Sites.

7.6 In order to minimise the potential for nuisance and noise, the following, 13 equipped play sites (predominantly NEAPs) have been removed from the original version of the Strategy. Following consultation with community committees and a strong message about the potentially negative impact of NEAPs, these sites were considered to have the potential to cause nuisance by virtue of their relative proximity to residential property. The sites removed are :

Site Name	Community Committee	Facility
Dolbey St	Claremont Weaste	NEAP
Islington Street	Broughton Blackfriars	NEAP
Shackleton Street	Eccles	NEAP
Narbonne Gardens	Eccles	NEAP
Caroline Street	Irlam / Cadishead	NEAP
Coniston Road	Swinton	NEAP
Rosehill	Swinton	NEAP
Wesley Street	Swinton	NEAP

Rainbow Park	Walkden/ Little Hulton	NEAP
Ellenbrook Road	Walkden/ Little Hulton	NEAP
Clovelly Road	Worsley Boothstown	NEAP
Curlew Drive	Irlam Cadishead	LEAP
Raven Drive	Irlam Cadishead	LEAP

7.7 In the Draft Greenspace Strategy SPD , the reduced number of Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play has been largely located within existing or proposed Neighbourhood or District Parks . These sites are considered sufficiently large to provide adequate buffer zones and therefore protect adjoining residents.

Maximising Positive Impacts

7.8 It must be stressed that in assessing the policy effects, the predicted positive impacts are predicated on three assumptions:

- 1 That the adoption of the Greenspace Strategy SPD will provide a “hook” on which to hang a wide range of bids for external funding which will allow the delivery of a wide range of site improvements and establishment of the network of Green Access Corridors.
- 2 That the Greenspace Strategy SPD will act as a catalyst to a wide range of partners who will be able to make the connections into key cross cutting issues relating to Healthy Lifestyles, Community Safety, Sports Development, Youth Partnerships etc. The spatial outputs of Greenspace Strategy SPD cannot deliver sustainability outcomes in isolation.
- 3 That over time, the increasing range and quality of facilities will provide increasing number of outlets for all age ranges. Clearly the timing of this is very uncertain.

7.9 It is uncertain at this point in time the extent and precise form that these assumptions will take.

Summary of Appraisal of Detailed Effects

7.10 It is concluded that provided that the proposed policy measures are undertaken in a consistent and robust way, and provided other agencies are engaged in the process, the potential negative impacts of the Greenspace Strategy SPD can be minimised.

7.11 It should be recognised that negative impacts can never be reduced to nothing. There will always be some degree of impact because it is not possible to predict human behaviour and this is beyond the scope of planning policy.

7.12 In conclusion, however, it is considered that the overall effects of the Balanced Option are positive in relation to achieving the policy objectives of the Greenspace Strategy SPD and as a contributor to the long-term sustainability objectives for Salford.

8.0 Monitoring of Impact of Greenspace SPD

8.1 As the SPD is implemented it will be important to keep it under review and monitor the significant effects of the plan. This will allow corroboration of the anticipated impacts, identify any unforeseen consequences and take appropriate mitigation / remedial action if necessary. It is anticipated that monitoring will be undertaken as part of the Annual Monitoring Report.

8.2 Monitoring measures should reflect the major areas of impact that the plan is anticipated to have on Sustainability Objectives. These will include the following indicators which are considered to be measurable and for some of which data is currently available.

Sustainability Objective	Indicator	Existing	Target
Accessibility	% h/h within 400m walking distance of a LEAP	33%	56%
	% h/h within 1000m walking distance of a NEAP	61%	82%
	% h/h within 1200m walking distance of a Neighbourhood Park	69%	87%
	% h/h within 3200m walking distance of a District Park	21%	93%
	% h/h within 500m walking distance of local semi natural greenspace	47%	76%
	% h/h within 200m walking distance of strategic semi natural greenspace	43%	73%
Health	Increase in number of people using their greenspace regularly and events taking place in greenspaces.		To be agreed
Crime Reduction	Increase in the % of residents who feel safe in Parks		To be agreed
	Reduction in the proportion of priority greenspace sites identified as being a Nuisance Neighbour .		
Community Cohesion	Increase in the % residents who use their park / greenspace regularly.		To be agreed
	Number of Community based groups linked to Parks / Greenspace Sites.		

- 8.3 Monitoring of site improvements will provide measurable data in relation to the Indicators underpinning Accessibility.
- 8.4 Better quality data will be required for Indicators relating to Health, Crime Reduction and Community Cohesion. This will be sought through the work of partners and will be included in Salford's Annual Monitoring Report.

Appendix 1

BROAD ASSESSMENT OF OPTIONS – Do Nothing (“ Business as Usual”)

	Effect	Comments/Mitigation
To secure a sustainable increase in the city’s population	0 / -	High quality greenspace can improve the perception of an area and raise levels of investment with a knock on effect for long-term population. Despite some improvements to the management of some parks, there is local concern about poor quality and management of many greenspaces. Greenspace should be seen as a positive and valued community asset, but the quality of Life Survey suggests that it is often perceived as a negative asset, particularly in parts of the city where it is the setting for anti social behaviour. Under a Do Nothing Option, Greenspace would not therefore play the positive role in securing population increase through urban renaissance that might be hoped for.
To improve physical and mental health	0	The positive health benefits of some quality greenspaces would be outweighed by the disbenefits associated with others. Citywide, neutral impact in relation to health at a time when national policy recognises the strong associations between quality greenspaces and opportunities for health improvements.
To protect and enhance biodiversity	+	Greenspaces will always have some benefits for wildlife. Citywide , some sites will be improving naturally, whilst neglect of others will lead to loss of wildlife interest. Positive management of some parks plus the designation of Local Nature Reserves, is probably leading to a slight increase in wildlife value of greenspaces overall.
To protect and improve soil and land resources	0	No impact considered likely
To protect and enhance water resources	0	No impact considered likely
To improve air quality	0	It is only considered likely that air quality would be improved if there was substantial additional planting of woodland on greenspaces. Notwithstanding the positive impact of the Red Rose Forest the amount of additional woodland planting is very small and not considered to have any positive impact. Do nothing option would in effect be neutral impact.
To reduce contributions to climate change	0	Carbon emissions could potentially be mitigated by tree planting. Notwithstanding the positive impact of the Red Rose Forest the amount of additional woodland planting is very small and not considered to have any positive impact. Do nothing option would in effect be neutral impact.
To minimise the impacts of climate change	0	Greenspaces play an important role in relation to flood control through their role in slowing urban drainage, water retention and slow filtration . Existing greenspaces already fulfil that role to some extent, although unquantifiable. Some sites could be more positively managed to retain water but there are no plans to do this at present. The impact is considered neutral under a Do Nothing Scenario.
To ensure the prudent use of	0	Planning policy already protects Greenspaces and therefore under the sequential approach, use of greenspaces for new development is exceptional.

	Effect	Comments/Mitigation
natural resources		
To protect and enable the appreciation of the city's heritage	+	The cities greenspace and in particular the parks are an important resource for built heritage. The resource is already protected , but not always managed effectively, due to lack of resources. Nevertheless, under a Do Nothing Option, the heritage resource will continue to have a measure of policy protection.
To maintain and enhance the quality and character of landscape and townscape	0 / +	Greenspaces and parks are already protected by planning policy and play an important role in the setting of urban neighbourhoods. This will continue under a Do Nothing Option, but other than for District Parks, the enhancement of greenspaces will not be much above standard maintenance specifications.
To ensure light levels are appropriate to the situation	0	No impact considered likely
To minimise noise pollution	0 / -	Notwithstanding the fact that the legitimate use of play areas and sports pitches by energetic young people is likely to create noise, this problem is exacerbated when play areas are poorly designed and if they become the focus for inappropriate and antisocial activity by inappropriate users. This already occurs at a number of sites, and is not expected to improve, other than within District Parks, without additional resources. Data suggests that, If anything, the problem may get worse
To reduce crime and the fear of crime	0 / -	Notwithstanding the fact that the legitimate use of play areas and sports pitches by energetic young people is likely to create noise, this problem is exacerbated when play areas are poorly designed and if they become the focus for inappropriate and antisocial activity by inappropriate users. This already occurs at a number of sites, and is not expected to improve, other than within District Parks, without additional resources. Data suggests that, If anything, the problem may get worse
To maximise sustainable economic growth	0	High quality greenspace has the potential to make the City attractive to a wide range of skilled workers, thereby supporting its economic growth. However, the Do Nothing Option is unlikely to allow this potential to be fulfilled.
To enhance economic inclusion	0	No impact anticipated
To increase prosperity	0	No impact anticipated
To improve the city's knowledge base	0	No impact anticipated
To ensure that everyone has access to a good home that meets their needs	0	No impact anticipated
To improve accessibility to key	+	This is measured by the number of households that are within maximum catchment distance of

	Effect	Comments/Mitigation
facilities		recreation facilities. Some new facilities and existing site improvements are taking place, but largely as a result of open space improvements associated with new residential development. This will continue in an ad hoc manner.
To reduce the need to travel	0 / +	Improving recreational standards could encourage more people to use their local facilities rather than travelling further a field, often by car. Notwithstanding the greenspace improvements that are taking place, particularly in relation to District Park improvements considerable improvements in site management and quality of connecting routes would also be required to encourage greater numbers of journeys by foot or by cycle.
To reduce traffic volumes	0 / +	Improving recreational standards could encourage more people to use their local facilities rather than travelling further a field, often by car. Notwithstanding the greenspace improvements that are taking place, particularly in relation to District Park improvements considerable improvements in site management and quality of connecting routes would also be required to encourage greater numbers of journeys by foot or by cycle.
To improve community cohesion	0 / +	A number of parks are undergoing improvements. This has resulted in a number of Friends of Park groups and Action Groups (e.g. BMX Bandits) becoming established. The achievement of two green flag awards should be a matter of considerable pride. Such achievements are important factors in securing community pride and cohesion. It will however, take considerable additional resources and local commitment to replicate this at any scale in the future.
To increase involvement in decision-making	0 / +	The Friends of Parks Groups and use of community volunteers provides increasing opportunities for local people to influence the way their local greenspace and parks develop and are managed.
To improve perceptions of the city	+	It is to be hoped that the range of existing initiatives and the increasing profile for greenspace is already improving the way that the city is perceived e.g. Green Flag Awards, Newlands Partnership.

Appendix 2

Broad Assessment of Options – Balanced “Greenspace SPD” Option

Objective	Option 1 (Balanced “Greenspace Strategy SPD” Option)	
	Effect	Comments/Mitigation
To secure a sustainable increase in the city’s population	0 / +	It is predicted that regeneration in Central Salford will result in a population increase . This is likely to occur, irrespective of the Greenspace Strategy SPD. However, the Greenspace Strategy SPD will help to attract new residents to the city and retain existing ones. This will add value to regeneration resulting in an urban renaissance with better quality of life for families and young people. In that sense the future population increases will be more sustainable.
To improve physical and mental health	+ +	The Greenspace Strategy will secure a wide range of formal and informal recreation activities and increasing opportunities to access a wide range of sites by walking and cycling. These are an important part of a healthy lifestyle. Whilst it is not possible to quantify the impact on future levels of health , it is considered an essential preventative component of any future health strategy for the City.
To protect and enhance biodiversity	+	As a result of the Greenspace Strategy, ??? ha of greenspaces will at some stage in the future be brought into management for the greater benefit of wildlife. This represents an increase of ???
To protect and improve soil and land resources	0	No impact considered likely.
To protect and enhance water resources	0	No impact considered likely
To improve air quality	0 / +	Bringing greater amounts of greenspace under landscape management will increase the opportunity to undertake tree planting , in appropriate locations, particularly adjoining major road corridors where air quality standards may be breached. It is not possible to predict or quantify the likely impacts at this stage , but they are considered to be broadly beneficial, particularly in relation to reduction in levels of particulates.
To reduce contributions to climate change	0	Bringing greater amounts of greenspace under landscape management will increase the opportunity to undertake tree planting which can act as a carbon sink. However, the likely levels of tree planting are unlikely to be significant at a local level.

Objective	Option 1 (Balanced “Greenspace Strategy SPD” Option)	
	Effect	Comments/Mitigation
To minimise the impacts of climate change	+	Bringing greater amounts of greenspace under positive management will increase the opportunities to maximise their beneficial impacts in relation to flood control / sustainable urban drainage systems. It is difficult to quantify the future impact, but for the most relevant sites is considered to be increasingly beneficial in reducing risks of local flooding in the future.
To ensure the prudent use of natural resources	0	Greenspaces will continue to have high levels of policy protection. The Greenspace Strategy SPD will strengthen and justify the existing policy framework.
To protect and enable the appreciation of the city’s heritage	+	The Greenspace Strategy SPD will bring an increasing number of formal parks (starting with District Parks) under positive management and often with the support of Friends of Parks Groups. This will increase the level of opportunity to bring heritage features associated with those greenspaces under more positive management and secure future resource levels appropriate to their maintenance needs. This will ensure their appreciation by increasing numbers of people.
To maintain and enhance the quality and character of landscape and townscape	+	The Greenspace Strategy SPD will prioritise improvement activity on a range of key sites. For some of the larger sites, the improvements may result in better boundary treatments and access arrangements, thereby integrating the greenspaces with adjoining neighbourhoods and improving urban design. Other improvements will relate to the Green Access Corridors and the local links to them, making them more user friendly and attractive. There will therefore be a positive impact in terms of this Objective, although it is difficult to predict and quantify.
To ensure light levels are appropriate to the situation	0 / -	The increase in the range of formal sports and play opportunities is likely to result in the increased use of floodlighting to maximise the use of facilities. This could potentially have a harmful impact on local amenity and design policies will need to minimise this.
To minimise noise pollution	0 / -	The increased number of proposed play sites and more intensive use of sports facilities may lead to an increase in the potential for additional noise . This increase in facilities will be balanced by ensuring that play site proposals have an adequate amenity buffer zone ,are designed in a way that is sympathetic to surrounding uses, are resourced for high quality management and maintenance.
To reduce crime and the fear of crime	0 / -	Based on past experience, the increased number of recreation and play sites and more intensive use of sports facilities may lead to an increase in the potential for anti social behaviour. This increase in facilities will be balanced by ensuring that proposals have an adequate amenity buffer zone ,are designed in a way that is sympathetic to surrounding uses, and are resourced for high quality management and maintenance. Perhaps more importantly, the Greenspace Strategy will provide a range of facilities that will hopefully disperse active recreational pursuits around a range of sites. The long term impact of better quality facilities , management and maintenance will be higher levels of use, making people feel safer.

Objective	Option 1 (Balanced "Greenspace Strategy SPD" Option)	
	Effect	Comments/Mitigation
To maximise sustainable economic growth	+	High quality greenspace will make the city more attractive to a wide range of skilled , highly employable . This will support the economic growth of the city.
To enhance economic inclusion	0	No impact anticipated
To increase prosperity	0	No impact anticipated
To improve the city's knowledge base	0	No impact anticipated
To ensure that everyone has access to a good home that meets their needs	0	No impact anticipated
To improve accessibility to key facilities	+ +	The Greenspace Strategy SPD will result in a substantially increased number of households having access to good quality recreation facilities, in terms of maximum walking distances.
To reduce the need to travel	+	It is expected that the increasing number of good quality formal and informal recreation facilities that lie within easy walking distance will reduce the demand for car journeys to facilities further a field. This is difficult to predict at this stage , but is likely to have a positive impact.
To reduce traffic volumes	+	More local facilities will reduce the need to travel by private car. In particular, the implementation and improved management of the Green Access Corridors (perhaps linked to Healthy Lifestyle campaigns) will result in an increasing proportion of local journeys being made by foot and cycle. Although difficult to predict and quantify, it is expected that this would have a beneficial impact.
To improve community cohesion	+ +	It is expected that as an increasing number of parks and other formal facilities are improved and there is a greater level of community involvement , the larger greenspaces will become an increasing source of community pride, which can bring local people together in a positive sense.
To increase involvement in decision-making	+	It is expected that the Greenspace Strategy will focus the attention of local people on the Priority Sites that have been identified. It is hoped that this will lead to increased levels of community involvement and decision making through the role of Community Committees , Local Action Groups and Friends of Parks Groups.
To improve perceptions of the city	+	It is considered that the prioritisation of a range of Greenspace Sites and the commitment to high quality management will result in a greenspace resource that will improve the setting of the city for large-scale regeneration and improve the perceptions of local people and external investors.

Appendix 3 Detailed Appraisal of Effects of Balanced Option - Achieving the Standards of Provision

This represents policies GS1, GS2, GS3, , GS4, GS5, GS6, GS7,GS8 and GS9.

Objective	Timescale			Certainty	Scale	Perm anent ?	Secondary, cumulative, synergistic	Comments	Mitigation
	0-3 years	3-10 years	10+ years						
To secure a sustainable increase in the city's population	○	○	○/ +	Low Other factors will have greater influence.	Cwide	Yes	Synergistic in that it will add value to wider regeneration initiatives	If there is any impact it will be long term	It is important to ensure that the Greenspace Strategy SPD is closely integrated with a range of urban regeneration initiatives and partners.
To improve physical and mental health	○/ +	+	++	Medium certainty. Increase in leisure / sporting opportunities should encourage healthier lifestyles.	Cwide	Y	Cumulative and synergistic Improved health will be a matter of choice for people. Better standards of provision will encourage greater levels of use of facilities. This will encourage establishment of clubs and health related initiatives.	All recreational activity will be beneficial but sports development and use of the Green Access Corridors would have particular beneficial impact.	To achieve anticipated health outcomes will require a Greenspace Champion who will be able to "sell" the benefits of the Greenspace SPD to a wide range of health related agencies and partners. The real success of the strategy in terms of better health will be dependent on the ability to integrate with other health delivery partnerships e.g. Healthy Walking, Green Gym, Sports Development, Early Years Play, Youth Clubs etc
To protect and enhance biodiversity	○/ +	+	+	Medium. Some improvement is certain. The level of	N / K	Yes	Secondary. Biodiversity improvements will be dependent on other	Increased numbers of sites , particularly those managed as semi	Success is dependent on the maintenance and management regimes,

Objective	Timescale			Certainty	Scale	Perm anent ?	Secondary, cumulative, synergistic	Comments	Mitigation
	0-3 years	3-10 years	10+ years						
				improvement is dependent on resources.			policies, particularly in relation to land management.	natural greenspaces could provide significant increases in habitats supporting the city's biodiversity.	which will be the responsibility of partners.
To protect and improve soil and land resources	○	○/ +	○/ +	Medium	City	N/A	Future use of greenfield land will help to minimise potential loss to built development and may secure remediation of derelict land for a positive use.	Any impact likely to be minimal	
To protect and enhance water resources	○	○	○	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
To improve air quality	○	○	○/+	Low . Any improvements would be dependent on undertaking additional tree planting schemes, landowner agreement and long-term management..	Mediu m	Yes	Secondary / cumulative.	Any improvements would be long term following tree planting. Benefits would derive from large-scale sites adjoining the main road corridors.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	NA	NA	NA	N / A	N/A	N/A	N/A	This objective is dependent on site management rather than achieving standards	N/A
To minimise the impacts of climate	<u>NA</u>	NA	NA	N / A	N/A	N/A	N/A	This objective is dependent on site management rather	N/A

Objective	Timescale			Certainty	Scale	Perm anent ?	Secondary, cumulative, synergistic	Comments	Mitigation
	0-3 years	3-10 years	10+ years						
change								than achieving standards.	
To ensure the prudent use of natural resources	NA	NA	NA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A
To protect and enable the appreciation of the city's heritage	NA	NA	NA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A
To maintain and enhance the quality and character of landscape and townscape	O/+	<u>O/</u> ±	<u>O/+</u>	High.	Cwide	Yes	N/A	Greenspace is already protected by Development Plan policies. The Greenspace SPD provides added justification to the strategic policies	None required
To ensure light levels are appropriate to the situation	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	This issue is dependent on Design and Management	N/A
To minimise noise pollution	NA	NA	NA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	This Objective is dependent on Design and Management. An increase in facilities could result in diluting of problems.	N/A
To reduce crime and	NA	NA	NA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	This objective is dependent on Design	N/A

Objective	Timescale			Certainty	Scale	Permanent ?	Secondary, cumulative, synergistic	Comments	Mitigation
	0-3 years	3-10 years	10+ years						
the fear of crime								and Management	
To maximise sustainable economic growth		+	+	High	City	Yes	Cumulative.	It is considered that a good range of high quality recreational facilities will make the city attractive to a wide range of people, which will support future economic growth.	The Greenspace Strategy SPD needs to be integrated with urban regeneration, which is the main driver for sustainable economic growth.
To enhance economic inclusion								No significant impact	
To increase prosperity								No significant impact	
To improve the city's knowledge base								No significant impact	
To ensure that everyone has access to a good home that meets their needs								No significant impact	
To improve accessibility to key facilities	+	++	+++	High . Improvements are already taking place. Land is largely in council ownership, increased funding is anticipated and priorities have been established.	Citywide	Probably	Secondary, cumulative and synergistic. The strategy prioritises the sites required to meet standards. The standard will only be achieved when facilities are	Some standards such as District Parks are already met. Others such as Children's Equipped Playspace are expected to improve significantly as a result	To achieve the expected standards will require a range of resources from different organisations. Securing the resources will require a "Greenspace Champion" to take a

Objective	Timescale			Certainty	Scale	Perm anent ?	Secondary, cumulative, synergistic	Comments	Mitigation
	0-3 years	3-10 years	10+ years						
							improved or installed.	of regeneration and planning obligations. Standards relating to Strategic Greenspace will not be achievable without specific allocations (which is not the role of this SPD). Whether the facilities remain permanent will depend on long-term commitment to maintenance and management.	corporate lead, coordinate bids and secure contributions from external agencies. Long-term revenue commitment is vital. This will be secured in part by the application of H8 Policy. No scheme will proceed unless adequate revenue resources have been secured.
To reduce the need to travel (to recreational facilities ,by car)	0	O/ +	+	Medium. This will depend on the quality of the facility, its management and ease of access.		Yes	Secondary, cumulative and synergistic. It is anticipated that once people are confident in the quality of access routes and recognise the health and recreational benefits of access by walking and cycling, its popularity will grow. This should lead to greater levels of walking and cycling to a wider range of key local facilities	Good quality , accessible recreation sites (especially parks, equipped play spaces , youth and adult recreational and local greenspace) are regarded as a Key Local Facility to which people should be able to walk or cycle to within an agreed distance and without meeting major physical barriers.	To secure this objective will require a substantial number of play site and park improvements to take place. Targeted investment through the Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan will be required to secure necessary physical improvements and maintenance. Ranger presence will secure greater levels of confidence for users for off highway routes.
To reduce traffic volumes	O	+	+	Medium. Any level of certainty is dependent	Citywide		Secondary, cumulative and Synergistic. It would be expected that there will	The SPD prioritises the strategic sites and Green Access	To secure high level use of Green Access Corridors will require good standard

Objective	Timescale			Certainty	Scale	Perm anent ?	Secondary, cumulative, synergistic	Comments	Mitigation
	0-3 years	3-10 years	10+ years						
				on quality of Green Access Corridors.			be a strong relationship between an increasing propensity to enjoy greenspaces through walking and cycling and the tendency not to rely on the car.	Corridors. Securing improvements to encourage local journeys by foot and cycle will be dependent on other programmes of work and good quality publicity. The success of this prediction will be heavily dependent on the availability of resources for high quality maintenance and management.	of improvement and good publicity / marketing to encourage greater level of public acceptance. Rights of Way Improvement Plan, Cycling Strategy and Planning Obligations will all be vehicles to secure required outcomes. Commitment to securing higher levels of revenue funding and reducing fear of crime will be critical.
To improve community cohesion	+	+	+	Medium	citywi de	Yes	Secondary and synergistic. Increased levels of social interaction and trust between social groupings in relation to use of greenspaces should have positive benefits in other areas of social and community interaction.	Good quality greenspace standards should provide opportunities for a wide range of users and age ranges. This will increase the level of social interaction and hopefully lead to increased tolerance between users, particularly young people.	The success of the SPD in relation to community cohesion will greatly depend on the design and management of sites, particularly parks, equipped play areas and other youth / adult facilities.
To increase involvement in decision-making				High. The evidence shows that the number of greenspace interest groups has substantially increased in recent years in	Cityw ide		Secondary,	As opportunities arise to improve Greenspace facilities, it is likely that greater numbers of people will wish to get involved and influence the types and	To achieve this sustainable outcome will require considerable levels of commitment and support from partners.

Objective	Timescale			Certainty	Scale	Perm anent ?	Secondary, cumulative, synergistic	Comments	Mitigation
	0-3 years	3-10 years	10+ years						
				response to increased levels of activity, particularly in Parks.				management of facility. Community based groups are capable of attracting external funding, otherwise unavailable to local authority.	
To improve perceptions of the city	O/+	+	+	Uncertain	Citywide			Achieving the local recreational standards will be an important element of sustainable communities and should improve the perception of Salford as a good place to live for residents.	The creation of improved perceptions for residents will depend greatly on the ability to manage and maintain sites effectively.

Appendix 4 Detailed Appraisal of Effects – High Quality Design and Management.

This represents policies GS13 (Design of Greenspaces) ; GS14 (Consultation); GS18 (Management and Maintenance).

Objective	Timescale			Certainty	Scale	Perm anent ?	Secondary, cumulative, synergistic	Comments	Mitigation
	0-3 years	3-10 years	10+ years						
To secure a sustainable increase in the city's population	O	O +	+	Low Other factors will have a greater influence, but well managed greenspace will be a contribution.	Citywide	Likely	Synergistic in that it will add value to wider regeneration initiatives.	Parks are beginning to benefit from more proactive management. This will have an increasingly beneficial impact in securing high quality environment and quality of life for residents.	It is important to ensure that the SPD is closely integrated with a range of urban regeneration initiatives and partners and maintenance regimes aligned with it.
To improve physical and mental health	O	+	+	Possible.	Citywide	Yes	Good design and management will help to enable people to adopt healthy lifestyles.	Better design and management of sites will be very important to encourage people to use the sites more, increase appropriate use of sites and reduce the levels of anti social activities. High standards of design and Management will encourage greater levels of use of facilities which will encourage greater levels of activity E.g. Healthy Walking Initiatives, Jogging	To achieve this outcome will be dependent on securing resources and ensuring that all Priority Sites are linked to action plans for Parks and Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan. Policies GS 18 is written to ensure that new works are not undertaken without appropriate resources.

Objective	Timescale			Certainty	Scale	Perm anent ?	Secondary, cumulative, synergistic	Comments	Mitigation
	0-3 years	3-10 years	10+ years						
								Clubs	
To protect and enhance biodiversity	?	+	++	Medium, Some improvement is certain. The level of improvement is dependent on resources.	Citywide	Yes	Secondary, cumulative & Synergistic Biodiversity improvements will depend on land management policies of other agencies and landowners. As improvements take place, populations of species and habitats will increase and spread more widely.	The most substantial gains for biodiversity will be achieved through improved management and enhancement of local and Strategic Greenspace sites and District Parks. The rate at which this happens will depend on resources and other landowners.	To achieve the required outcomes for biodiversity will require changes in management of some city parks. This is recognised in Policy GS10 and the Nature Conservation SPD will help to secure wildlife improvements on the back of relevant development proposals.
To protect and improve soil and land resources				Medium	<u>C'wide</u> <u>e</u>	<u>N/A</u>			Management and maintenance need to ensure that protection and degrading of soil quality is minimised.
To protect and enhance water	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	C'wide	<u>N/A</u>		Management and maintenance need to	

Objective	Timescale			Certainty	Scale	Perm anent ?	Secondary, cumulative, synergistic	Comments	Mitigation
	0-3 years	3-10 years	10+ years						
resources								ensure that pollution and degrading of soil quality is minimised.	
To improve air quality			?	Possible.	Minor & in limited areas	Yes	Secondary / cumulative.	Scale of improvements uncertain although trees are known to have beneficial impacts. Any beneficial impacts would be long term following tree planting. Impacts would be limited to large scale sites adjoining the main road corridors.	
To reduce contributions to climate change				High	C'wide	N/A	N/A	Although trees act as carbon sinks, the impact of additional planting within greenspaces will be insignificant.	N/A
To minimise the impacts of climate change	?	+	+	High	Within flood catchments	Yes	Cumulative.	The role of greenspace in addressing local flood risk is gaining increasing importance through role of Sustainable Urban Drainage. Maintaining current levels of greenspace is important in attenuating speed of	Policy GS10 recognises the relevance of greenspace to this issue. Additional guidance will be required to identify which greenspaces have a role to play.

Objective	Timescale			Certainty	Scale	Perm anent ?	Secondary, cumulative, synergistic	Comments	Mitigation
	0-3 years	3-10 years	10+ years						
								urban runoff.	
To ensure the prudent use of natural resources	O			High	C'wide	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
To protect and enable the appreciation of the city's heritage	?	+	+	Uncertain. The ability to improve heritage will be dependent on resources.	N/K	Yes	Secondary, cumulative, synergistic. The impact will be incremental as additional park resources become available. Hopefully, as park users appreciate the park assets, this will stimulate wider interest in Salford's heritage.	The ability to improve the heritage assets in parks will depend on resources. It is hoped that the Greenspace Strategy will stimulate higher level of funding and bids related to heritage.	
To maintain and enhance the quality and character of landscape and townscape	O/+	O/ +	O/+	High	Citywide	Yes	Secondary	Greenspace is already protected by Development Plan policies. The Greenspace SPD provides added justification to the strategic policies . A high standard of management will strengthen the argument even further.	None Required
To ensure light	O/?	O/	O/	Certain, dependent on	Local	Yes		Increased levels of	Each case will

Objective	Timescale			Certainty	Scale	Perm anent ?	Secondary, cumulative, synergistic	Comments	Mitigation
	0-3 years	3-10 years	10+ years						
levels are appropriate to the situation	-	?-	?-	site characteristics and levels of mitigation.				use of pitches and other sports facilities will increase demands for lighting to extend hours of use.	need to be treated on its merits, but plan policies DES7 EN14, R2 and GS10 in this SPD will protect amenity of people living nearby to sites with floodlighting.
To minimise noise pollution	O/? -	O/ ?-	O/? -	No absolute certainty in that intensification of some sites is bound to lead to some additional noise at certain times. Appropriate mitigation will be important.	Local	Yes		Increased use of formal and informal greenspace sites and introducing new facilities to some sites will inevitably increase levels of activity and in some cases levels of noise. Recreation, activity and noise cannot be mutually exclusive in many cases. It will be important to manage to minimise potential disturbance.	Each case will be treated on its merits, but plan policies DES7 , EN14 and R2 will be applied. GS10 and GS11 will also be applied and give added protection from the potential impact of noise with particular respect to greenspace sites.

Objective	Timescale			Certainty	Scale	Perm anent ?	Secondary, cumulative, synergistic	Comments	Mitigation
	0-3 years	3-10 years	10+ years						
To reduce crime and the fear of crime	O/? -	O/ ?-	O/? -	No absolute certainty in that intensification of some sites is bound to lead to some additional noise at certain times. Appropriate mitigation will be important.	Local	No		Whilst the introduction of new facilities will provide new and enhanced recreation opportunities, it can also create nuisance , vandalism and litter.	Each case will be treated on its merits, but plan policies DES7 , DES 11,and R2 will be applied. GS10 and GS11 will also be applied and give added protection from the potential impact of noise and inappropriate disturbance. GS16 will also ensure that adequate resources are available to manage and maintain sites in the appropriate way.
To maximise sustainable economic growth	O	+	+	High	Cwide	Yes	Cumulative	It is considered that a good range of high quality recreational facilities will make the city attractive to a wide range of people, which will support future economic growth.	The Greenspace Strategy SPD needs to be integrated with urban regeneration, which is the main driver for sustainable economic growth.
To enhance	O		O		Cwide	N/A			

Objective	Timescale			Certainty	Scale	Permanent ?	Secondary, cumulative, synergistic	Comments	Mitigation
	0-3 years	3-10 years	10+ years						
economic inclusion				High			N/A	N/A	N/A
To increase prosperity	○	○	○	High	Cwide	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
To improve the city's knowledge base	○	○	○	High	Cwide	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
To ensure that everyone has access to a good home that meets their needs	○	○	○	High	Cwide	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
To improve accessibility to key facilities	+	+	++	High degree certainty. Improvements are already taking place without the SPD albeit slowly and incrementally/ The Greenspace SPD will substantially increase the pace of change.	Citywide	Yes	Secondary/Cumulative.	The good design and management of facilities will increase their level of accessibility to all abilities. Good design will include safe access routes.	Good design will include safe access routes. All local facilities have been located to avoid the need to cross busy roads and minimise impact of other barriers.
To reduce the need to travel	○			Medium.	Citywide	Yes	Secondary, cumulative and synergistic. The potential beneficial impact will apply to a wide range of sites and access routes and will encourage greater levels of physical activity.	It is anticipated that once people are confident in the quality of facilities and access routes and recognise the health and recreational benefits of	It will be important to agree measures to increase enjoyment and confidence of users. Good links to Designing Out Crime will be important as

Objective	Timescale			Certainty	Scale	Permanent ?	Secondary, cumulative, synergistic	Comments	Mitigation
	0-3 years	3-10 years	10+ years						
								access by walking and cycling, their popularity will grow. This should lead to greater levels of walking and cycling to a wider range of key local facilities	well as introduction of a Ranger Presence as part of a long term management Strategy.
<p>To reduce traffic volumes</p> <p>Note: This has been measured as a proportion of the traffic generated purely in relation to local recreational facilities, and not as a proportion of traffic volumes as a whole</p>		+	+	Medium. Level of certainty is dependent on the quality of maintenance and management of Green Access Corridors and safe local routes to facilities.	Citywide	Yes	Secondary, cumulative and Synergistic. It would be expected that there will be a strong relationship between an increasing propensity to enjoy greenspaces through walking and cycling and the tendency not to rely on the car.	<p>The SPD prioritises the strategic sites and Green Access Corridors. Securing improvements to encourage local journeys by foot and cycle will be dependent on other programmes of work and good quality publicity. The success of this prediction will be heavily dependent on the availability of resources for high quality maintenance and management.</p>	<p>To secure high level use of Green Access Corridors will require good standard of improvement and good publicity / marketing to encourage greater level of public acceptance. Rights of Way Improvement Plan, Cycling Strategy and Planning Obligations will all be vehicles to secure required outcomes.</p> <p>Commitment to securing higher levels of revenue funding and reducing fear of crime will be critical. Policies</p>

Objective	Timescale			Certainty	Scale	Permanent ?	Secondary, cumulative, synergistic	Comments	Mitigation
	0-3 years	3-10 years	10+ years						
To improve community cohesion	+	+	+	Medium.	Citywide	Yes	Secondary / Synergistic.	Good quality design and management is an essential prerequisite for the use and enjoyment of parks, play facilities and informal leisure. People will only be attracted to facilities if they have confidence in their safety and site security.	
To increase involvement in decision-making	?	+	+	Medium. Better designed and managed facilities will increase likelihood of people wanting to get involved.	Citywide	Yes	Secondary , cumulative and synergistic	It would seem likely that local groups and the establishment of Friends of Parks Groups is more likely if people have confidence in the quality of the product.	