

4.1 Actions

To make green spaces attractive, safe and functional, it is essential to take a strategic approach to their management. This requires commitment from many local and public authorities, communities, voluntary bodies and businesses to work towards a shared vision for green spaces.

The following key steps, drawn from the guide, provide a good basis for effective action, and for engaging with practitioners to share experience and learn from innovations and responses that work.

- **Provide local leadership** to engage, listen and respond to local needs – to develop a shared vision and strategy for delivering it.
- **Assess needs and opportunities** for your green spaces, and plan to enhance provision, especially in areas of deficiency.
- **Empower and enable the community** – the community knows what it wants, so those responsible for public spaces need to find out.
- **Work with partners**, both internal and external, to identify common aims and enable the pooling of resources, skills and knowledge, and to focus action.
- **Create a sound evidence base** that explains the costs of managing and maintaining parks and green spaces is vital for negotiating for long-term resources.
- **Measure and monitor success** – Knowing what you need to deliver and whether you have succeeded is critical for retaining support. Use the Green Flag Award Scheme as an indicator of success.
- **Create spaces for all** the community that are “fit-for-purpose”, which have good design, involve the community and recognise special needs.
- **Manage and maintain spaces** to high quality standards – implement management plans, and use policy and process tools appropriately.
- **Encourage and promote the positive use** of green spaces by encouraging good behaviour and tackling bad. Use a network of staff, wardens, volunteers and the community to provide a presence.
- **Apply the tools** – guidance, powers, programmes and good practice – and encourage innovative management.

We will prepare further updates to this guide as new policy and good practice develops and as new issues emerge. A range of issues have already been identified for future supplements.

- Providing for play and sports
- Providing for education and skills
- Identifying user needs including designing and performing user surveys
- Supporting development of friends groups
- Developing sustainable funding and management mechanisms
- Developing local performance indicators
- Developing local standards for quantity
- Managing Brownfield sites
- Delivering high horticultural and arboricultural standards
- Designing parks with maintenance in mind
- Writing and managing effective maintenance contracts
- Developing a balanced response to risk and the compensation culture
- Organising events to attract a diverse range of users

Please let us know what information and guidance you need to deliver quality green spaces, email cleanersafergreener@odpm.gsi.gov.uk



4.2 Powers

Section	Legislation (Recent Acts and regulations available at www.opsi.gov.uk)	Advice and guidance See www.cleanersafergreener.gov.uk
2.1 Leading local delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Power of well-being: www.odpm.gov.uk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ IDeA leadership information: www.idea.gov.uk/leadership ■ Academy for Sustainable Communities: www.ascskills.org.uk ■ Leadership support on green spaces: www.cabespace.org.uk ■ Living Places: Caring for Quality good practice guidance: www.odpm.gov.uk/cleanersafergreener
2.2 Assessing local needs and opportunities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Land use data for England: www.odpm.gov.uk/planning/statistics ■ Developing green space strategies – good practice guidance and advisory service: www.cabespace.org.uk ■ PPG17 and other planning policy guidance: www.planningportal.gov.uk ■ Accessible green space standards: www.english-nature.org.uk ■ Planning for public space guidance: www.idea-knowledge.gov.uk ■ Playing fields legislation & guidance: www.planningportal.gov.uk ■ School playing fields guidance on: www.teachernet.gov.uk

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2.3 Empowering communities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Planning for Real: www.nif.co.uk ■ Public space consultation tool: www.cabespace.org.uk ■ Placecheck tool: www.ice.org.uk ■ Engaging communities in green spaces guidance: www.green-space.org.uk ■ Statements of community involvement – Creating Local Development Frameworks: A Companion Guide to PPS12: www.planningportal.gov.uk ■ IDeA guidance on how local authorities can engage with communities: www.idea-knowledge.gov.uk
2.4 Creating effective partnerships		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Guidance on Friends of green space groups: www.green-space.org.uk ■ Business in the community: www.partnershipacademy.org.uk ■ Guidance on LSPs: www.neighbourhood.gov.uk ■ Guidance on Crime Reduction Partnerships: www.crimereduction.gov.uk ■ Regional Parks Forums: www.green-space.org.uk
2.5 Making best use of resources		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Background information on efficiency, including the Gershon review: www.idea-knowledge.gov.uk ■ Guidance on prudential borrowing: www.lga.gov.uk ■ Trading Powers and the ability to Charge for Discretionary Services: www.odprm.gov.uk ■ Safer and Stronger Communities Fund and Local Area Agreements: www.neighbourhood.gov.uk ■ Planning agreements (Section 106 contributions): www.planningportal.gov.uk ■ Government grant funding: www.governmentfunding.gov.uk

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2.6 Measuring performance		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Green Flag Award Scheme: www.greenflagaward.org.uk ■ Local Environmental Quality Survey: www.encams.org.uk ■ Local Best Value Performance Indicators: www.local-pi-library.gov.uk/index.html ■ Britain in Bloom: www.rhs.org.uk/britaininbloom/index.asp ■ Performance Management, Measurement and Information project (PMMI): www.idea.gov.uk/performance
3.1.1 Designing in quality		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ By Design, Urban Design in the Planning System: www.planningportal.gov.uk ■ Urban Design Compendium: www.englishpartnerships.org.uk ■ CABE design guidance: www.cabe.org.uk
3.1.2 Meeting community needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Information and advice on the implications of the Disability Discrimination Act: www.drc-gb.gov.uk www.disability.gov.uk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Involving Young People in the Design and Care of Urban Spaces: www.cabespace.org.uk ■ More than Swings and Roundabouts: www.ncb.org.uk ■ Learning Through Landscapes: www.ltl.org.uk ■ Delivering Play Spaces in NDC Areas: http://ndcevaluation.adc.shu.ac.uk/ndcevaluation/Reports.asp ■ Ethnic Communities and Green Spaces: Guidance for Green Space Managers: www.ben-network.org.uk ■ Guidance on community participation: www.renewal.net ■ Advice and support on ensuring racial equality: www.cre.gov.uk ■ Developing Accessible Play Space – A Good Practice Guide: www.odpm.gov.uk/cleanersafergreener

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3.1.2 Meeting community needs – continued		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A Guide to Accessible Green Space: www.sensorytrust.org.uk ■ National Register of Access Consultants: www.nrac.org.uk
3.1.3 Creating healthy spaces		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Green Gyms: www.btcv.org/greengym ■ Walking the Way to Health: www.whi.org.uk ■ Growing In The Community – A Good-Practice Guide to the Management of Allotments: www.lga.gov.uk ■ Federation of City Farms & Community Gardens: www.farmgarden.org.uk ■ Creating healthier communities, a resource pack for local partnerships: www.renewal.net
3.1.4 Creating sustainable spaces		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Securing our future – UK sustainable development strategy: www.defra.gov.uk ■ Making Space for Water - Government strategy to manage the risks of floods: www.defra.gov.uk. ■ Planning Policy Guidance 25: Development and Flood Risk: www.planningportal.gov.uk ■ SUDS guidance: www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business: www.ciria.org.uk/suds
3.2.1 Developing management plans		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A Guide to Producing Parks and Green Space Management Plans: www.cabespace.org.uk ■ Raising the Standard – The Green Flag Award Guidance Manual: www.greenflagaward.org.uk ■ Living Places: Caring for Quality – Good Practice Guidance: www.odpm.gov.uk/cleanersafergreener

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3.2.2 Managing sites for biodiversity and heritage		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Planning Policy Guidance 9: Nature conservation: www.planningportal.gov.uk ■ Biodiversity by Design: A Guide for Sustainable Communities: www.tcpa.org.uk ■ National Urban Forestry Unit website providing information and advice on trees and woodlands: www.nufu.org.uk ■ Guidance on biodiversity in Community Strategies: www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/biodiversity ■ Planning Policy Guidance 15: Planning and the Historic Environment: www.planningportal.gov.uk ■ Paradise Preserved: An Introduction to the Assessment, Evaluation, Conservation and Management of Historic Cemeteries www.english-heritage.org.uk ■ English Heritage (2003) Managing Local Authority Heritage Assets – Some Guiding Principles for Decision-Makers: www.helm.org.uk ■ Heritage Lottery Fund guidance: www.hlf.org.uk ■ National register of parks and gardens of special historic interest: www.english-heritage.org.uk

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3.3.1 Promoting greater use		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Advice for local authorities on running campaigns: www.idea-knowledge.gov.uk ■ Opportunities to promote green spaces to local children and young people: www.playday.org.uk ■ The Green Flag guidance manual has a marketing and promotions component: www.greenflagaward.org.uk ■ Park It! is a series of 12 events taking place regionally in parks throughout the UK: www.green-space.org.uk/parkit
3.3.2 Promoting positive behaviour in parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Together – powers and tools for tackling anti-social behaviour: www.together.gov.uk ■ Web-based guide to public space legislation tool: www.idea-knowledge.gov.uk ■ Byelaw-making powers: www.odpm.gov.uk www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Decent Parks? Decent Behaviour? Good practice guidance: www.cabespace.org.uk ■ Safer Places: The Planning System and Crime Prevention: www.planningportal.gov.uk