

**Minutes of the Meeting of GreenSpace South West
Tuesday 18th September 2007 at 1pm
Livestock Centre, Exeter**

		Actions
1.	Present	
	Richard Taylor – Torbay Council Bob Hussey – Kennet DC Paul Faulkner – Exeter CC Hasnein Kanani – Mid Devon BC Nick Jones – Plymouth CC Adrian Cook – Mid Devon BC Sarah Moore – GreenSpace Jude Luckett – GreenSpace (minutes) Karen Hughes – Taunton Deane BC Michael Rowland – Bournemouth BC (chair) Joanne Bird – Natural England Clare Freeman – Poole BC Tracy Brooks – Torbay Council Len Croney Mike Vine – East Devon DC Mark Pollard – East Devon DC David Morrison – South Gloucester DC Jon Mitchell – Kerrier DC Paul Todd – Civic Trust Mark McGregor – North Somerset Council Martin Abraham – Exeter CC	
2.	Apologies	
	Mark O'Brien – Carrick DC Jane Hembrow – Play England Rachael Young – Cornwall County Council Rob Sekula – West Devon DC Ann Trevarton – Restormel BC Ruth Miles – Mendip DC Debbie Moseley – South Somerset DC	

	<p>Caroline Aistrop - Stroud Valleys Project Nicole Collomb – CAFE Space Nadine Smykatz-Kloss – Stroud Valleys Project Harley Cook – Sedgemoor DC Karen McAlinden – Cheltenham BC</p>	
3.	Meeting	
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>MR welcomed the meeting and introductions were made.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of the last meeting</p>	
2.1	Action points from the last meeting were reviewed as follows.	
2.2	5.2: list of organisations on SW network compiled. All to let SM know any new details, SM to circulate, ALL to send her any comments or additions.	SM ALL
2.3	5.4: job descriptions. SM told the meeting that GreenSpace Passport, the online competency framework, is now called GreenSKILL. Individuals are able to highlight the skills they have and get endorsement from their manager. Skill gaps can then be identified and training recommended. This CPD framework will be applicable across the green space sector. Job descriptions are useful for mapping skills and job titles, in order to create a strategic framework. ALL to send job descriptions to Paul Bramhill.	ALL
2.4	7: Training working group. This was placed under AOB on the agenda.	
2.5	8: Play England are holding 3 rural play roadshows: Monday 29 October 10am – 3.30pm Thornbury Golf Club, South Gloucestershire, Tuesday 30 October 10am – 3.30pm Salisbury City Hall, Friday 2 November 10am – 3.30pm Dragon Leisure Centre, Bodmin, Cornwall.	
2.6	Rural play roadshows will offer support to play providers across the South West, and will be an excellent opportunity for you to come together and share good practice and skills; whilst also considering the concerns and challenges of providing play in rural areas. Play England recognise that one of the biggest barriers for those living in the South West is the	

	<p>distance you have to travel to access events and seminars. For this reason the rural play roadshow is travelling across the South West to a venue near you.</p>	
2.7	<p>Who should attend? Those who have the responsibility for delivering play including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks departments • Community development managers • Leisure managers • Play champions • Local leads for play. 	
2.8	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a forum for those who provide play in rural areas • Facilitate opportunities to share valuable experience • To raise knowledge about risk taking, health and safety concerns, and insurance issues • Share models of good practice in this area • Share ideas on involving children and young people. 	
2.9	<p>What are the outcomes?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand good practice in the South West, and explore opportunities to make it better • Understand and be aware of ways of providing children with the ‘three frees’ of play: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Free at the point of access o Free to come and go o Freely chosen and personally directed • Understand the importance of play in rural areas • Form a local network for those with similar challenges • Share information and resources that will support the development of play in rural areas. 	
2.10	<p>Who will be doing what? Play England have provided funding for the day and the venue. Play England will administering conference booking arrangements, and coordination of the event. All exhibitors will be local, so that the event has a truly South West feel about it, and is relevant to those attending. For more information please email: play-sw@ncb.org.uk</p>	
2.11	<p>RT told the meeting about Free Range Childhood - the first UK play ranger conference being held on 16 November 2007 and hosted by the Torbay Play Partnership. For further information please email mtweed@glos.ac.uk at Playwork</p>	

	Partnerships or see http://www.playengland.org.uk	
2.12	The minutes were agreed.	
3.	Feedback from the GreenSpace National Forum	
3.1	As there were several new attendees, SM gave a brief background to the GSNF. This is a quarterly meeting held in Birmingham that is attended by the GreenSpace regional chairs and staff, as well as representatives from Natural England, English Heritage, Lantra, CABE Space and CLG. It is part of the regional communications network and sub regions can feed to the regions and then up to the national forum. An Action Plan has been agreed and is being worked towards. Copies of the National Forum minutes are also available if wanted and these should also be available online at some point in the future. ALL to let SM know if they want to see a copy of the Action Plan or National Forum minutes.	ALL
3.2	The last National Forum Meeting mentioned the Good Parks Guide. GreenSpace wants to run this again in partnership with the Royal Horticultural Society, and will be running consultation on this through the forums and asking for nominations.	
3.3	Membership benefits. GreenSpace has had a membership audit this year, as the launch of IPGS meant that some of the membership benefits moved over from GreenSpace to the Institute, including conferences, Spaces&Places etc. Feedback from members indicated that these benefits were still wanted under national membership, and so the structures have again been altered to retain the original benefits. SM circulated a mind map illustrating the current membership benefits structure. The difference from the original structure is that organisations will be encouraged to join through the regions, whereas individuals will be encouraged to join through IPGS. Regional members are automatically GreenSpace members. This year there will be a GreenSpace membership drive in regions where there is not a staffed regional forum, and a regional membership drive in regions where there is a staffed forum. ALL to send any comments to SM.	ALL
3.4	CLG funding. GreenSpace hope to secure regional forum funding from CLG, but they have recently altered their	

	<p>structure following their corporate spending review, and have restructured their funding from 200 organisations down to 20 grants, with consortium working encouraged. GreenSpace hope to work with other key organisations such as Groundwork, BTCV and City Farms. A 500-word expression of interest has to be submitted by the end of September, and GreenSpace will be bidding on behalf of the regions, asking for £20k match funding per region per year for 3 years. This will be matched through membership and other grant funding. A decision from CLG should then be made by December and the funding will be available from April 2008 if the bid is successful. The GreenSpace bid includes not only the forums but also the community work being undertaken by Diana Jones, and Love Parks Week and other campaign work undertaken by the GreenSpace Communications Team.</p> <p>3.5 Case Study Template. The National Forum Action Plan includes good practice research, and therefore the intention is to get case studies from the regions and create a resource for the website. A template has been produced and this will look at all practice, not just good or best practice. The template has been agreed by the National Forum and soon case studies will start being compiled. This information will then be put on the GreenSpace website. The South West website will be up by April 08. MR proposed that all authorities should provide 1 case study example by the next South West meeting in December, and this was agreed. SM/JL to circulate case study template and guidance notes. ALL to return case studies to JL.</p> <p>4. Steering Group Feedback</p> <p>4.1 Natural England Funding JM updated the meeting on the status of the bid to Natural England for funding towards the Development Manager post. £15k has been secured for this financial year, although there may be some opportunity for extension. The hope is to appoint someone to the post by 1st October, but this will be dependent on notice periods. SM to circulate job description. ALL to contact SM if they want a copy of the bid to Natural England.</p> <p>4.2 MR told the meeting that from March 2008 the Forum Development Manager post will hopefully be funded through CLG funding and membership subscriptions. SM confirmed that to date there is approximately £5k in the SW bank</p>	<p>SM/JL ALL</p> <p>SM ALL</p>
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	<p>account, including a CABE Space grant and membership from Bristol CC for 2006/7. So far this year membership payments have been received from the following for 2007/8:</p> <p>Bristol CC Exeter CC Taunton Deane BC Plymouth CC Bournemouth BC Mid Devon DC East Devon DC Weymouth & Portland BC</p> <p>4.3 A total of £5,000 has been raised through these membership payments and there is a further £1,500 outstanding. The amount now in the bank plus the £15k grant will therefore total £25,225 plus another potential £1,500.</p> <p>The potential earnings from membership are currently £7,000 but the amount received is slightly lower than this. This is due to the fact that the amount that some authorities originally agreed to pay is lower than they should pay according to the agreed pricing structures. Please note this amount will have GreenSpace membership deducted.</p> <p>4.4 It is planned that all those who have agreed to pay membership subscriptions will get a letter from SM. Organisations that have not yet attended a meeting or have not made any contributions or agreed payment will receive a letter containing information on the forum and a list of benefits to try and encourage their participation and build up the membership base. In the other GreenSpace regional forums, once people can see the benefits of a regional worker membership has increased accordingly, creating additional funds. There are GreenSpace members in the SW that have not renewed for 2007, so there is a need to approach these again. The regional worker will be able to work on membership and other sources of funding.</p> <p>4.5 SM circulated a pricing breakdown showing the pricing brackets for each local authority according to the agreed pricing structures, and the potential membership funding available in the SW. SM also circulated a draft list of membership benefits.</p> <p>5. Green Flag Award Update – Paul Todd, Civic Trust</p> <p>5.1 The GFA scheme is now in its 11th year. It is about a common</p>	
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	<p>standard and goal for parks, and aims to contribute towards raising the importance of green policy and strategy, and ensuring continued funding.</p>	
5.2	<p>Technical information on the GFA is available on the website at www.greenflagaward.org.uk. This year there were 683 applications, a 30% increase on last year, and 584 winners, 3 of whom were in Scotland where a pilot was run this year with greenspace Scotland. Work is now going on in Northern Ireland and Eire too, and there has been some interest in Europe and elsewhere, with potential tests in Singapore and New South Wales, Australia.</p>	
5.3	<p>198 Local Authorities have at least 1 GFA, and in the SW there are 58 GFAs in total. There is room for improvement in the SW, as in some regions 90-95% of LAs hold at least 1 GFA. However, Cockington Country Park, Torbay is one of only 4 sites in the UK to have won a GFA for each of the 11 years that the scheme has been running.</p>	
5.4	<p>Green Heritage Site is an additional aspect of the GFA and recognises sites with particular historic importance. It is aimed at helping the public enjoy heritage in green space, and the only requirement is that the park is more than 30 years old. The award can be based on an event, not just objects. There is one Green Heritage Site in the SW – Wellington Park, Taunton.</p>	
5.5	<p>The Green Pennant Award is similar to the GFA, but there is no assessment of the management plan (although one must be submitted). The Green Pennant is aimed at community groups and is useful to in applying for funding. Application costs only £20. The scheme is trying to push community involvement in parks and another related new development is a £50m BIG lottery and Groundwork project, “Community Spaces”. See www.community-spaces.org.uk for more information.</p>	
5.6	<p>There are currently 609 GFA judges, and a further 60 awaiting training. Recruitment is also taking place at the moment. This is particularly important in areas where the GFA is trying to build up the numbers of awards such as the SW. It is also useful to train as a judge as it gives an understanding of the standard if you have not already achieved it. PT also asked attendees who are judges for the benefits they had gained from being a judge. JB said that an important benefit is</p>	

	<p>sharing best practice and meeting other judges. RT agreed that meeting other park managers, sharing opinions and information and seeing other sites was a definite benefit. MR said that he encourages his staff to train as judges as they then gain an idea of what they should be trying to do in parks and can understand the GFA scheme. SM said that she learned about quality standards and other specialties from her mentor judge and from meeting others, and is a strong advocate of judging. PT said that judges are asked to judge a minimum of 2 sites per year, otherwise it is difficult to gain an understanding of the scheme. Judges work in pairs, and it takes about a day and a half to assess a park, including reviewing the management plan, visiting the site and writing the final report. The regional judges rep in the SW is RT, who sits on the judges association. 2 representatives from the judges association then sit on the GFA committee.</p>	
<p>5.7</p>	<p>Getting a GFA raises awareness about parks in an authority, and the scheme can be used to secure and maintain funding. It is a requirement of the HLF Parks for People scheme that a park wins a GFA for 5 years following the HLF funding. About 80% of parks pass the award, but previous winners can fail and it is tough to achieve the award. Winning spaces do not have to be exceptional or perfect, but they have to be good quality and well managed. The public profile of the GFA needs raising, but it has a high profile within the sector. PT's role is to talk to LAs considering applications and to provide a plan of support. He also talks to elected members about the scheme.</p>	
<p>5.8</p>	<p>RT asked about new developments within the scheme. PT said that there is a special award for innovation this year that is applicable to any park winning a GFA. They are looking for someone doing something different that is making a big difference, and this can be along any of the GFA criteria. There will be a box on the application form for including details of any project that wants considering. There are no other planned changes this year, and the award will remain annual next year. There are no plans to alter this at the moment, but moving forward it will be considered if the model needs changing at some point. As the number of applications grows, it is envisaged that it will be hard to manage these on an annual basis, and if perhaps 2000 applications per year were reached in a few years, a new model may be reached, through consultation with judges and applicants. Standards may also be updated at some point, but there are no plans to alter the main 8 criteria. The sub-criteria may be tweaked</p>	

	slightly but there are no plans as yet.	
5.9	<p>PT opened the topic for comments.</p> <p>KH suggested that a benchmark of ha per 1000 or proportion of green space that is GFA might be more useful than the number of GFAs per authority.</p> <p>MR said that it is useful to have one in an authority so that you know where to aim for with your other parks. MP said that statistics on the public recognition of the GFA would be useful, as councillors often ask about this.</p> <p>PT said that park users may know about it if their park has a GFA, but otherwise they may not know about it.</p> <p>LC suggested giving a GFA to the Blue Peter garden to raise the profile. PT said that the Civic Trust is in negotiations about using a GFA garden that involves children, but that as the Blue Peter garden is not public, it cannot really be given a GFA.</p>	
5.10	<p>MM said that the Blue Flag has increased awareness through use, suggesting the same may happen with the GFA.</p> <p>TB said that LAs need to know how CSG, health and wellbeing link to GFA and how this is achieved. TB suggested that a GFA helps an authority with its general status.</p> <p>MP said that the GFA links to tourism should be illustrated.</p> <p>MR said that the GFA is illustrating what parks are supposed to do, and that these criteria can be used to get parks to meet a certain standard.</p> <p>CF said that correspondence landing on the desk of a CEO can raise the profile of parks within an authority, especially as councillors like fuss and badges. MR agreed that mayoral involvement and publicity is useful. RT holds a ceremony involving a tour of GFA parks. MR agreed that the GFA helps park managers keep in with elected members, offering positive photo opportunities, particularly important for a non-statutory service.</p>	
5.11	<p>CF said that the GFA offers something tangible in park management, which has often been difficult to find.</p> <p>PT said that budget holders should see the GFA as valuable, as it is an independent standard and evaluation. Depending on how the publicity is used, it can offer a huge opportunity. All councillors should be shown both winning and losing parks, raising awareness of lower standards as well as high ones.</p> <p>RT asked if Gardener's World has been considered to raise the GFA profile. PT said that Gardener's World has mentioned it previously, but that the current GFA emphasis is on including as many authorities as possible in the scheme. Over</p>	

	<p>half of LAs now have a GFA, so this should act as a signal to the minority. The Good Parks Guide cannot just be GFA parks, as these are not situated all over the country – there needs to be appeal for people everywhere in the UK. International expansion is also hoped to raise the profile of the scheme. The problem is that bad news is always heard more, and good stories don't make front page news. AC said that he is in a poor, rural LA where it is very difficult to get a GFA, and asked if they are all mostly in urban areas. MR suggested Green Pennant as an alternative. AC said that parks have such a low profile in the area, which is a shame as there is nowhere else to go other than the seaside. AC to give PT his CEO's details. ALL to send any suggestions or comments on the GFA to RT for feedback to the judges association.</p>	
5.12	<p>SM told the meeting that GreenSpace North West has run a consultation on the GFA, allowing structured feedback. This consists of a short questionnaire that is going through the judges board for replication elsewhere in the country. This will be circulated through the SW network once approved by GFA JAC (Judges Association Committee).</p>	<p>AC ALL</p>
6.	<p>Developing a Green Space Strategy for Torbay Council – Richard Taylor, Len Croney, Tracy Brooks</p>	
	<p>Richard Taylor Leisure Community Development Manager, Torbay Council Richard.taylor@torbay.gov.uk</p>	
6.1	<p><i>About Torbay</i> An area of 25 Square Miles (64.7sq km) 27 Miles of Coastline (44.4km) 20 public beaches Population 132,800 Summer Tourism up to 1.5 – 2 m visitors Average age 43.2 – Higher than national average 25.8% over pensionable age.</p>	
6.2	<p><i>Torbay's Greenspace Estate</i> Over 100 parks and greenspaces with an area greater than 2000 square metres 60 Play areas 31 Football Pitches 24 Junior Football Pitches 11 Senior and 1 Junior Rugby Pitches</p>	

	<p>47 Tennis Courts 13 Sites of Special Scientific Interest 20 Allotment sites 3 Green Flag Awards</p> <p>6.3 RT: Cultural Services led strategy in partnership with Planning. Community involvement also important. TB: A Sustainability Appraisal identified extra issues, and a formal consultation was also carried out. Adopted Dec 06, feeds into development and housing. RT: In Torbay the GSS is currently going through the process of being adopted into the Local Development Framework as a supplementary planning document after a long process of auditing and community involvement, led by an officer in-house. The process has helped increase knowledge and capacity within the service. LC: CABE guidance recommends a green space strategy. Planners should be engaged from the word go, and evidence gathering should feed into strategy. Getting the strategy into the LAA means that it will influence the policy underlying development.</p> <p>6.4 <i>TORBAY GREENSPACE STRATEGY PROJECT SET UP</i> Initial Meeting - Project Director, Project Manager & CABE Space Management structure Scope and status of Strategy Need for Visioning Exercise Key players agreed</p> <p>Second Meeting – 9 Key Players - Visioning Exercise</p> <p>Third Meeting – CABE Space and Councillors</p> <p>Fourth Meeting – Meeting of Project Management Board Quality audit and assessment Network of user groups Public relations campaign Timetable Setting up of Sub Groups</p> <p>6.5 LC: Delivery is separate from strategy, and it is vital to involve the key people and make your visioning memorable, as you can get council commitment not to cut budgets in return. Getting all elected members on board can help avoid becoming a political football. Section 106 contributions should</p>	
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	<p>be included in the action plan for green space strategy, which can provide a blueprint for investment.</p>	
6.6	<p><i>Aim of the Strategy</i> Sets out a collective vision for new and improved public spaces Meets community and planning needs to improve the quality of neighbourhoods Receives political support and safeguards the future of public spaces Provides a reference point for allocating resources for investment and management</p>	
6.7	<p><i>Visioning</i> Safety Appearance Perception Addressing neglect Use to promote good Health Use to encourage community cohesion Use to Improve Quality of life, Spiritually and ecologically</p>	
6.8	<p><i>Strategic objectives (1)</i> Improving appearance of Greenspace Improving accessibility, especially for Disabled Challenging peoples perceptions of greenspaces as areas to visit and use more often Improvements to facilities and attractions Increasing numbers of events and attractions</p>	
6.9	<p><i>Strategic objectives (2)</i> Developing opportunities for using greenspaces for learning Promoting and protecting the heritage assets of Torbay's greenspaces Promotion of greenspaces as drivers for economic activity Recognise protect and enhance the biodiversity value of greenspace.</p>	
6.10	<p><i>Developing the Strategy:</i> developing a strategic approach Public consultation Site Audits Writing the strategy</p>	
6.11	<p><i>Consultation and focus groups</i> Joint approach - working with all those involved in public</p>	

	<p>space management Consulting with the public to determine what is important to them Gaining political commitment to champion and influence resources and wider strategies</p> <p>6.12 RC: Local authorities need to provide effective community leadership to ensure the network of Public spaces meets community needs and maximises the community benefit. This is an on-going role and is becoming increasingly important as a way of delivering local services. Because of the wide range of organisations involved in delivering public space, the local authority needs to develop a shared vision and create an agreed strategic framework which all parties can sign up to and help deliver. This all needs strong political commitment to ensure the process keeps on track and properly resourced.</p> <p>6.13 <i>Site Audits</i> A welcoming place Healthy, safe & secure Clean and well-maintained Sustainability Conservation & heritage Community involvement Marketing Management</p> <p>6.14 RT: A key to the process is ensuring that good standards are set for quality – and the Public Flag criteria are a good way to ensure consistency across all spaces. Public Flag criteria are increasingly being used as a management tool rather than purely focused on winning the accolade of a Public flag (although this is a good aim for key parks and open spaces). The site audit covered 96 parks and used the 8 GFA criteria. The same 2 people carried out all the audits to ensure consistency.</p> <p>6.15 <i>Site Audit typologies</i> Town Parks Community Parks Country Parks Strategic Green Space Coastal Amenity Greenspace Space for Children Space for young people</p>	
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	<p>Playing fields Allotments Woodland Schools green space</p> <p>LC: The decision of what to include or not include needs to be made early on in the strategy development.</p> <p>6.16 <i>Value Matrix</i> Low quality/low value: policies should aim to 1. enhance the quality of the green space provided it is possible to also enhance the value, 2. consider the space 'surplus to requirements' in terms of its current use if value cannot be improved. Consider alternative uses. Low quality/high value: policies should aim to 1. enhance the quality of the green space and seek to protect it through the planning system. High quality/low value: policies should aim to 1. enhance the value of the current main use (primary purpose) of the green space, 2. consider whether a different main use of the green space might increase its value, 3. consider a complete change of use if 1 & 2 are impossible. High quality/high value: the ideal for all green spaces: the planning system should seek to protect them.</p> <p>6.17 LC: The site audit considered sites in terms of their raw score vs their potential score. The government agenda on standards is focusing on quality and quantity in neighbourhoods, using standards based on what local people determine to be important. Local people should be involved in the delivery of objectives.</p> <p>6.18 <i>Site Audit Results – Main Findings</i> Dogs Teenage Facilities Lack of Interpretation No Lighting Little Community involvement Poor Disability access Inadequacy of bins and seating</p> <p>6.19 <i>Torbay Local Development Framework 2005-2026 Greenspace Strategy</i> The identification of Local Standards The Council is continuing to undertake robust assessments of the existing and future needs of its communities for green</p>	
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space, sport and recreation. The standards which are summarised below represent the minimum standards of the different types of green space, including sport and recreation that should be available to meet the needs of people across Torbay.

Hectares per 1000

Playing Pitches	Multi use games areas	Equipped facilities for children & young people	Green space
1.2	0.2	0.2	2.5

6.20

Action Plan

Theme	Recommendations	Action Plan	Key Partners	Time scale
MP 1&4	GS22-Review green space practices for crematorium, burial and closed churchyards.	1) Review current management and maintenance practices for existing and new burial and closed churchyards. 3) Develop an overarching allotment association for the used allotments.	• Allotment associations • Cultural Services Division • Direct Services and Waste Division • Environmental Health and consumer Protection Division	• Medium term
MP 1&4 (Dual use increasing capacity)	GS23-Implement the Green space strategy on school grounds.	1) Identify a liaison officer to work with schools to implement the green space strategy. If necessary seek external funding. 2) Investigate the dual use of school sites. 3) Raise the awareness of green spaces within schools.	• Cultural Services Division • Schools	• Long term • Short term
MP 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8 & 9	GS24-Adopt the Green space strategy as corporate Torbay Council policy.	1) Ensure the Green space strategy, recommendations, standards and policies are formally adopted by the cabinet as council policy. 2) Policies and standards proposed in this Green space strategy will be taken forward as part of the local Development Framework.	• Cultural Services Division • Planning, Development and Policy Division	• Short term
1,2 & 4	GS25-Develop and adopt green space provision standards as part of the Local Development Framework.	1) The standards will be monitored and refined where necessary. 2) The provision standards will be used to set standards for new developments.	• Cultural Services Division • Planning, Development and Policy Division	• Short term
4	GS26-Identify areas with too little greenspace.	1) Regularly update the database of green space provision. 2) Assess green space needs for the future population. 3) In areas where there is not enough green space assess existing green spaces to ascertain if they can be upgraded.	• Cultural Services Division • Planning, Development and Policy Division	• Ongoing • Short term • Medium

6.21

Torbay Local Development Framework 2005-2026
Greenspace Strategy

	The Greenspace strategy links to corporate, community and planning documents:	
6.22	<p>National Bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CABE Space • ODPM • Greenspace • ILAM • NPFA 	
6.23	<p>Local Bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Groups • Chamber of Commerce • Greenspace South West • Friends Groups • Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust 	
6.24	<p>Corporate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Plan • Cultural Strategy • Heritage Strategy • Streetscape Strategy • Playing Pitch Strategy • Sports Strategy • Play Strategy • Tree and Woodland Strategy • Bio-Diversity Strategy • Older Persons' Strategy 	
6.25	<p>Community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Plan • Crime & Disorder Reduction Strategy • Regeneration / Economic Development • Quality of Life / Healthy Living Agenda • Sustainability • Community Cohesion • LSP Targets • LAA Targets • Consultation Processes 	
6.26	<p>Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Torbay Local Plan (1995-2011) & Local Development 	

	<p>Framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Spatial Strategy • Torbay Local Development Documents • Supplementary Planning Documents • Section 106 Agreements • Statement of Community Involvement 	
6.27	<p><i>TORBAY GREENSPACE STRATEGY</i> <i>Benefits of the process so far</i> Member support and involvement from outset Raised profile of parks and open spaces in current restructuring Cross-local authority boundary working on operational side Important contribution to improving CPA score Qualitative audit and assessment – already identifying issues</p>	
6.28	<p><i>Some concluding comments</i> The big challenges are: Winning political support Working effectively across the authority and externally In house capacity v using consultants</p> <p>The big opportunities are: Raising the profile of the parks service to attract greater resources Delivering shared corporate objectives efficiently Developing in house staff skills and capacity</p>	
6.29	<p>LC: Cross-departmental working is a key to success. It is also important to allocate specific resources for writing the strategy as a great deal of learning can be taken from it. It is best to appoint someone to the job rather than using a consultant, and then to get some outside advice. The Torbay strategy took 3 years to complete. KH asked how the aims were produced. LC: Start with what green space there is and look at the patterns of use available in communities of similar size and type, such as national standards. These are not ideal but can be used as a benchmark, and aspirations from the site can be built in. The Sport England website lists national standards, and a judgment should be made that reflects aspirational standards, but is also realistic and achievable. Once standards have been set, they are difficult to challenge.</p>	
6.30	<p>MR asked about supplementary planning guidance, and TB asked about onsite contributions and community</p>	

	<p>contributions. A discussion followed about Section 106. MR asked about opportunities for flexible spending of contributions, as often these are directed by standards that stipulate certain amounts must be spent on play, fields, amenity green space or other categories, and this is often difficult to achieve around developments that include pockets of green space. RT said that green space strategies may be able to influence this. LC agreed that this is a big issue. Planning has to be evidenced, using patterns of use. Some flexibility may be possible, such as spending 40% of contributions as specified and 60% flexibly for general good. However, this has to be evidenced. TB said that a green space strategy Action Plan can be used as evidence in this way. LC said that it is also possible to, for example, demand a play area on site at a development. If it costs the developer more, that doesn't matter – the council is not responsible for the viability of play. You can get tough with developers if you have an evidence base.</p> <p>6.31 JM proposed following this discussion with a meeting covering Section 106. It was agreed that this would be the topic of the next meeting, and MR agreed to give a presentation.</p> <p>Spending, Collecting and disposal of sites were also identified as potential topics for future meetings.</p> <p>JM to contact Matthew Brown of CPR.</p> <p>6.32 Items postponed:</p> <p>Sub-regional updates Training Working Group</p>	<p>JM</p>
Date of the Next Meeting		
	<p>11th December – Section 106 2008/09 agenda to be produced.</p> <p>13th March – Equality, Inclusion and Diversity. PW to invite Sustrans Officer with regard to DDA Issues.</p>	