



ABERDEEN
CITY COUNCIL

OPENSOURCE

Aberdeen Open Space Strategy

2011-2016



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FOREWORD

Aberdeen City is renowned for its beautiful parks and open spaces and is blessed with some of the best green spaces in Scotland. This makes for a beautiful city environment and contributes to our quality of life. There is growing evidence that quality and accessible open spaces play a vital role in the health and wellbeing of everyone. Good quality open spaces provide opportunities for outdoor recreation, physical exercise and promote social interaction and cohesion.

It is recognised that open spaces play an important role in reducing and mitigating the effects of climate change and the conservation of biodiversity. They act as green lungs for the city and its residents and help in absorbing carbon emissions.

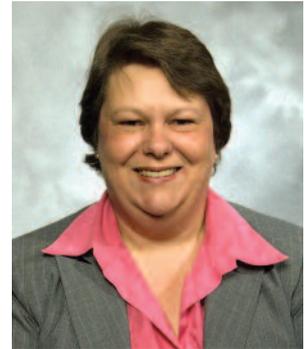
Developing and managing quality open spaces is a major challenge that demands resources and time. This cannot be achieved by an individual or an organization and requires joint working and a partnership approach.

I am delighted to say that Aberdeen City Council has adopted a new approach and thinking to managing our open spaces and natural assets. The Aberdeen Open Space Strategy is an important milestone towards this direction and shows our commitment to delivering quality services to our customers.

The Strategy sets out a new vision for the City's open spaces with clear aims and objectives to improve the quality and accessibility of the open spaces. Based on the results of the open space audit and views of the public, the Strategy sets out a clear direction and action plan to achieve its goals. The Strategy suggests innovative and different ways of maintaining and managing open spaces.

This is not a Strategy for the Council alone. It is a City wide Strategy for everyone. I would welcome the involvement of all interested people to help deliver this Strategy by working together to ensure its successful delivery. I thank those who participated and contributed towards the development of this important piece of work.

Over the next five years Aberdeen City Council is looking forward to working with our partners and customers as we believe that it is the people, not the Strategy that will make things happen.



Kate Dean

Councillor Kate Dean

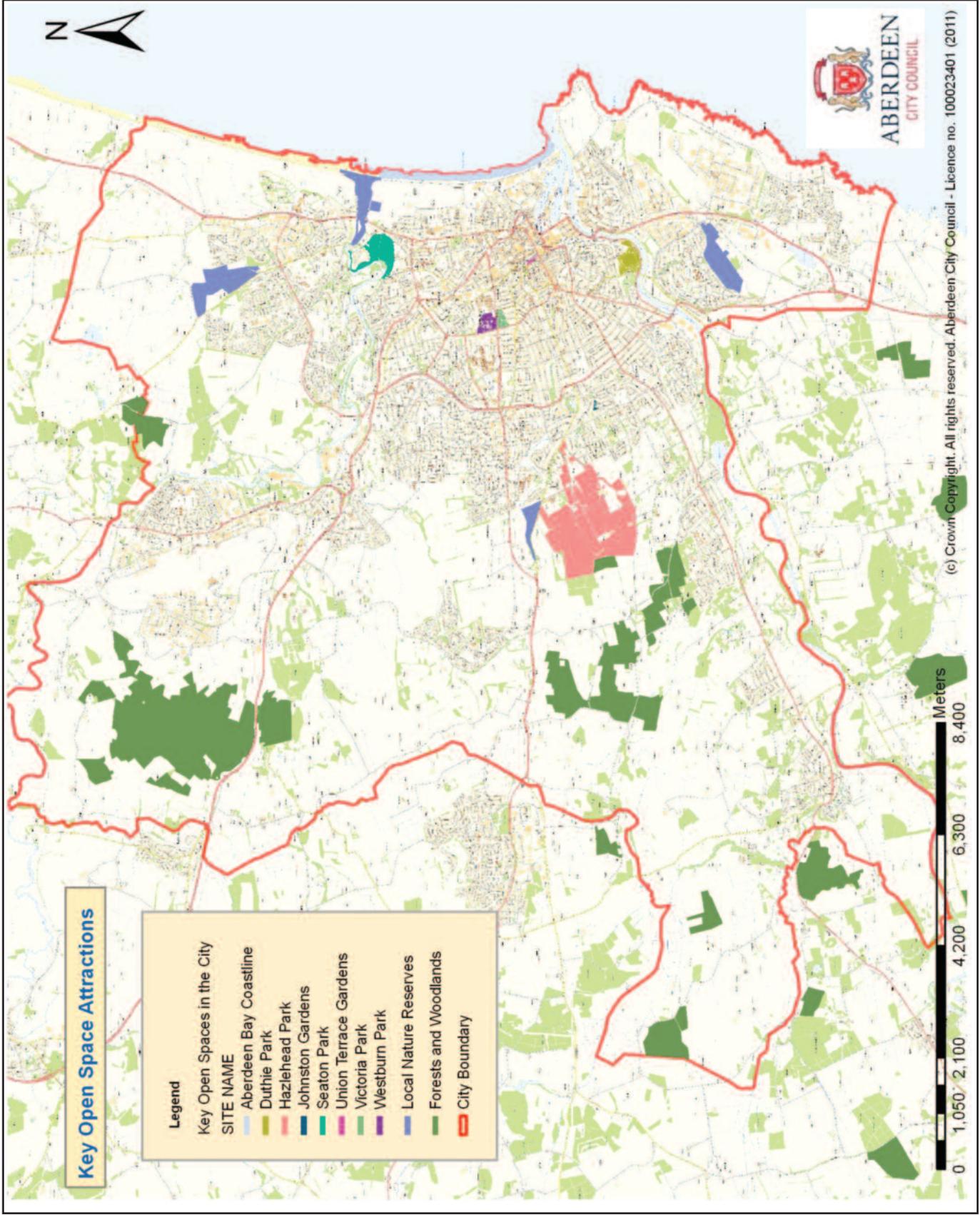


Key Open Space Attractions

Legend	
Key Open Spaces in the City	
SITE NAME	
Aberdeen Bay Coastline	
Duthie Park	
Hazlehead Park	
Johnston Gardens	
Seaton Park	
Union Terrace Gardens	
Victoria Park	
Westburn Park	
Local Nature Reserves	
Forests and Woodlands	
City Boundary	



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CHAPTER 1 Introduction

This Strategy sets out a strategic vision, aims and objectives for open space in Aberdeen. Its main purpose is to ensure the city has enough accessible and good quality open space. The Strategy is based on the findings of the Aberdeen Open Space Audit 2010. The approach to the development of this Strategy has been to involve as many people and organisations with an interest in open space as possible throughout each stage. It is hoped that this will mean the Strategy is 'owned' by everyone.

Aberdeen has many high quality, well used public parks and open spaces, which are highly valued by its citizens as important community resources. This Strategy revolves around four themes: people, health, the economy and the environment.

The audit of the city's open spaces gives us a good picture of the amount of open space we have, its quality and how accessible it is to those who currently, or could use it. It also identifies some challenges, such as how to protect what we have, increase its quality and maintain it to make better use of what we have. A summary of the Open Space Audit (2010) is provided in section 3 of the Strategy. This Strategy sets out to address these challenges, taking into account the current financial climate, through working more with communities and businesses and through more efficient and effective management. An example could be to consider the possibilities of developing some of the larger amenity spaces into alternative, higher quality, more functional and publicly desirable types of open space.

The Strategy process has also included developing new standards for open space in new developments. These will encourage the development of more useful, publicly desirable and efficient open space types such as natural areas, green corridors, play spaces and allotments.

A detailed action plan has been developed, which focuses on encouraging greater community involvement and partnership working in developing and maintaining open spaces. It suggests reviewing the management of sites, in terms of financial, social and environmental sustainability, promoting good design of networks of open spaces, providing better access and information and supporting the use of open spaces for community events.



What is open space?

Greenspace Scotland defines 'open space' as open, usually green land within and on the edges of settlements. Parks, public gardens, allotments, woodland, play areas, playing fields, green corridors and paths, churchyards and cemeteries, natural areas, institutional land as well as 'civic space' such as squares or other paved or hard surfaced areas with a civic function are all forms of open space.

What open space does the Strategy cover?

This Strategy considers open space as defined by Planning Advice Note 65, Planning and Open Space. Private gardens and farmland are not covered by this Strategy. A brief description of each open space is provided below. Details of the PAN65 typology are provided in **Appendix 1**.





Public Parks and Gardens

Areas of land normally enclosed, designed, constructed, managed and maintained as a public park or garden



Amenity Greenspace

Landscape areas providing visual amenity or separating different buildings providing informal recreational activities and general environmental benefits



Play Space for Children

Areas providing safe and accessible opportunities for teenagers and children to play, usually linked to housing areas



Sports Areas

Large and generally flat areas of grassland or specifically designed surfaces used primarily for designated sports (including playing fields, golf courses, tennis courts and bowling greens)



Green Corridors

Routes including river corridors and old railway lines, linking different areas within a town or city as part of a designated or managed network and used for walking, cycling, or linking towns and cities to their surrounding countryside or country parks



Allotments

Areas of land used for growing fruit, vegetables or other plants either in individual allotments or as a community activity



Natural Semi-Natural

Areas of undeveloped or previously developed land with residual natural habitats or which have been planted or colonised by vegetation or wildlife including woodlands and wetlands



Civic Space

Squares, streets, waterfront, and promenades predominantly of hard landscaping that provide a focus for pedestrian activity and can make connections for people and for wildlife



Burial Grounds

Includes churchyards and cemeteries

Vision for the Strategy

A network of attractive, appealing, well connected community places. Places for everyone to enjoy for health, learning, recreation and nature.

Aims

Aberdeen's Open Space Strategy will benefit people, health, the economy and the environment. It aims to:

People

Provide good and equitable access to a network of quality open spaces that promote stronger, responsible and proud communities



© Image of Greenferns, produced by OPEN for Aberdeen City Council.

Health

Promote and facilitate healthier lifestyles



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Economy

Ensure Aberdeen is an attractive and appealing place to enjoy living, working, visiting and investing in



Environment

Protect, enhance and value our environment for current and future generations



Objectives

To achieve the vision and aims, eight objectives were identified by partners, stakeholders and the public, who contributed to the process of developing this Strategy. These are listed below, along with a summary of what they are designed to achieve and how.

<p>1. Create, protect and enhance Green Space Network</p>	<p>Connecting our urban open spaces and surrounding, more rural greenspaces, to each other, and to the communities around them, offers a wide range of social, health, economic and environmental benefits. These are recognised in the Aberdeen Local Development Plan and actions to achieve this objective relate to ensuring Green Space Network is seen as a key facility within new developments.</p>
<p>2. Improve the quality of open spaces</p>	<p>This objective focuses on improving the quality of open spaces and their associated facilities, in order to make better use of what we have. Actions to achieve this include producing a prioritised project plan for improving open spaces, particularly play spaces and encouraging good design, such as making the most of the natural landscape and using natural play materials.</p>
<p>3. Provide well maintained and managed open spaces, balancing available resources with community demand</p>	<p>Open Space management and maintenance is an issue that concerns all of us. This objective recognises the current financial situation and considers new ways of managing and maintaining open space. The audit and Strategy consultation process showed that people would like to see more natural management of open spaces.</p> <p>Some open space and park user groups already exist and are actively engaged in improving their open spaces through for example regular events. This objective will support similar approaches. See Sunnybank Park case study.</p>
<p>4. Improve access to and within open spaces</p>	<p>It was clear through community consultation that access is an issue for people and this objective will be delivered through providing more information on open spaces and how to access them, working with others to achieve this where appropriate and supporting the implementation of the Core Path Plan. This objective also relates to how open space types are accessed, and a review of the city's pitch provision in particular is necessary.</p>

<p>5. Increase the value and use of open spaces for health, education, play and lifelong learning</p>	<p>Throughout the consultation, people were concerned with how open spaces are protected. People felt this could be achieved through making sure open spaces are well used. They felt there are opportunities for schools to use open spaces and that there were strong links with Curriculum for Excellence. Promoting active lifestyles and encouraging events in open spaces were also seen as ways to increase use of open spaces. People felt that greater usage of open space could also be achieved by making them more multi-functional, with a range of attractions and facilities attracting people of all ages and abilities. Anti-social behaviour, dog fouling, litter and safety were considered to be barriers to increasing the use of open spaces. These issues link to the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.</p>
<p>6. Seek business, community and other agency involvement</p>	<p>Parks and open spaces provide communities with a focal point for social interaction and cultural activities. Using parks and open spaces for events, festivals and other activities increases the value of open spaces. Increasing involvement of others in helping to manage open spaces is seen as a positive opportunity to address the restrictions the Council faces in providing grounds maintenance.</p>
<p>7. Recognise the economic, environmental and social value of open spaces</p>	<p>This objective is key to addressing the concerns people had with how to protect open spaces. It revolves around the social and environmental benefits offered by open spaces, as well as benefits to the wider economy. This objective aims to work with communities and partners to measure and promote the value of open spaces and the benefits they provide.</p>
<p>8. Maximise opportunities to mitigate and adapt to climate change and further biodiversity</p>	<p>Open space plays an important role in capturing and storing water and reducing localised flooding after significant rainfall events. Trees and vegetation help in reducing noise and absorbing dust and air pollutants. Open spaces also provide habitats for plants and animals within urban areas. This objective is designed to make the most of these environmental benefits.</p>

Case Study - Sunnybank Park



Sunnybank Park - a new community park located between four distinct communities in Aberdeen: Old Aberdeen, Powis, Sunnybank and Froghall.

Formerly an outdoor sports centre, the site was closed and considered for urban development. Following community consultation, there was a strong mandate to save the space.

The Friends of Sunnybank Park (FoSP) was established and developed physical, management and funding plans for the site. The value of this space was then recognised, the plans approved and a handover to the community negotiated.

The FoSP decided that it was not feasible to maintain the outdoor centre and, following consultation, a new future as a community park was set. Immediate plans for the site include; dog walking area, pond, community allotments, walks and wildlife and access improvements. Funding has been secured from the Scottish Government, Aberdeen Greenspace Trust and Aberdeen Forward for these. Longer term plans include a formal sports area and perhaps a community building.

The Park forms part of a matrix of greenspaces, including a play area and woodland, altogether creating a larger sense of space and place. The additional spaces are not leased by the FoSP, but they are considered and managed as part of the overall place.

The FoSP formed partnerships to bring support, expertise and funding to their work. They also engaged local communities. There is now a dedicated BTCV Green Gym volunteer programme operating in the Park, as well as many other volunteering and social events. The FoSP also maintain a newsletter, a website, a Facebook group and hold monthly meetings to discuss and direct progress. The ambition is to employ a Development Officer to develop the longer term plans. This is a long term project and the case continues.

Volunteers at work



Picnic in the park



300 years old "Gibberie Wallie" parks heritage



CHAPTER 2

Policy Context

National

This Strategy supports the Scottish Government's strategic objectives for a healthier, safer and stronger, wealthier and fairer, smarter and greener Scotland.

The Scottish Government, through Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), stresses the need to protect, enhance and create open space for the benefit of people, the environment, natural heritage and biodiversity. It highlights the need for quality open space as an important part of future development and encourages a long term, strategic approach towards protecting, creating and managing open spaces and green space networks.

The policy states that planning authorities should undertake an open space audit to record the baseline conditions and prepare an open space strategy which sets out the vision for new and improved open spaces and address any deficiencies identified in the audit.

The SPP also requires development plans to identify and promote green networks where this will add value to the provision, protection, enhancement and connectivity of open space and habitats around cities.

Open space links to various national policy agendas including:

- PAN 65 Planning and Open Space
- Scottish Planning Policy
- Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003
- Local Government in Scotland Act 2003
- Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy - It's in Your Hands
- Let's Make Scotland More Active – A Strategy for Physical Activity
- Designing Places – A Policy Statement for Scotland
- Scottish Outdoor Access Code
- Good Places, Better Health: A new approach to the environment and health in Scotland

Links to various policies are provided in Figure 1.

Regional

Aberdeen City and Shire Structure Plan sets a vision to make the region an attractive, prosperous and sustainable European City region and an excellent place to live, visit and do business. It recognises the role that a high quality environment plays in delivering this vision. It considers the challenges of sustainable development, climate change adaptation, flooding and unforeseen weather or extreme weather conditions and the need for high quality design and landscaping in developments. The Structure Plan requires Local Development Plans to protect the natural environment from the effects of development.

There are also a number of regional plans, programmes, policies and strategies that relate to the issues covered by this Strategy such as North East Scotland Biodiversity Action Plan, Forest and Woodland Strategy for Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City and the Joint Health Improvement Plan.

Local

This Strategy supports the Aberdeen Local Plan 2008 as well as the Proposed Aberdeen Local Development Plan, by helping to deliver policies that protect and enhance the natural environment, and promote high quality design.

The Open Space Strategy has very close links with other strategies such as Aberdeen City's Nature Conservation Strategy and should not be considered as a stand alone document for delivering wider environmental benefits.

Links to the various key relevant policies and strategies are provided in Figure 1.

Supplementary Guidance on Open Space has been developed in parallel with this Strategy, and sets out the Council's approach towards planning and development of new open spaces.

See

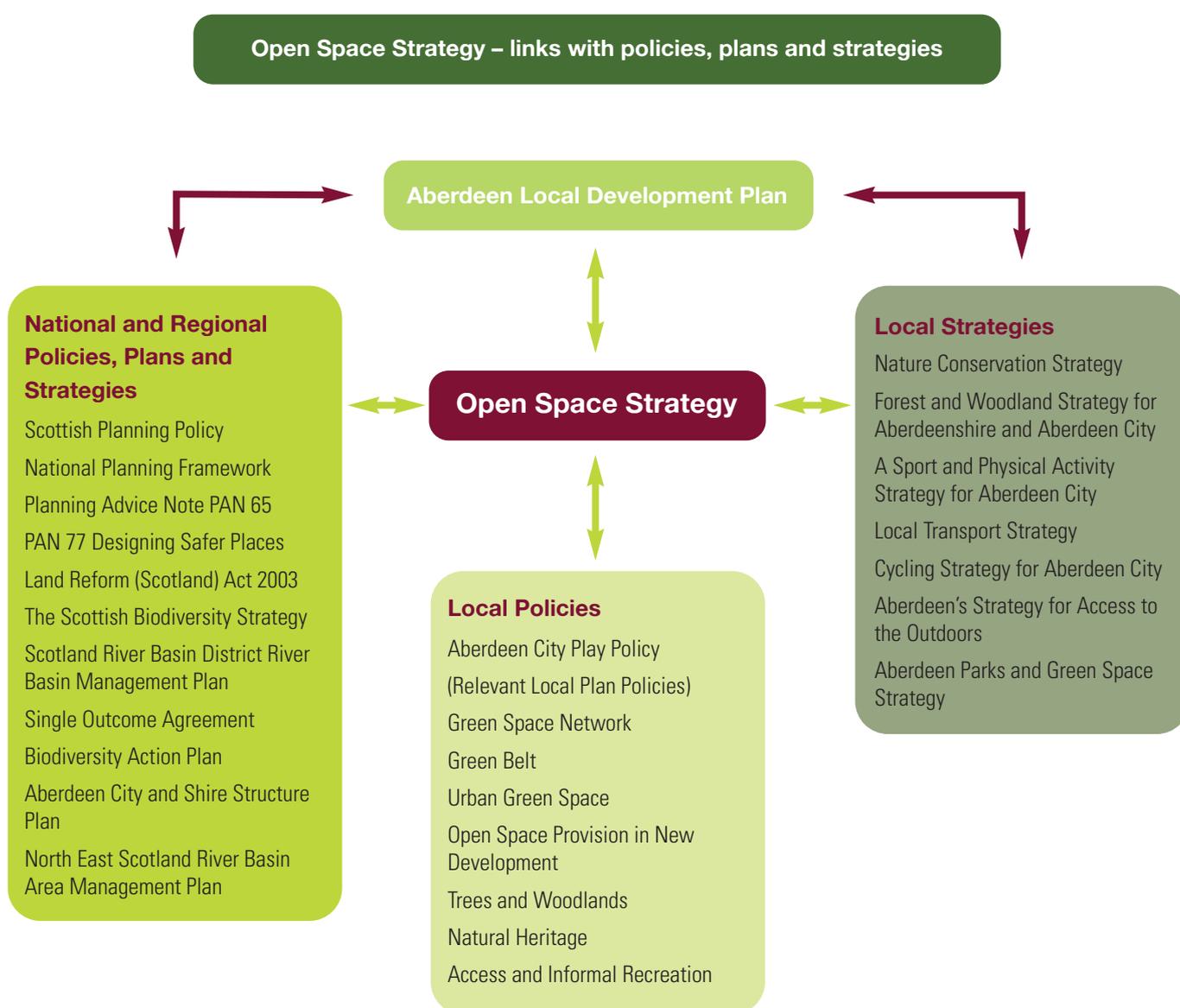


Figure 1

Green Space Network

Aberdeen's Green Space Network (GSN) is a strategic network of woodland and other habitats, active travel and recreation routes, greenspace links, watercourses and waterways, providing an enhanced setting and other land uses and improved opportunities for outdoor recreation, nature conservation and landscape enhancement. The GSN, which overlays Open Space, Green Belt, Natural Heritage and other policies, indicates where greenspace enhancement projects could be focused. The GSN intends to avoid habitat fragmentation and supports a variety of functions. Figure 2 shows Aberdeen's Green Space Network (taken from proposed Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2010).

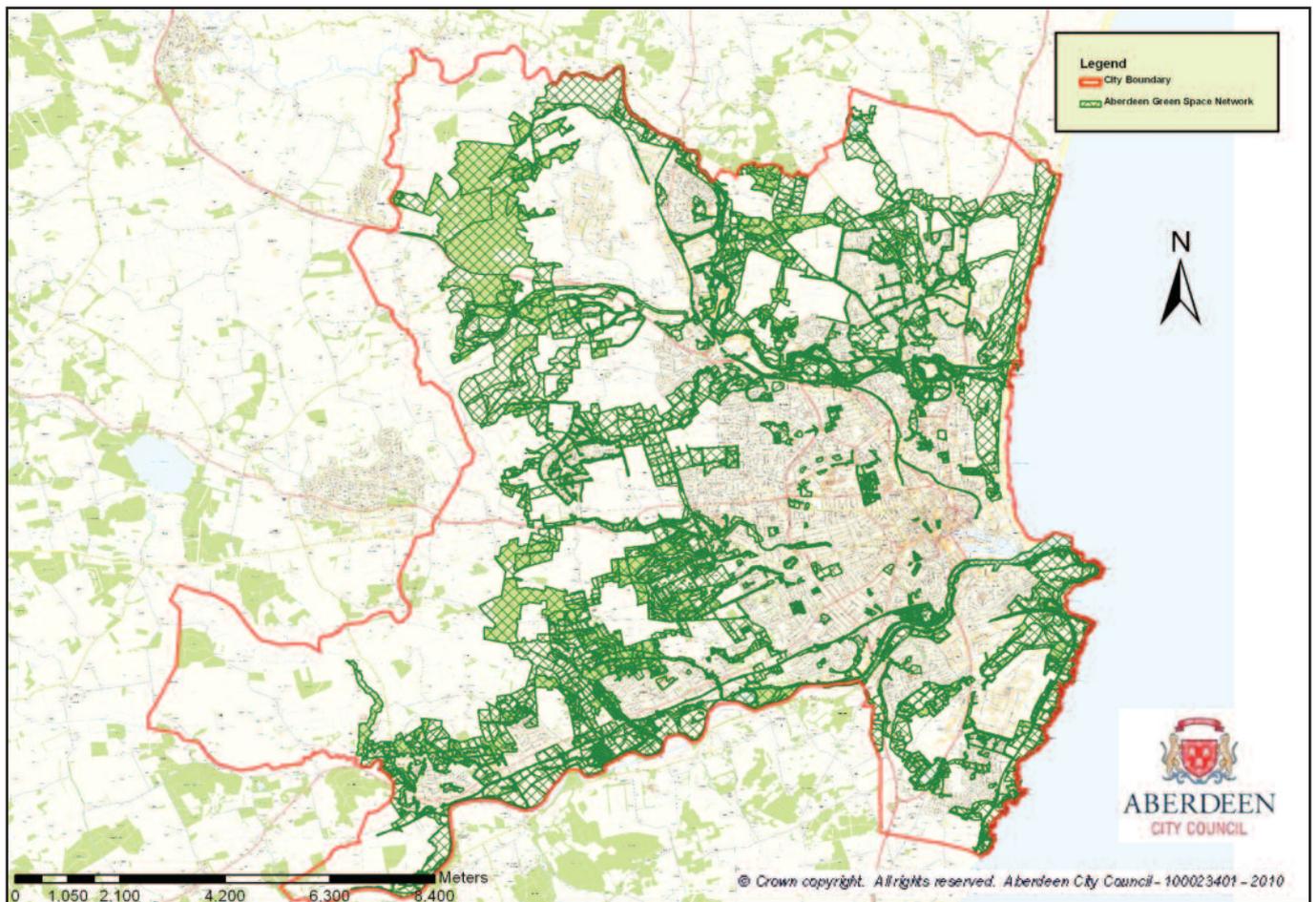


Figure 2
Aberdeen's Greenspace Network
(taken from proposed Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2010)

A Geographic Information System (GIS) database has been developed alongside this Strategy to demonstrate the rationale for selecting GSN, as well as co-ordinating strategic and community demand for enhancements. This GIS tool should be seen as a resource for anyone with an interest in enhancing Aberdeen's natural environment and open spaces. An extract of the GIS database tool is shown in figure 3.

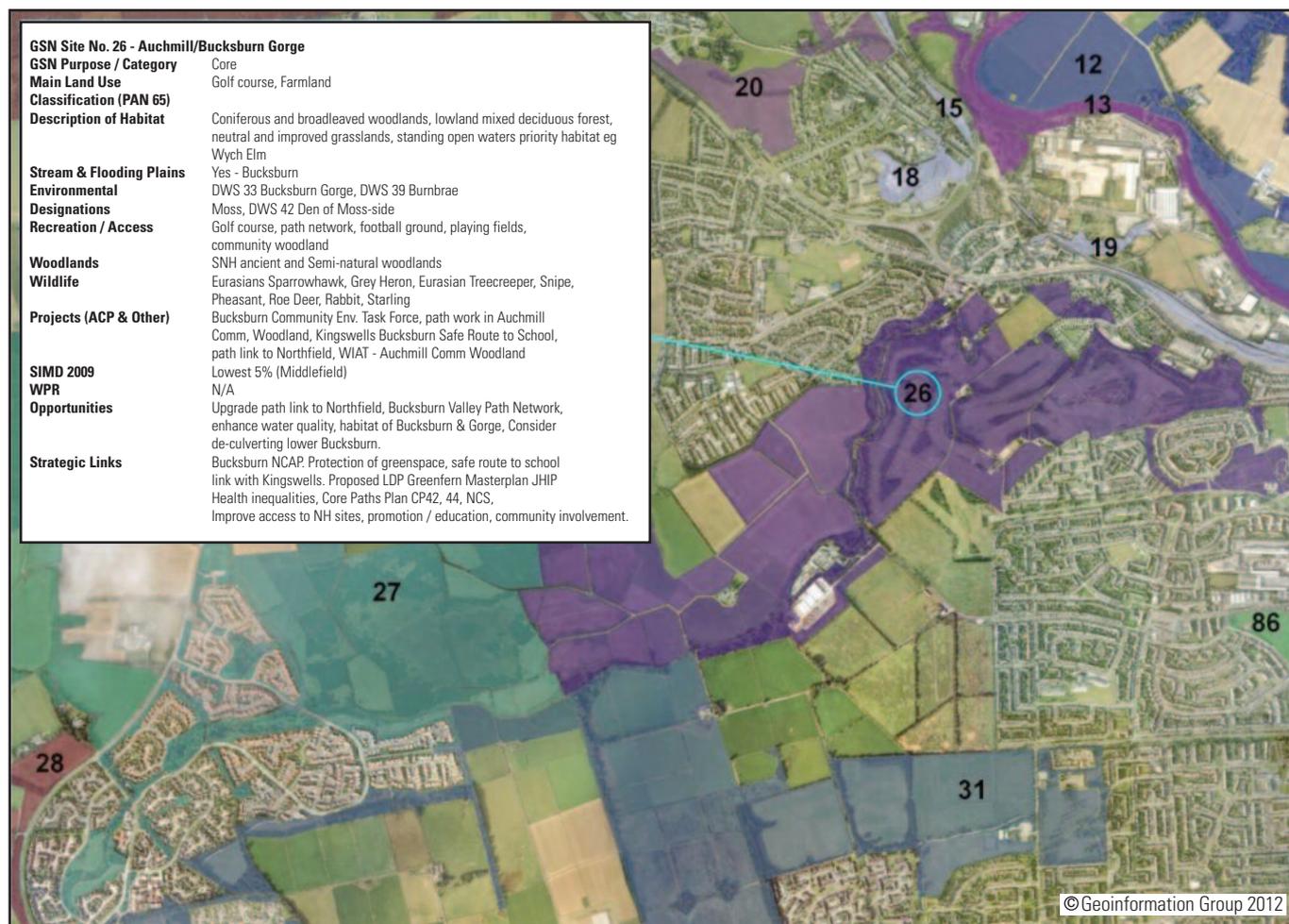


Figure 3

Financial Context

Aberdeen City Council, along with the rest of the country, faces challenging financial times. The Council has produced a Five-Year Business Plan, outlining its priorities and the ways in which it will make the savings required to ensure long term financial stability. This Strategy considers the current financial situation at its core and focuses on supporting innovative and sometimes radical new ways of working in order to ensure the Strategy is deliverable and its objectives are achieved. The details are provided in chapter 5 and the Action Plan in section 7 identifies the resources to deliver the various actions of the Strategy.

CHAPTER 3

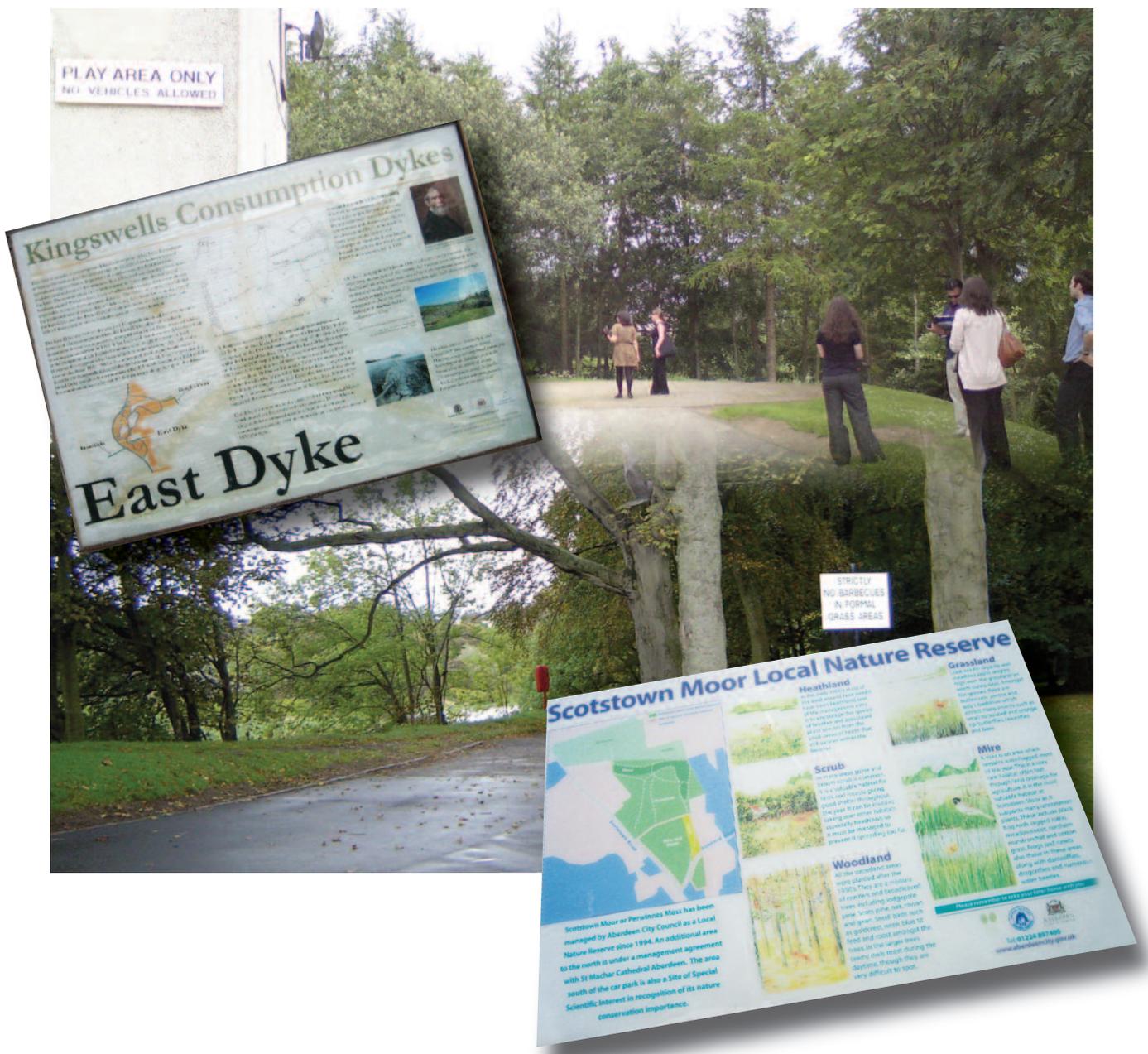
Open Space Audit

The Process

Aberdeen City Council carried out an Open Space Audit to give a clear and robust understanding of open spaces in Aberdeen, including its distribution, quality, quantity and accessibility.

Open Space Audit data collection

The open space audit was carried out according to national best practice guidance from Greenspace Scotland and the Scottish Government. It combines the information collected by earlier relevant projects along with site assessments and community engagement carried out in 2009 and 2010. The audit process is outlined in figure 4.



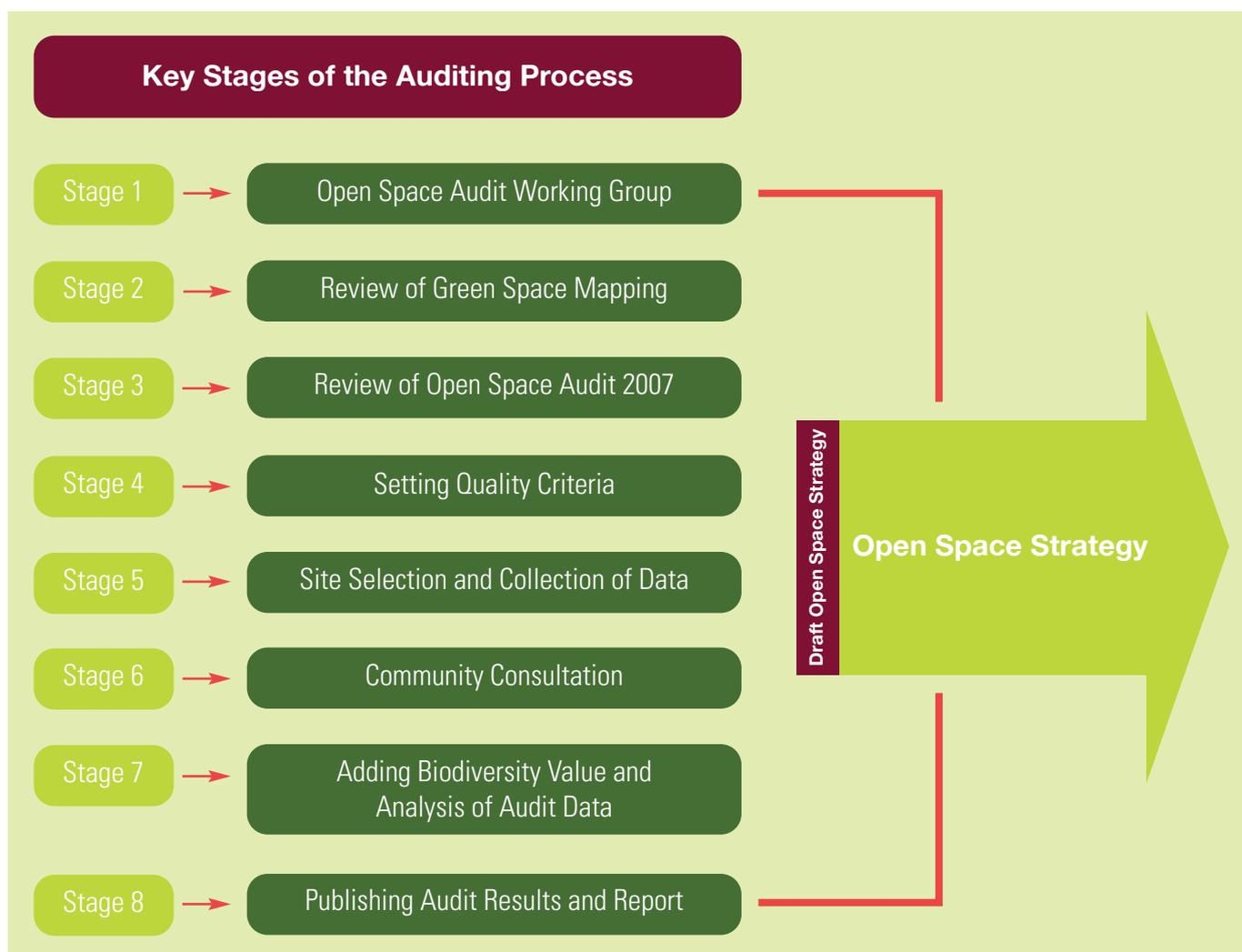


Figure 4

Major Findings

Aberdeen has many high quality, well used public parks and open spaces although these tend not to be very evenly distributed across the City. The most densely populated areas, particularly the city centre has the least open space, with limited opportunities to create more.

The regeneration priority areas tend to have the poorest quality open spaces and some of these areas also lack in the quantity of provision. The post-1960s residential developments around the outer areas of the city have the greatest quantities of open space. Much of this is amenity ground which are usually poor in quality and costly to maintain. The audit also found that there are a very high number of small play spaces but many of them are poor quality.

The audit has identified 3471 hectares of open space (not including private gardens or sites under 0.2 hectares). This equates to 16.6 hectares per 1000 people (based on a population of 209,260 as estimated in 2007 by General Register Office for Scotland).

There are 160 equipped play spaces across the city. Tillydrone / Seaton / Old Aberdeen (91.8%) and Hilton / Stockethill (91.3%) have the greatest level of provision, with 92% and 91% of their residents within the recommended 400 metre threshold respectively. Hazlehead / Ashley / Queens Cross and Lower Deeside have the least access to equipped play spaces, with 29% and 46% respectively.

The wards around the outside of the built up area contain on average twice as many equipped play spaces as the more central wards. Many of the play spaces assessed in the audit are small sites containing very few items of play equipment. The details are provided in Appendix 2.

The city's public parks and gardens and green access routes score highest in terms of quality (17 out of 25). This is reflected in the community engagement undertaken as part of the audit as respondents were most satisfied with the city's public parks and gardens, with 60% rating them as good or excellent. Natural green space and green corridors were rated second and third in terms of customer satisfaction.

Allotments and business amenity open space score most poorly (12 out of 25). When considering the three types of amenity open space – residential, business and transport – together, they also score poorly, with a total average score of 13 out of 25. The community engagement carried out as part of the audit broadly concurs with this conclusion – the type of open space that respondents were least satisfied with was amenity open space, with 35% of respondents rating it poor or fair.

The audit found that Hazlehead / Ashley / Queens Cross and Torry / Ferryhill wards have the highest quality open spaces, both having an average quality score of 16 out of 25. Northfield and Hilton / Stockethill have the poorest quality sites with an average quality score of 11 out of 25.

The largest categories of the city's open spaces are woodlands 22% and open, semi-natural grounds 21%. The third largest type is golf courses. However when the three types of amenity open space – residential, business and transport – are combined, they are third largest, covering 18% of the city's open spaces.

Distribution of Open Spaces by City Wards

Audit results showed that open spaces are not evenly distributed across the city. Among the city wards Dyce, Bucksburn and Danestone and Lower Deeside have the most open space while Hilton and Stockethill and George Street and Harbour have the least. Dyce / Bucksburn / Danestone has some large areas of woodland at Parkhill, Kirkhill and Craibstone, as does Lower Deeside, with Foggieton, Denwood and Countesswells Woods. Bridge of Don has the third highest amount of open space, which is largely made up of the golf courses along the coast and Scotstown Moor / Perwinnes Moss and Don Mouth District Wildlife Site (DWS).

Although it is useful to consider the distribution of open space across each area of the city, a limitation with this is that the position of ward boundaries can lead to an incomplete picture. For example, the Northfield ward has the third least amount of open space of all the wards, however immediately outside this ward's boundary is a large area of playing fields, a community woodland, and golf course. Figure 5 shows the details of open spaces according to the city wards.

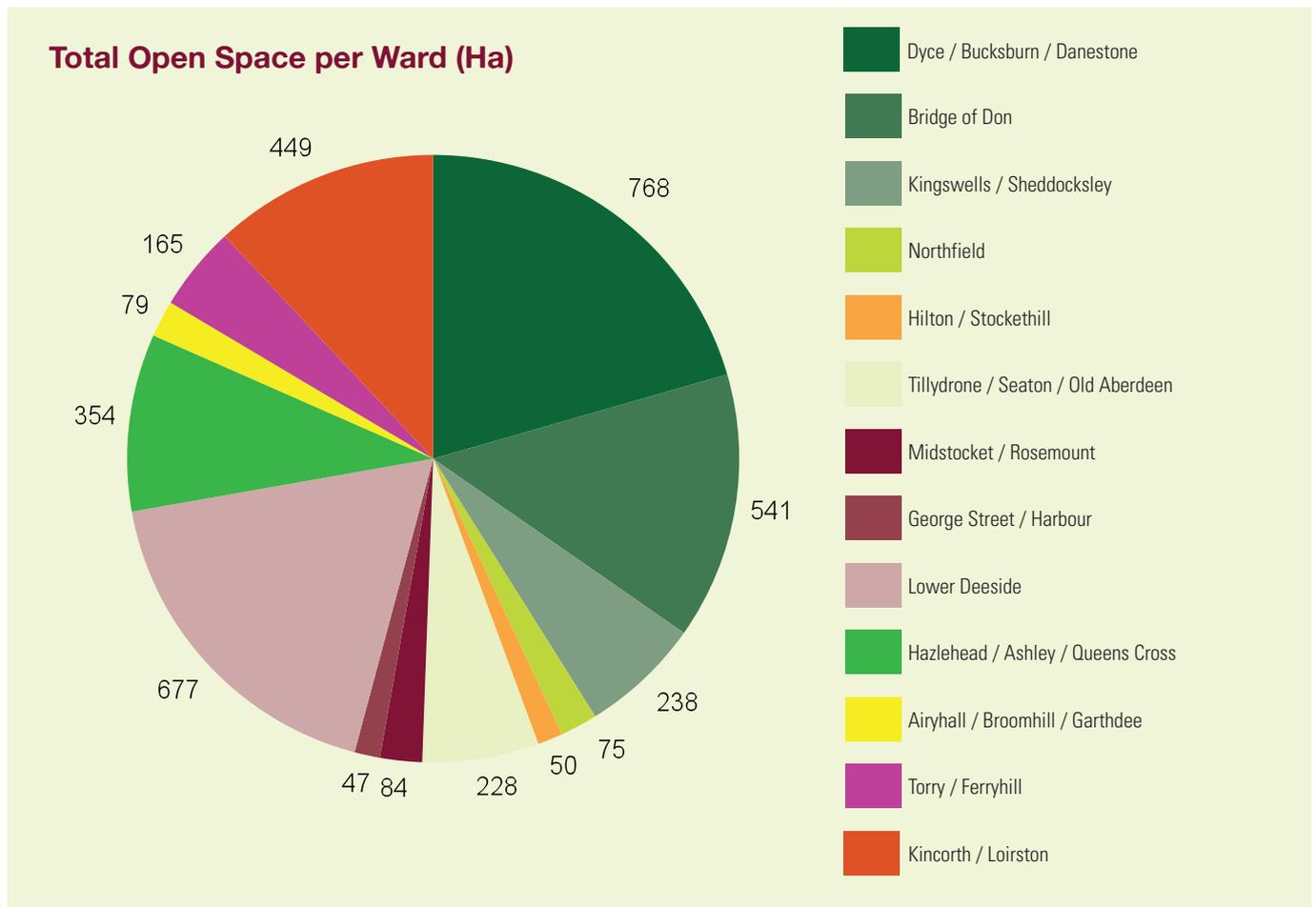


Figure 5

The audit results showed that most of the city's residents are within 500 metres of natural open spaces. Hilton / Stockethill, Kincorth / Loriston and Dyce / Bucksburn / Danestone have the greatest level of provision of natural open space, with close to 100% of their residents within the recommended distance. George Street / Harbour has the least access to natural open spaces with 45% of residents within 500 metres of these sites. It is important to note that while over 86% of all households in the city are within 500m of natural and semi-natural open space, not all sites are easily accessible to the public. Details are provided in Appendix 2.

The community engagement exercise concluded that natural or semi-natural greenspace or woodland is the most well used type of open space, with 73% of respondents indicating that they use these spaces more than a few times a month. They were also rated second highest in terms of satisfaction, with 51% rating them good or excellent.

Case Study - Deer Road Park



Despite its wider prosperity, there are pockets of serious deprivation within the city of Aberdeen. The Woodside community is recognised as being one of six regeneration “priority areas” by Aberdeen City Council.

As part of the Council’s ongoing regeneration efforts, a local park in the Woodside area was restored and upgraded. The existing Deer Road Park was largely unused and undervalued by the local community. It consisted of a few pieces of old, neglected play equipment and two goal posts without a proper football pitch. The park was surrounded on two sides by a seven foot chain link fence that had such large gaping holes, it served no useful purpose.

This project – a collaboration between Auld Woodside Action Group, Aberdeen Greenspace, Aberdeen City Council, Station House Media Unit, Scottish Natural Heritage and North Sound Radio – has brought about the complete regeneration of the park. New post and rail fencing has been erected, with much of the labour provided by local volunteers. Modern play equipment was installed along with a surface games pitch and new tarmac path. Native trees, hedges and bulbs were also planted to make the park much more attractive for people and wildlife.

The results have been remarkable and Woodside now has a park that the community designed, delivered and has pride in. The park is well used and the project has also brought positive publicity to the area.

Before the improvement



After the improvement



Throughout the audit and Strategy preparation process it has been clear that the quality, accessibility, management and maintenance of open space are the key issues concerning the public, rather than necessarily the provision of more open space. However in some wards quantity was an issue as well as quality, accessibility, management and maintenance. Details of the audit findings are provided in the Open Space Audit report.

Figure 6 shows the over all quality of the open spaces across the city. The figure shows red being low quality open spaces and green as high quality at scale of 1-25. The details of each type of these open spaces and individual site scores are provided in the Open Space Audit Report available at: www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/openspace

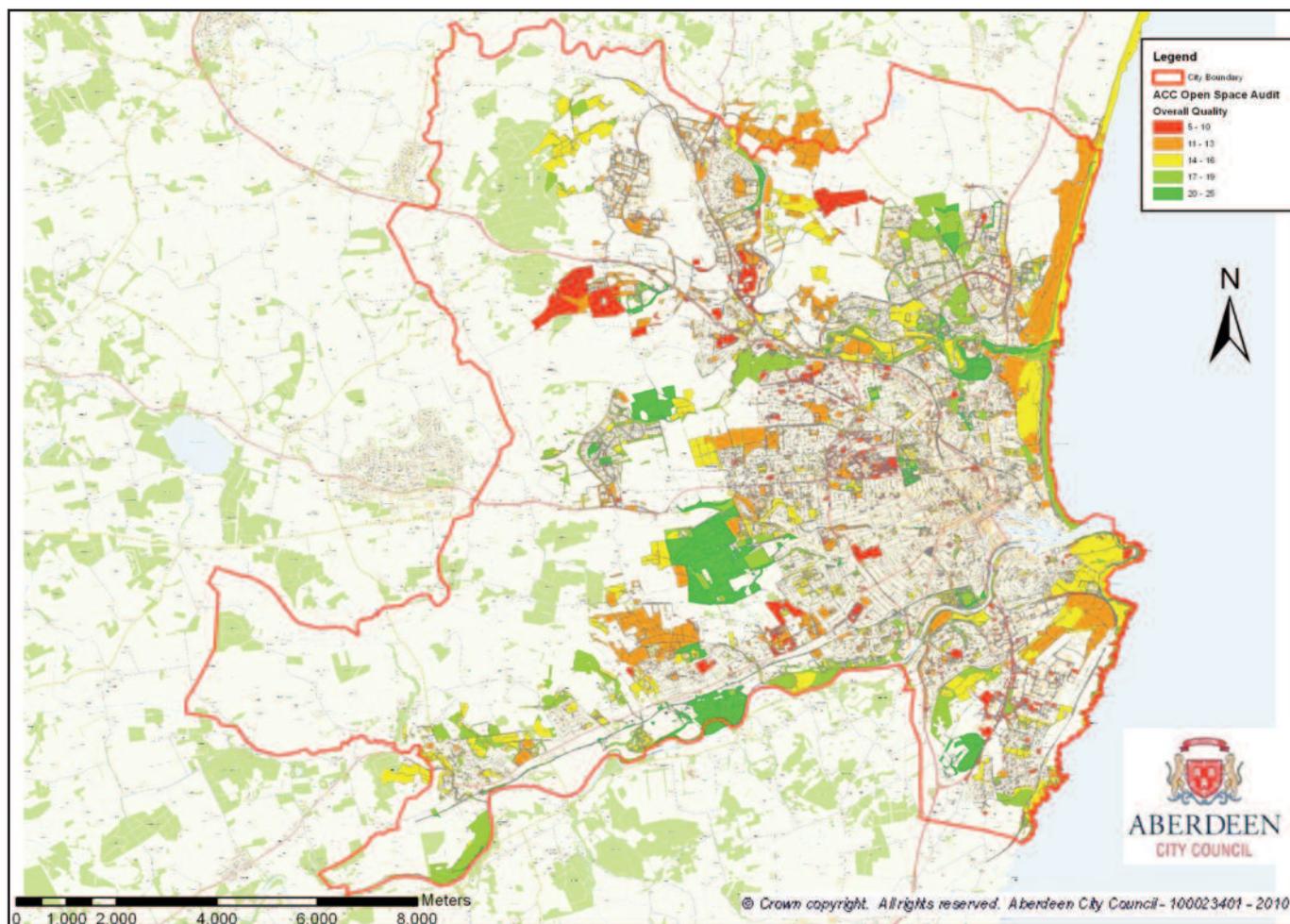


Figure 6

Open Space Quality

Figure 7 shows the quantity of major types of open spaces. The details of each type of open spaces according to PAN 65 Typology are provided in the open space audit report.

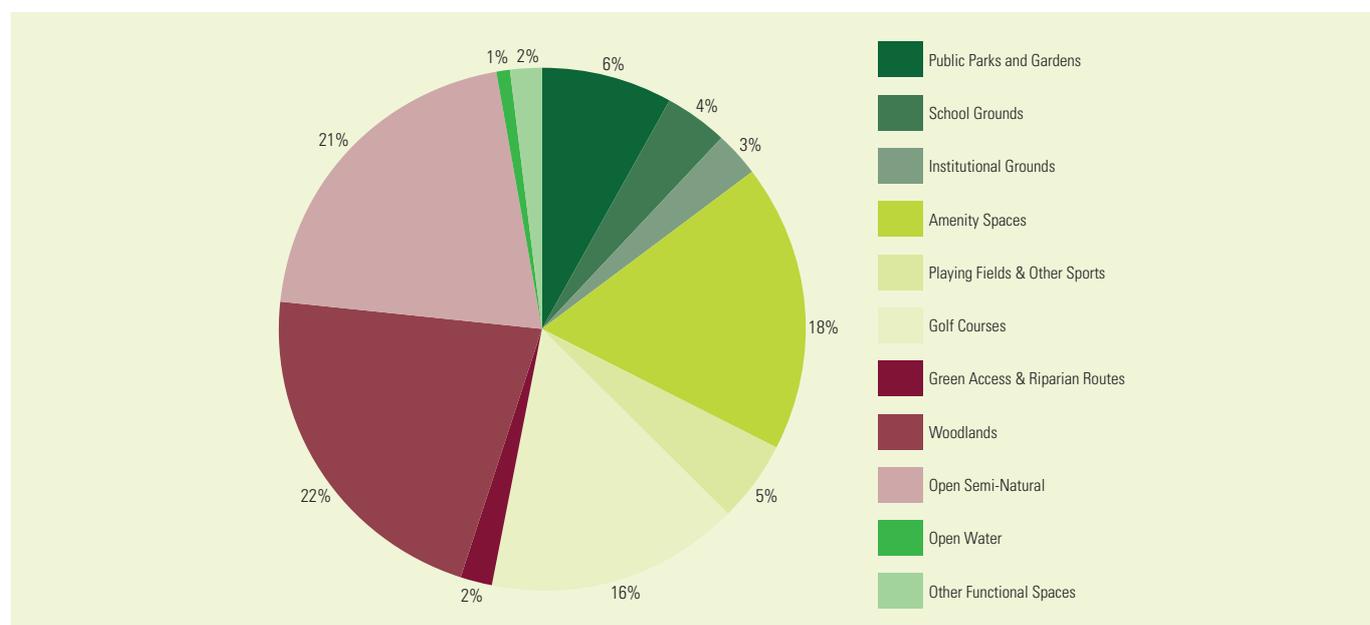


Figure 7

Case Study - Mastrick District Centre Regeneration Project

An Open Space area in the Mastrick District Centre has been improved by the community working closely with local shop keepers and local services. The improvement project has created an attractive, well designed and thriving civic space for the residents, shoppers and retailers.

A lack of site investment and maintenance over the years and pockets of antisocial behaviour had given the area a neglected feel. This deterioration in infrastructure, site access and overall appearance over time was seen as a key barrier to making best use of this area.

The community wanted to make the District Centre safer to use, more attractive, clean, and accessible and to improve the range of facilities. Community representatives and local services worked together via a neighbourhood planning partnership to produce an improvement plan and secured nearly £400,000 in funding from the Scottish Government's Town Centre Regeneration Fund, the Fairer Scotland Fund, Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeen Greenspace.

This investment has breathed new life into the open space areas and brought huge benefits to the community. The accessibility and overall appearance of the open space has improved, with newly designed pedestrianised and greenspace area, play equipment, bins and seating, noticeboards and trees and hedgerow planting.

The newly installed CCTV, shopsafe scheme and improved lighting have helped reduce anti-social behaviour, making the area safer to use for families. This project has also improved the socio-economic viability of the Centre area, with previously vacant retail units now occupied.



Police Officer Stewart Mackie supports the new play facility and improved pedestrian area beyond



Lord Provost Peter Stephen joins in with the community celebrations!

CHAPTER 4

Developing the Strategy

How the Strategy was developed?

The vision, aims and objectives for this Strategy were developed at three workshops attended by community, business and agency stakeholders. Further community consultation was carried out through six local events as well as several meetings with specific stakeholder groups.



Community Consultation

The community consultation results reflect the findings of the open space ideas collected through this process and were used to develop the Strategy's action plan. In addition open space standards have been developed for new open spaces.

In addition to community consultation youth was also consulted to get their input into the Strategy. The local events focused on the vision, aims and objectives and sought the public's views and ideas on how to achieve these. A map-based exercise was also undertaken where people were asked to highlight the spaces they value most, as well as any ideas they had for changing or improving them.

The process followed to develop the Strategy is shown in Figure 8 below



Figure 8 – Open Space Strategy process



Open Space Standards

The Open Space Audit identified a need to review Aberdeen's Open Space Development Guidelines for Greenfield Sites (2001) in order to provide higher quality and more accessible open space, rather than simply quantitative provision. For this reason, standards on the quality and accessibility, as well as quantity of open space were developed. The new standards allow for situations where the Open Space Audit may suggest that improvements to the quality of existing open spaces could be more useful to the existing and future community in an area than purely the provision of new open space. Benchmarking with other local authorities, along with the consultation undertaken as part of the Audit and Open Space Strategy process were used to identify appropriate standards for quantity, accessibility and quality.

The open space standards, developed as a result of the Open Space Audit and in parallel with this Strategy, will guide the planning and development of future open spaces, ensuring an adequate supply of good quality and accessible open space. The standards are presented as part of Supplementary Guidance on Open Space and are a material consideration in the planning process. See www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/openspace.



Artist's Impression

© Image of Stoneywood Estate, produced by OPEN for Dandara Holdings Ltd.

CHAPTER 5

Delivery

Partnership Working

Successful implementation of this Strategy will require a partnership approach and joint working between various partners - private, public and voluntary sectors, along with the communities of Aberdeen.

There are already many partners who are actively involved in managing some of Aberdeen's open spaces and provide funding for specific projects, with many examples of good practice available. Joint working can achieve best results and also satisfy the multiple needs of the community.

Case Study - Split the Winds, Calsayseat, Powis

Aberdeen Greenspace worked with Froghall, Powis and Sunnybank Environmental Group to improve a small greenspace outside the Calsayseat Medical Centre. The area has few greenspaces and this one is important to the local community.

Staff at Aberdeen Greenspace discussed with the group how the space was currently used and their aspirations for the greenspace. A plan was drawn up and displayed in the Medical Centre asking for comments.

Once the plan was agreed seating was installed, trees and bulbs were planted by the community and Aberdeen Greenspace Volunteer Group. A hedge was planted to separate the space and screen the area from the noise of the neighbouring road traffic.

The planting has matured and the area is now well used by the community and has a real sense of tranquillity in an area busy with traffic.

Before the improvement



After the improvement



The Council's Five-Year Business Plan is looking for further development of partnership working and multi-agency approaches to the way services are delivered. The process of developing this Strategy has highlighted many opportunities in this regard, in relation to the cross-cutting aims and strategic objectives for open space.

Masterplanning

We will work with developers and ensure that quality open spaces are delivered through the masterplanning process in new developments as well as in the proposed regeneration areas within the city to meet the community needs.



© Image of the Former Davidson's Mill, produced by OPEN for the Stewart Milne Groups Limited, Manse (Aberdeen) Limited and Westhouse Estates Limited.



© Image of Greenferns, produced by OPEN for Aberdeen City Council.



Resources

Open space management and maintenance is a major issue facing the Council at present and in times to come. The Council's financial situation means that innovative and imaginative ways of looking after our open space resources and making the most of what resources we have are the key to delivering the aims of the Strategy.

Some of the Strategy's actions revolve around the need to explore various alternative resources - monetary and non-monetary, and innovative ways of managing and maintaining open spaces.

Case Study - Ashgrove Children's Centre Outdoor Play & Garden Project

This project was to develop the substantial greenspace around the centre offering opportunities for children and adults from the surrounding regeneration areas to work and play together, gain new skills, confidence and friendships, access nature, physical activities and opportunities for peace and quiet reflection.

The project involved installing a willow dome, building outdoor seating, and planting native trees and hedges. A wooden fence was erected to make the wildlife area safe and a number of planters were built and installed which will allow the children to grow plants from seed that will provide a splash of colour in summer.

The work was carried out by the Aberdeen Greenspace Volunteer Group. The children were involved in bulb planting.

The project has created sensory areas, wildlife garden space, winding pathways and hide aways, seating and planted areas, free space for bike areas to run around, a story garden and an imaginative play area. An outdoor space that can be used in all weathers, muddy puddles to play in, places to jump and roll in the grass, opportunities to nurture and grow things and stimulate the senses, to access physical play or be tranquil and observe.

This project, in partnership with Ashgrove Children's Centre, was funded through Aberdeen Greenspace, BAA Communities Trust and Scottish Natural Heritage.



Delivery Action Plan

An inter-departmental and inter-disciplinary working approach will be adopted within the Council to ensure its delivery. The priorities of this Strategy are based on the results of the open space audit and community consultations. The Strategy outlines the actions required to deliver quality, accessible and fit for purpose open spaces. The action plan outlined in section 7 provides the details of each objective and how they will be delivered through various actions and tasks. It assigns a high, medium or low priority to each action and identifies the major partners and services to take the lead on delivering each action. In some cases actions can apply to more than one objective.

CHAPTER 6

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring the Strategy

Progress on the implementation of the Strategy will be monitored using the indicators highlighted in the action plan. Questions will be asked annually within the Aberdeen City Alliance survey framework, The City Voice, in order to monitor customer satisfaction. Land use change such as urban development and changes in the provision of open space will be monitored using GIS aerial photography.

Individual open space projects will be monitored and evaluated separately according to the project indicators and monitoring plan. The results will be published in the annual progress report in addition to the post-project evaluation report at the end of the project.

An Environmental Policy and Monitoring Group will oversee and monitor the progress of the Strategy's implementation in relation to the action plan and policy objectives. The group will meet quarterly to discuss the progress. An annual monitoring and evaluation report will be published showing the overall progress against Strategy objectives and outcomes of the actions.

Some specific monitoring tools such as a digital monitoring system will also be used to monitor the use of open spaces. Data collected will show the usage of these open spaces.

The Strategy will be reviewed and updated in 2016.

Case Study - Digital Monitoring

A digital monitoring system to monitor the number of visitors on key paths is used by Aberdeen City Council. Regional Transport Partnership, NESTRANS provided the funding for this project to support their investment in upgrading core paths throughout the city.

There are people counters installed at seven different locations across the city. The data from these provides information on the number of people using the paths and some can even distinguish between cyclists and walkers.



Automatic people counter

CHAPTER 7 Action Plan

Protect, enhance and value our environment for current and future generations							
CREATE, PROTECT AND ENHANCE GREEN SPACE NETWORK							
Aim	Sub-Action/Tasks	Key links to other Strategy objectives	Delivery/ Key Service/ Partners Lead in Bold	Resource Implication/ Funding	Priority: High, Medium, Low	Time Scale/ Target	Indicators/ Parameters
OBJECTIVE 1							
1.1	Ensure green infrastructure (Green Space Network) is considered within new developments as a key form of necessary infrastructure	2, 4, 6, 8	*EP&I *P&SD	Officer Time	H	June 2011 - Sept 2011	Adoption of SPG
	1.1.1 Publish Supplementary Guidance on Open Space, including section on Green Space Network						
	1.1.2 Develop a Geographical Information System (GIS) layer explaining the rationale and priorities for improvement and development of the Green Space Network Policy. See Figure 2	4	EP&I P&SD	Officer Time	H	Sept 2011 - Dec 2012	Area of GSN enhanced or protected. Annual update of GIS database
	1.1.3 Promote the use of Green Space Network and associated GIS layer within the Council and to others for planning and development of open spaces	6, 8	EP&I P&SD	Officer Time	M	2011-2016	Number of workshops and seminars held to promote GSN
1.2	Work with developers, businesses, communities and landowners to raise awareness of Green Space Network and support its delivery	All	EP&I P&SD *H&E *ES	Officer Time	M	2011-2016	Number of communities and stakeholders involved per year
1.3	Prioritise the development of strategic new paths to form part of the Green Space Network by linking communities with open space and other key destinations	3, 4, 5, 8	EP&I H&E ES	Officer Time	M	2011-2016	Length of new linking paths
	1.3.1 Use the Open Space Audit results and core paths planning process to prioritise paths linking communities and green space network						

* Enterprise Planning & Infrastructure - EP&I * Planning and Sustainable Development - P&SD

* Housing & Environment - H&E * Environmental Services - ES

Ensure Aberdeen is an attractive and appealing place to enjoy living, working and investing in									
Aim	IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF OPEN SPACES								
OBJECTIVE 2	Sub-Action/Tasks	Key links to other Strategy objectives	Delivery/ Key Service/ Partners Lead in Bold	Resource Implication/ Funding	Priority: High, Medium, Low	Time Scale/ Target	Indicators/ Parameters		
2.1 Use the findings of the Open Space Audit to develop a strategic framework of short, medium and long term priority projects	2.1.1 Prepare a project plan prioritising open space enhancement projects	1, 2, 4, 8	EP&I P&SD	Officer Time	H	2012-2013	Completed Project Plan		
	2.1.2 Implement a project plan of prioritised open space projects	1, 2, 4, 8	H&E ES EP&I AG	Officer Time, External Grant	M	2012-2016	Number of projects completed and underway		
2.2 Encourage good practice in design of new and existing open spaces	2.2.1 Improve public perceptions of safety and reduce anti-social behaviour by working with communities, community wardens and Grampian Police and other partners in the design of open spaces	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	EP&I P&SD H&E ES *EC&S	Officer Time	H-M	2011-2016	Improved perception of safety by communities (City Voice Monitoring) Number of reported incidents in open spaces Statements from public about their general fear of crime in open spaces		
	2.2.2 Implement Open Space Supplementary Planning Guidance	1, 6, 8	EP&I P&SD H&E ES	Officer Time	H	2011-2016	%age of open spaces achieving higher scores under the Open Space Audit Quality Criteria		
2.3 Encourage public art in open spaces	2.2.3 Adopt Green Flag 'good' standard for open spaces	3, 4, 6	H&E ES	Officer Time	M	2011-2016	Achieve one Green Flag Award per year		
	2.3.1 Support Aberdeen City Council's Public Art Fund Project, working with universities, organisations and local artists to engage communities in public art projects in open spaces where appropriate	5, 6	EP&I P&SD H&E ES	Officer Time, External Grant, Planning Gain	L	2011-2016	Number of art projects promoted and completed		

* Enterprise Planning & Infrastructure - EP&I

* Planning and Sustainable Development - P&SD

* Education, Culture and Sport - EC&S

* Housing & Environment - H&E

* Environmental Services - ES

* Aberdeen Greenspace - AG

Ensure Aberdeen is an attractive and appealing place to enjoy living, working and investing in								
IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF OPEN SPACES								
Aim	OBJECTIVE 2	Sub-Action/Tasks	Key links to other Strategy objectives	Delivery/ Key Service/ Partners Lead in Bold	Resource Implication/ Funding	Priority: High, Medium, Low	Time Scale/ Target	Indicators/ Parameters
2.4	Review the distribution and quality of play spaces	2.4.1 Work with Aberdeen Play Forum and others to identify play spaces to be developed, enhanced or removed	3, 4, 5, 6, 8	EP&I P&SD H&E ES APF	Officer Time Partners	H	2011-2013	Complete review of play spaces Number of play spaces developed, enhanced or removed per year
		2.4.2 Implement the review of play spaces, making play spaces more natural and challenging where possible	3, 4, 5, 6, 8	H&E ES *APF	Officer Time, External Funding	M	2012-2016	%age of play spaces meeting Open Space Supplementary Guidance standards on play space

* Enterprise Planning & Infrastructure - EP&I

* Housing & Environment - H&E

* Planning and Sustainable Development - P&SD

* Environmental Services - ES

* Aberdeen Play Forum - APF

Aim	Provide good and equitable access to a network of quality open spaces that promote stronger, responsible and proud communities							
OBJECTIVE 3	PROVIDE WELL MAINTAINED AND MANAGED OPEN SPACES, BALANCING AVAILABLE RESOURCES WITH COMMUNITY DEMAND							
Actions	Sub-Action/Tasks	Key links to other Strategy objectives	Delivery/Key Service/Partners Lead in Bold	Resource Implication/Funding	Priority: High, Medium, Low	Time Scale/Target	Indicators/Parameters	
3.1 Review, write and implement open space management and maintenance plans that fit with the objectives in this Strategy	3.1.1 Prepare a project plan prioritising management plans to be reviewed and developed	All	H&E ES EP&I P&SD	Officer Time Partners	M	2011-2012	Number of Plans, reviewed, written and implemented	
	3.1.2 Involve communities in the development of management plans for open spaces	All	H&E ES EP&I	Officer Time	H	2011-2013	%age of open space sites with management plans	
	3.1.3 Involve communities in the review of existing management plans, with a view to finding more environmentally sustainable and cost effective means of maintaining open space	All	H&E ES EP&I P&SD	Officer Time	H	2011-2013	Number of management plans reviewed. Instruments and methods to involve citizens in the design and planning process of open spaces and to inform them about the project	
3.2 Provide and promote site management information	3.2.1 Use most appropriate media for providing management information including for example web-based resources, podcasts, site signage, interpretation panels, open days and leaflets	2, 5, 6, 8	H&E ES EP&I P&SD *EC&S	Officer Time	M	2011-2016	Number of sites with appropriate level and type of information available	
	3.2.2 Review existing and necessary site information as part of management planning process (see actions 3.1.2 and 3.1.3)		EP&I P&SD H&E ES EC&S	Officer Time	M	2011-2013	%age of open space sites with management plans	

* Enterprise Planning & Infrastructure - EP&I

* Planning and Sustainable Development - P&SD

* Education, Culture and Sport - EC&S

* Housing & Environment - H&E

* Environmental Services - ES

Provide good and equitable access to a network of quality open spaces that promote stronger, responsible and proud communities										
PROVIDE WELL MAINTAINED AND MANAGED OPEN SPACES, BALANCING AVAILABLE RESOURCES WITH COMMUNITY DEMAND										
Aim	OBJECTIVE 3	Sub-Action/Tasks	Key links to other Strategy objectives	Delivery/ Key Service/ Partners Lead in Bold	Resource Implication/ Funding	Priority: High, Medium, Low	Time Scale/ Target	Indicators/ Parameters		
	3.3	Support communities and organisations who express an interest in community-led maintenance of open spaces	1, 2, 6	EP&I P&SD H&E ES EC&S AG	Officer Time Explore Project Funding	M	2011-2014	Number of active park user groups established		
		3.3.1 Develop and promote web based resource for community groups and local businesses to form park user groups such as 'Friends of' groups								
		3.3.2 Support award schemes that encourage community and others' involvement in open space management, such as 'Aberdeen in Bloom'	2, 3, 5, 6, 7	EP&I H&E CC	Officer Time	M	2011-2016	Number of communities involved		
		3.3.3 Involve schools in design and management of open spaces	All	EP&I *AYC *CC	Officer Time	M	2011-2016	Number of schools involved in design and management of open spaces		
	3.4	Explore alternative models for delivering open space management and maintenance service	3, 7	EP&I P&SD H&E ES	Officer Time Explore Project funding	H	2011-2014	Complete feasibility study		
		3.4.1 Undertake a feasibility study of alternative models, e.g. Parks Trust								

* Education, Culture and Sport - EC&S

* Aberdeen Greenspace - AG

* Planning and Sustainable Development - P&SD

* Environmental Services - ES

* Enterprise Planning & Infrastructure - EP&I

* Housing & Environment - H&E

* Community Councils - CC

Aim Provide good and equitable access to a network of quality open spaces that promote stronger, responsible and proud communities

IMPROVE ACCESS TO AND WITHIN OPEN SPACES									
OBJECTIVE 4	Sub-Action/Tasks	Key links to other Strategy objectives	Delivery/ Key Service/ Partners Lead in Bold	Resource Implication/ Funding	Priority: High, Medium, Low	Time Scale/ Target	Indicators/ Parameters		
4.1 Provide information on how to access open spaces in Aberdeen	4.1.1 Produce access information, such as path maps, bus routes, cycling routes, leaflets and interpretation panels, newsletters, media articles etc and create a web based resource to coordinate leaflets and other guidance	1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8	EP&I P&SD H&E ES AG	Officer Time	M	2011-2013	Number of promotion material produced		
	4.1.2 Disseminate information using local neighbourhood and park notice boards, tourist board and explore use of social network web-based services	1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8	EC&S P&SD H&E ES	Officer Time	M-L	2011-2016	Number of promoted sites		
	4.2.1 Deliver the Core Paths Plan programme for signage and interpretation	1, 3, 5, 8	EP&I P&SD ES	Officer Time, External Grant Funding	H	2011-2016	Length of way-marked core paths		
	4.3.1 Work with Local Transport Strategy team, NESTRANS, NHS, AG, Forestry Commission Scotland, bus companies, SNH, communities and other partners to integrate access to the outdoors with other policy areas	1, 5, 6, 7, 8	EP&I P&SD EC&S H&E, ES *SNH AG *FC	Officer Time External Funding	M-L	2011-2016	Number of linkages developed		
4.4 Use the Open Space Audit findings to identify priorities for improving access to specific open space types	4.4.1 Review Aberdeen's Sports Pitch Strategy	2, 3, 5	EC&S EP&I H&E Sport Scotland	Officer Time	H	2011-2016	Complete review of Pitch Strategy		

* Enterprise Planning & Infrastructure - EP&I
* Housing & Environment - H&E
* Scottish Natural Heritage - SNH

* Planning and Sustainable Development - P&SD
* Environmental Services - ES
* Forestry Commission - FC

* Education, Culture and Sport - EC&S
* Aberdeen Greenspace - AG

Promote and facilitate healthier life styles										
INCREASE THE VALUE AND USE OF OPEN SPACES FOR HEALTH, EDUCATION, PLAY AND LIFELONG LEARNING										
Aim	OBJECTIVE 5	Sub-Action/Tasks	Key links to other Strategy objectives	Delivery/ Key Service/ Partners Lead in Bold	Resource Implication/ Funding	Priority: High, Medium, Low	Time Scale/ Target	Indicators/ Parameters		
5.1	Encourage schools and educational institutions to use open spaces	5.1.1 Support Curriculum for Excellence by encouraging outdoor learning	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	EC&S H&E EP&I	Officer Time External Grants	M	2011-2016	Number of groups involved and total number of hours that pupils are educated directly in open spaces for example Aberdeen City Council Ranger Service outdoor learning programme		
		5.1.2 Promote, support and advertise Green Flag Awards initiatives in schools	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	EC&S P&SD H&E ES	Officer Time	M	2011-2016	Number of schools involved and green flag awards achieved		
		5.1.3 Work with Schools and Youth Council in design and management of open spaces	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	EC&S EP&I H&E	Officer Time	M	2011-2016	Include within management planning process		
5.2	Promote responsible access to open spaces	5.2.1 Provide advice and information on responsible use of the outdoors in line with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code	1, 3, 4, 6, 8	EP&I P&SD H&E ES SNH AG	Officer Time External Grants	L	2011-2016	Reduction in number of complaints about user conflicts		

* Education, Culture and Sport - EC&S

* Aberdeen Greenspace - AG

* Planning and Sustainable Development - P&SD

* Environmental Services - ES

* Enterprise Planning & Infrastructure - EP&I

* Housing & Environment - H&E

* Scottish Natural Heritage - SNH

Promote and facilitate healthier life styles									
Aim	Promote and facilitate healthier life styles								
OBJECTIVE 5	INCREASE THE VALUE AND USE OF OPEN SPACES FOR HEALTH, EDUCATION, PLAY AND LIFELONG LEARNING								
Actions	Sub-Action/Tasks	Key links to other Strategy objectives	Delivery/ Key Service/ Partners Lead in Bold	Resource Implication/ Funding	Priority: High, Medium, Low	Time Scale/ Target	Indicators/ Parameters		
5.3 Promote active and healthy lifestyles	5.3.1 Work with NHS Grampian and other partners to promote the health benefits of open space and outdoor recreation and active travel	2, 4, 7, 8	EP&I P&SD EC&S H&E ES *NHS	Officer Time	M	2011-2016	Increase in number of users to open spaces. Results of annual surveys through city voice questionnaire		
5.4 Enable and promote events in open spaces	5.4.1 Develop guidance to maximise the use of open spaces for events e.g corporate days	4, 6, 7	EP&I P&SD H&E ES	Officers Time	M-L	2013-2016	Type of guidance developed		
	5.4.2 Work with event organisations, businesses and communities to encourage the use of open spaces for events	4, 6, 7	EP&I				Number and type of events held in open spaces		

* Enterprise Planning & Infrastructure - EP&I

* Housing & Environment - H&E

* Planning and Sustainable Development - P&SD

* Environmental Services - ES

* Education, Culture and Sport - EC&S

* National Health Service - NHS

Ensure Aberdeen is an attractive and appealing place to enjoy living, working and investing in									
Aim	SEEK BUSINESS, COMMUNITY AND OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT								
OBJECTIVE 6	Sub-Action/Tasks	Key links to other Strategy objectives	Delivery/ Key Service/ Partners Lead in Bold	Resource Implication/ Funding	Priority: High, Medium, Low	Time Scale/ Target	Indicators/ Parameters		
6.1 Develop private, public and voluntary partnerships	6.1.1 Develop a strategic framework of projects to attract support from various sources	All	EP&I P&SD AG SNH	Officer Time Planning gain	H	2011-2014	Complete framework		
	6.1.2 Encourage school / youth and Corporate Social Responsibility support for open spaces	All	EP&I P&SD H&E, ES AG	Officer Time Explore Funding	H-M	2011-2016	Number of partnership projects developed		
	6.1.3 Develop a multiple agency approach for improvement and investment of open spaces	All	H&E ES EP&I, P&SD EC&S	Officer Time External Funding	H-M	2011-2016	Number of partnership projects developed		
	6.1.4 Promote the Grant Finder funding sources database held by the External Funding Team	All	H&E ES	Officer Time	H	2011-2016	Number of projects entered or initiated in the grant funding database held by the Council		
6.2 Build capacity of communities to take responsibility for open spaces	6.2.1 Develop a Guide to Improving Your Open Spaces to facilitate community ownership and management of open spaces	1-7	EP&I P&SD H&E ES *GS	Officer Time External Funding	M	2012-2016	Complete Guide		

* Enterprise Planning & Infrastructure - EP&I * Planning and Sustainable Development - P&SD * Education, Culture and Sport - EC&S

* Housing & Environment - H&E * Environmental Services - ES * Aberdeen Greenspace - AG

* Scottish National Heritage - SNH * Greenspace Scotland - GS

Ensure Aberdeen is an attractive and appealing place to enjoy living, working and investing in

OBJECTIVE 6 SEEK BUSINESS, COMMUNITY AND OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

Aim	Sub-Action/Tasks	Key links to other Strategy objectives	Delivery/ Key Service/ Partners Lead in Bold	Resource Implication/ Funding	Priority: High, Medium, Low	Time Scale/ Target	Indicators/ Parameters
6.3 Encourage business, community and other agency involvement in the planning process, and active engagement in developing, enhancing and maintaining open spaces	6.3.1 Promote cross-service and external involvement in the masterplanning process for new developments and improvement of existing open spaces	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	EP&I P&SD EC&S ES H&E AG	Officer Time External Funding	H	2011-2016	Number of agencies and business involved and spaces maintained
6.4 Pursue income, sponsorship and other, in kind assistance to improve the quality and maintenance of open spaces	6.4.1 Research innovative and best practice examples of ways to support the maintenance of open spaces	1, 2, 3, 4	EP&I P&SD H&E, ES EC&S AG	Officer Time	H	2011-2014	£s or equivalent provided towards open space projects and maintenance
	6.4.2 Promote and support "adopt a park" or "adopt a path" type schemes for communities or businesses	1, 2, 3, 4	EP&I P&SD H&E ES	Officer Time	H	2011-2014	£s or equivalent provided towards open space projects and maintenance
	6.4.3 Explore opportunities for fund raising at events for reinvestment in open spaces	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	EP&I P&SD H&E, ES	Officer Time	M	2012-2014	Complete and disseminate events guidance
6.5 Establish an Open Space Forum to promote, encourage and oversee community based projects and share skills and experience	6.5.1 Co-ordinate through existing forums where appropriate	All	EP&I P&SD	Officer Time	H	2012-2016	Number of meetings held Recorded minutes and information shared

* Enterprise Planning & Infrastructure - EP&I

* Planning and Sustainable Development - P&SD

* Education, Culture and Sport - EC&S

* Housing & Environment - H&E

* Environmental Services - ES

* Aberdeen Greenspace - AG

Ensure Aberdeen is an attractive and appealing place to enjoy living, working and investing in								
RECOGNISE THE ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL VALUE OF OPEN SPACES								
Aim	OBJECTIVE 7	Sub-Action/Tasks	Key links to other Strategy objectives	Delivery/ Key Service/ Partners Lead in Bold	Resource Implication/ Funding	Priority: High, Medium, Low	Time Scale/ Target	Indicators/ Parameters
	7.1 Promote the economic, environmental and social value of open spaces to all users	7.1.1 Produce and implement a Promotion Plan for highlighting the environmental, social and economic value of open spaces	1, 2, 3, 5, 6	EP&I P&SD H&E ES AG	Officer Time	M	2012-2014	Complete Promotion Plan. Initiatives taken that enable an open space to create income
		7.1.2 Identify best practice examples of community projects and local 'champions' to help promote local open spaces	1, 2, 3, 5, 6	H&E ES EP&I P&SD EC&S AG, SNH		M	2011-2016	Number and types of case studies collected Types of economic activities

* Enterprise Planning & Infrastructure - EP&I

* Housing & Environment - H&E

* Scottish National Heritage - SHN

* Planning and Sustainable Development - P&SD

* Environmental Services - ES

* Education, Culture and Sport - EC&S

* Aberdeen Greenspace - AG

Protect, enhance and value our environment for current and future generations

MAXIMISE OPPORTUNITIES TO MITIGATE AND ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND FURTHER BIODIVERSITY

Aim	MAXIMISE OPPORTUNITIES TO MITIGATE AND ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND FURTHER BIODIVERSITY							Indicators/ Parameters
OBJECTIVE 8	Sub-Action/Tasks	Key links to other Strategy objectives	Delivery/ Key Service/ Partners Lead in Bold	Resource Implication/ Funding	Priority: High, Medium, Low	Time Scale/ Target		
8.1	Support the delivery of Aberdeen City's Nature Conservation Strategy and Local Biodiversity Action Plan	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	EP&I P&SD H&E ES *LBAP AG SNH	Officer Time External Grant Funding Partnership Working	H-M	2011-2016	No loss in number and area of DWS. No loss in number of biodiversity action plan species and habitats present in Aberdeen Area of invasive non-native plant species controlled in Aberdeen Area of natural and semi-natural habitats enhanced Number of Management Plans for existing sites to enhance biodiversity Number of management plans developed for new sites to enhance biodiversity Number of feeder boxes installed for Red Squirrel Number of transect surveys conducted for Red Squirrel Number of traps set up to control grey squirrel Number of grey squirrel culled per year	

* Enterprise Planning & Infrastructure - EP&I
 * Housing & Environment - H&E
 * Local Biodiversity Action Plan - LBAP
 * Planning and Sustainable Development - P&SD
 * Environmental Services - ES
 * Scottish National Heritage - SNH
 * Aberdeen Greenspace - AG

Protect, enhance and value our environment for current and future generations									
Aim	MAXIMISE OPPORTUNITIES TO MITIGATE AND ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND FURTHER BIODIVERSITY								
Actions	Sub-Action/Tasks	Key links to other Strategy objectives	Delivery/Key Service/Partners Lead in Bold	Resource Implication/Funding	Priority: High, Medium, Low	Time Scale/Target	Indicators/Parameters		
8.2	Encourage Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) as valued, functional elements of open spaces	8.2.1 Encourage the creation of new SUDS in open spaces where appropriate and recognise as positive aspect or facility within open space	1, 2, 5, 7	Officer Time External Grant Funding	M	2012-2016	Include within Management Planning Process for sites		
8.3	Consider the use of open spaces for energy efficient/renewable energy and other technologies where appropriate	8.2.2 Research case studies and examples from elsewhere and promote best practice	1, 2, 5, 7	Officer Time	M	2012-2014	Number of case studies		
8.4	Protect open spaces for the role they play in flooding management, air quality, and furthering biodiversity	8.3.1 Work with partners to explore opportunities to make best use of woodlands e.g using wood for renewable energy	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	Explore Funding Developers contribution	H	2011-2012	Adoption of Trees and Woodland Strategy		
		8.4.1 Support policies protecting open spaces within Aberdeen Local Development Plan	All	Officer Time	M	2011-2016	Open Space Audit Review 2015		
		8.4.2 Safeguard floodplains to ensure resilience against floods risk particularly in the context of climate change through development management, supporting Aberdeen Local Development Plan policies and other appropriate measure		ES SNH *SEPA Developer			Number of SUDS developed		

* Enterprise Planning & Infrastructure - EP&I

* Housing & Environment - H&E

* Scottish Environment Protection Agency - SEPA

* Planning and Sustainable Development - P&SD

* Environmental Services - ES

* Forestry Commission - FS

* Scottish Natural Heritage - SNH

Protect, enhance and value our environment for current and future generations									
Aim	MAXIMISE OPPORTUNITIES TO MITIGATE AND ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND FURTHER BIODIVERSITY								
OBJECTIVE 8	Sub-Action/Tasks	Key links to other Strategy objectives	Delivery/Key Service/Partners Lead in Bold	Resource Implication/Funding	Priority: High, Medium, Low	Time Scale/Target	Indicators/Parameters		
8.5	Plant native and wildlife friendly species where appropriate in open spaces and highlight importance of plants, trees and shrubs in adapting to climate change	1, 2, 3, 6	H&E ES AG SNH EP&I	Officer Time FC Funding AG Funding Existing revenue budget	M	2011-2016	Number and types of trees planted Area planted by trees		
8.6	Encourage more environmental friendly design and management	1, 2, 3, 6	EP&I P&SD H&E	Officer Time	H	2011-2012	Adoption of Trees and Woodland Strategy		
8.7	Maximise the use of open spaces for sustainable travel and encouraging healthy lifestyles	1, 2, 3, 6, 7	H&E ES EP&I P&SD All other partners	Officer Time	M	2011-2016	Number of appropriate open spaces targeted for recycling facilities		
8.7.1	Work with Local Transport Strategy team, green space officers, and other partners to encourage use of open spaces for walking and cycling	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	EP&I P&SD H&E ES	Officer Time Explore funding Partnership working	M	2011-2016	Increase in open space user number		

* Enterprise Planning & Infrastructure - EP&I

* Housing & Environment - H&E

* Planning and Sustainable Development - P&SD

* Environmental Services - ES

* Aberdeen Greenspace - AG

* Scottish Natural Heritage - SNH

Appendices

Appendix 1 PAN 65 Typology

Appendix 2 Maps

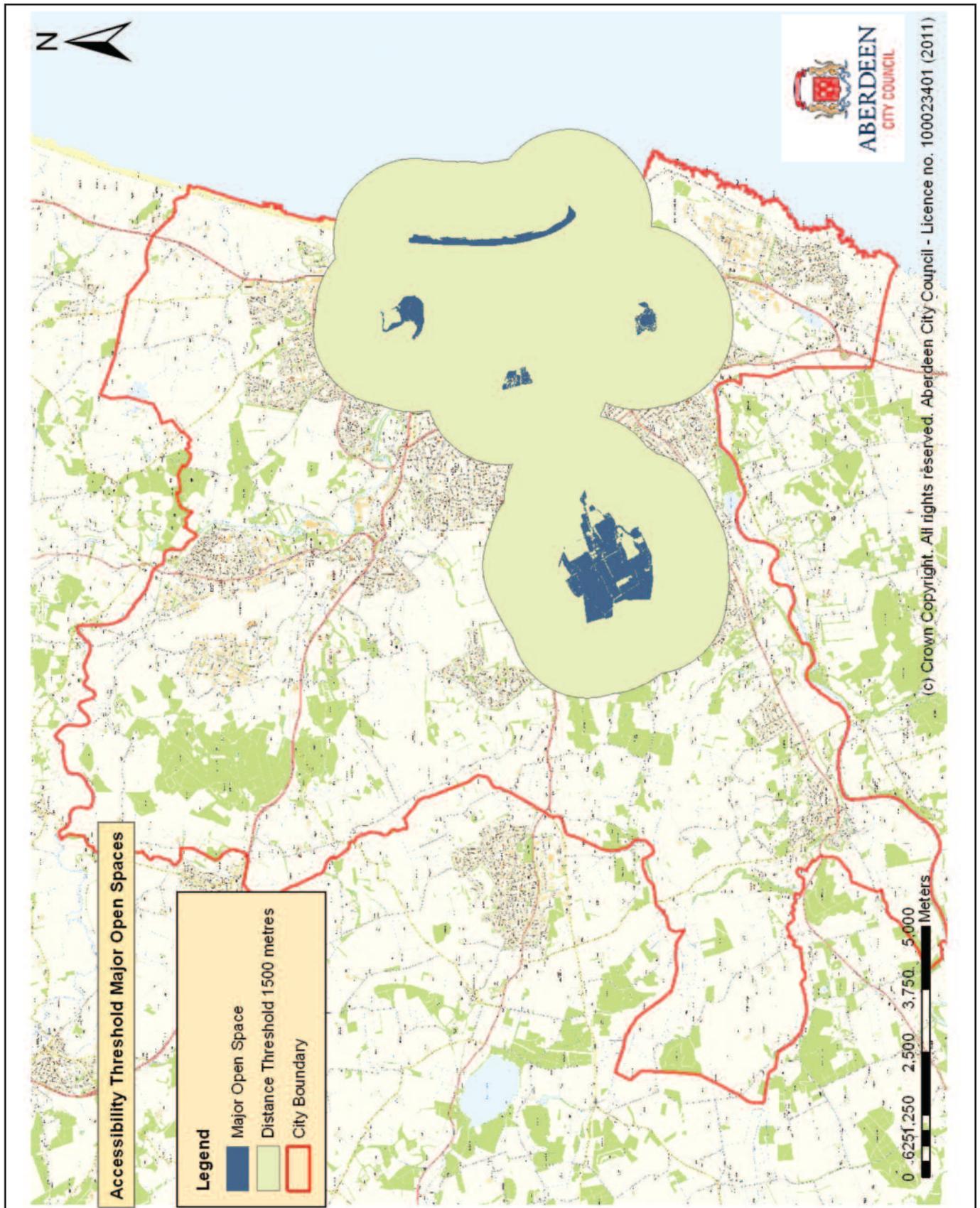
1	Major Open Spaces within distance threshold
2	Neighbourhood Open Spaces within distance threshold
3	Local Open spaces within distance threshold
4	Natural and Semi-Natural Open Spaces within distance threshold
5	Children and Young people Play Spaces within distance threshold
6	Allotments and Community Gardens within distance threshold

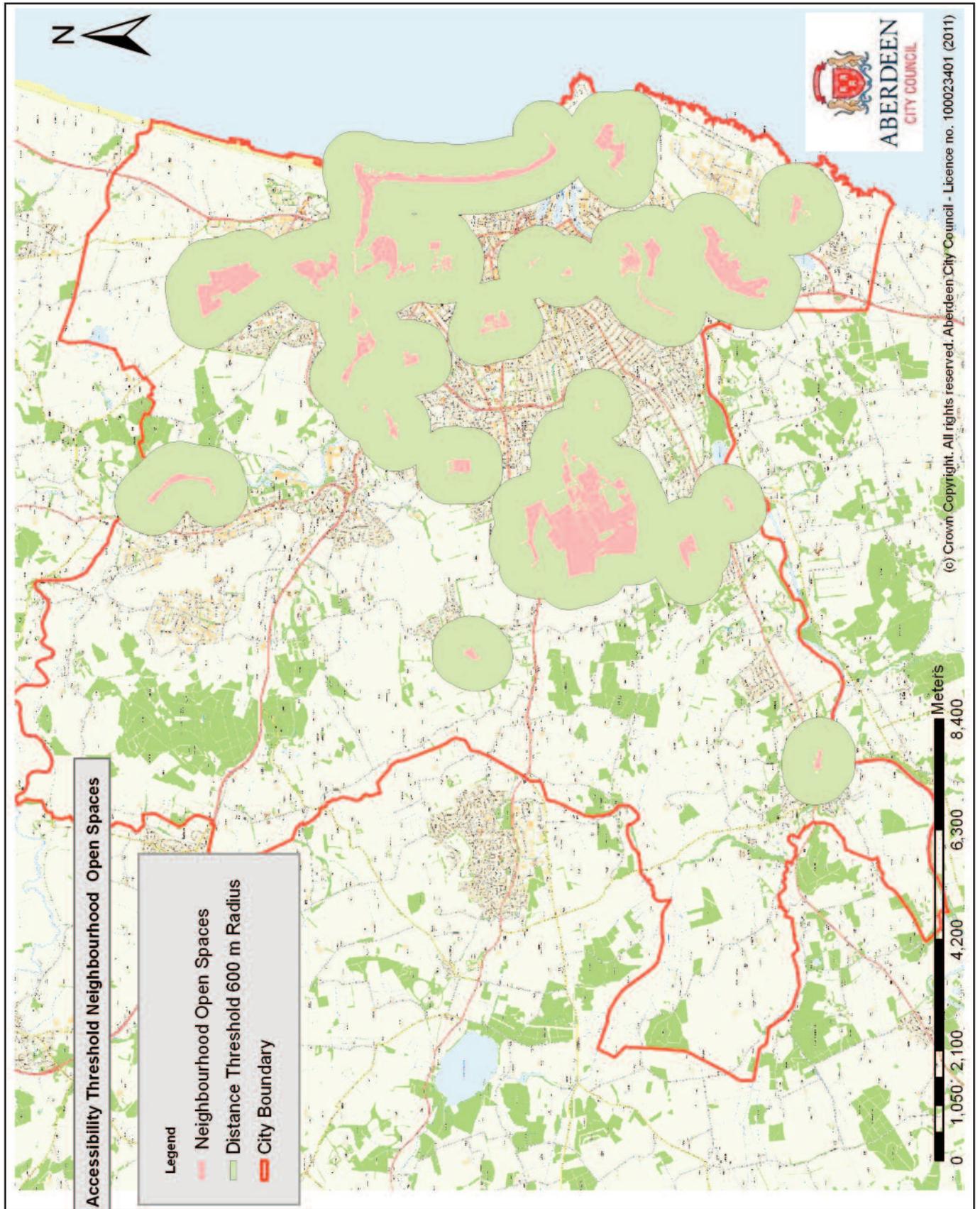
Appendix 1

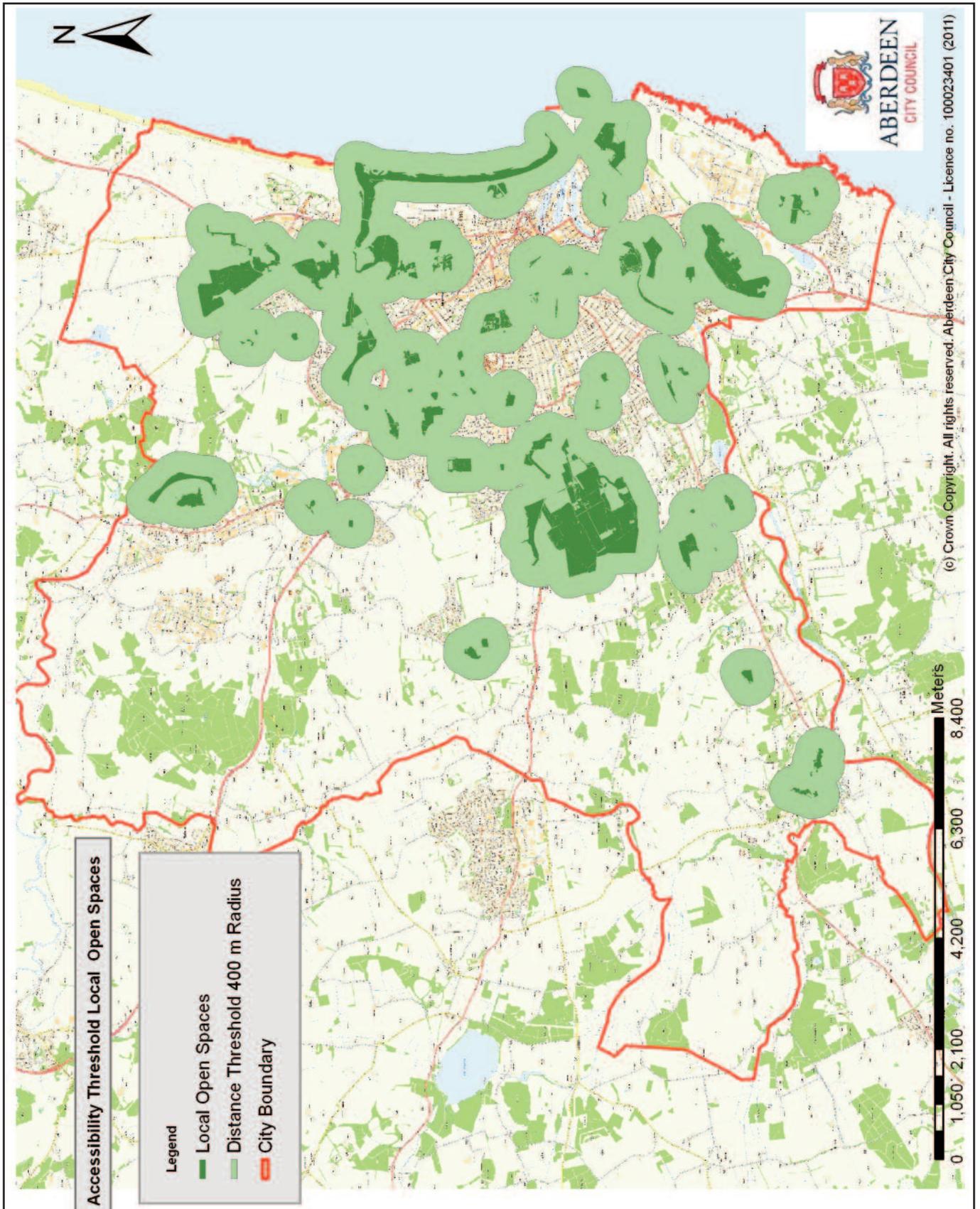
Table 1 Full land use classification incorporating PAN 65 Open Space Typology

	PAN 65 Typology	Full land use classification
Roads		1.1 Roads and tracks
		1.2 Roadside (manmade)
		1.4 Parking/loading
		1.5 Roadside (unknown)
Water		2.2 Tidal water
		2.3 Foreshore/rocks
Rail		3 Railway
Paths		4 Path
Buildings		5.1 Residential
		5.2 Commercial/Institutional
		5.3 Glasshouses
		5.4 Other structures
		5.5 Airports
PAN 65 Open Space	Public parks and gardens	6.1 Public park and garden
	Private gardens or grounds	6.21 Private gardens
		6.22 School grounds
		6.23 Institutional grounds
	Amenity greenspace	6.31 Amenity - residential
		6.32 Amenity - business
		6.33 Amenity - transport
	Playspace for children and teenagers	6.4 Playspace
	Sports Areas	6.51 Playing fields
		6.52 Golf courses
		6.53 Tennis courts
		6.54 Bowling greens
		6.55 Other sports
	Green corridors	6.61 Green access routes
		6.62 Riparian routes
	Natural/Semi-natural greenspace	6.71 Woodland
		6.72 Open semi-natural
		6.73 Open water
	Other functional greenspaces	6.81 Allotment
		6.82 Churchyard
6.83 Cemetery		
6.84 Other functional greenspace, e.g. caravan park		
Civic space		
Other open land		7.1 Farmland
		7.2 Moorland
		7.3 Other, e.g. landfill, quarries
		99 Areas undergoing change

Appendix 2



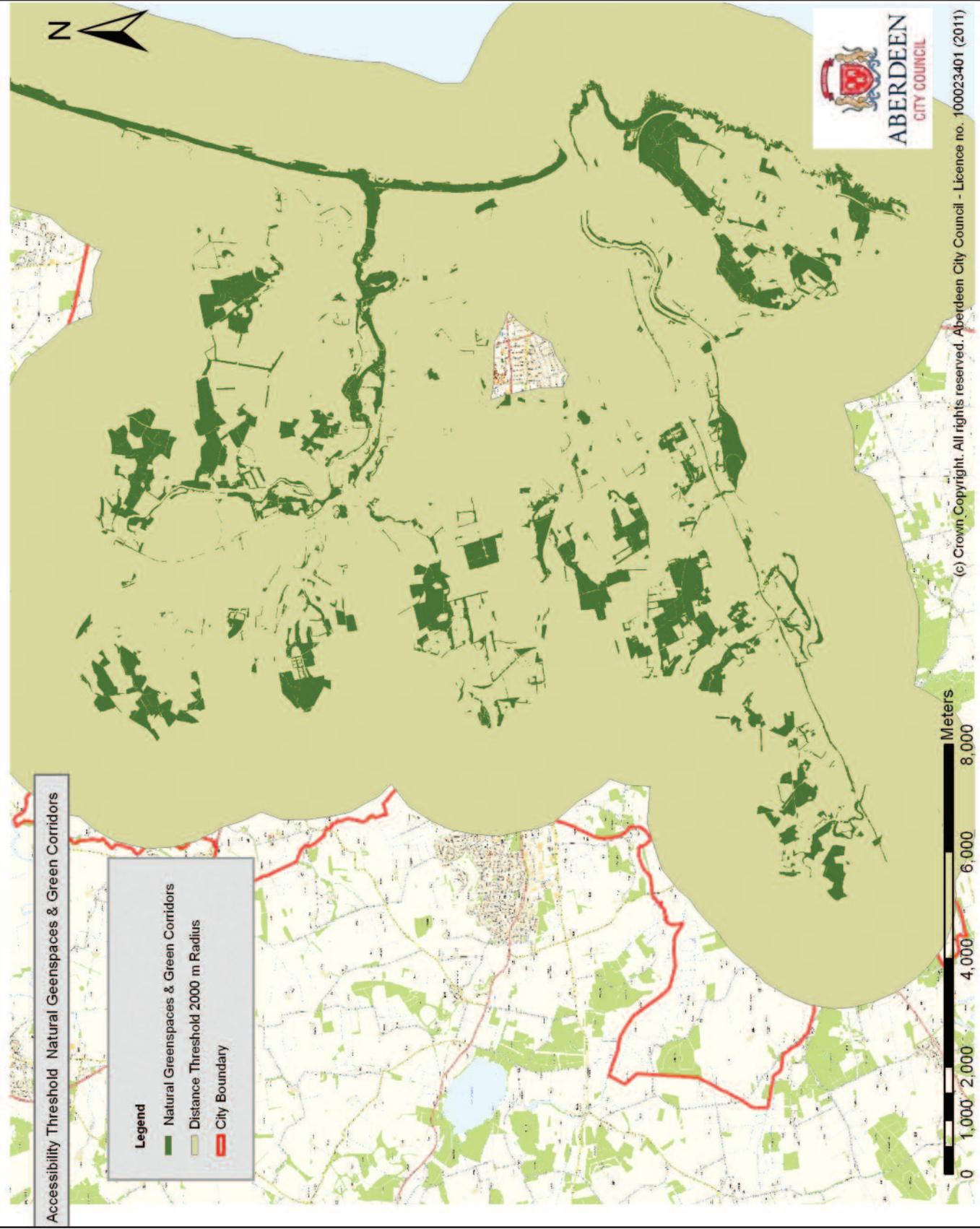




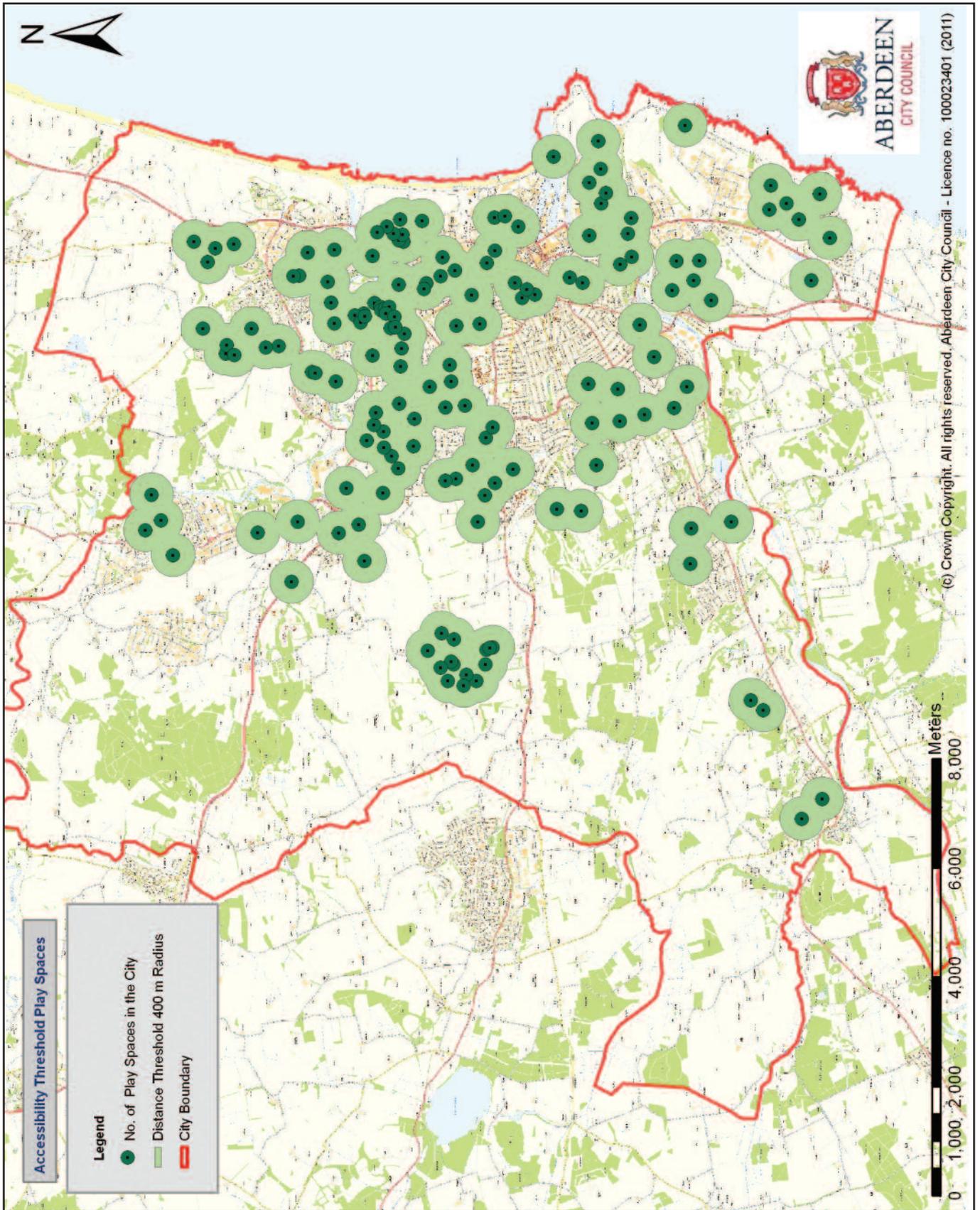
Accessibility Threshold Natural Greenspaces & Green Corridors

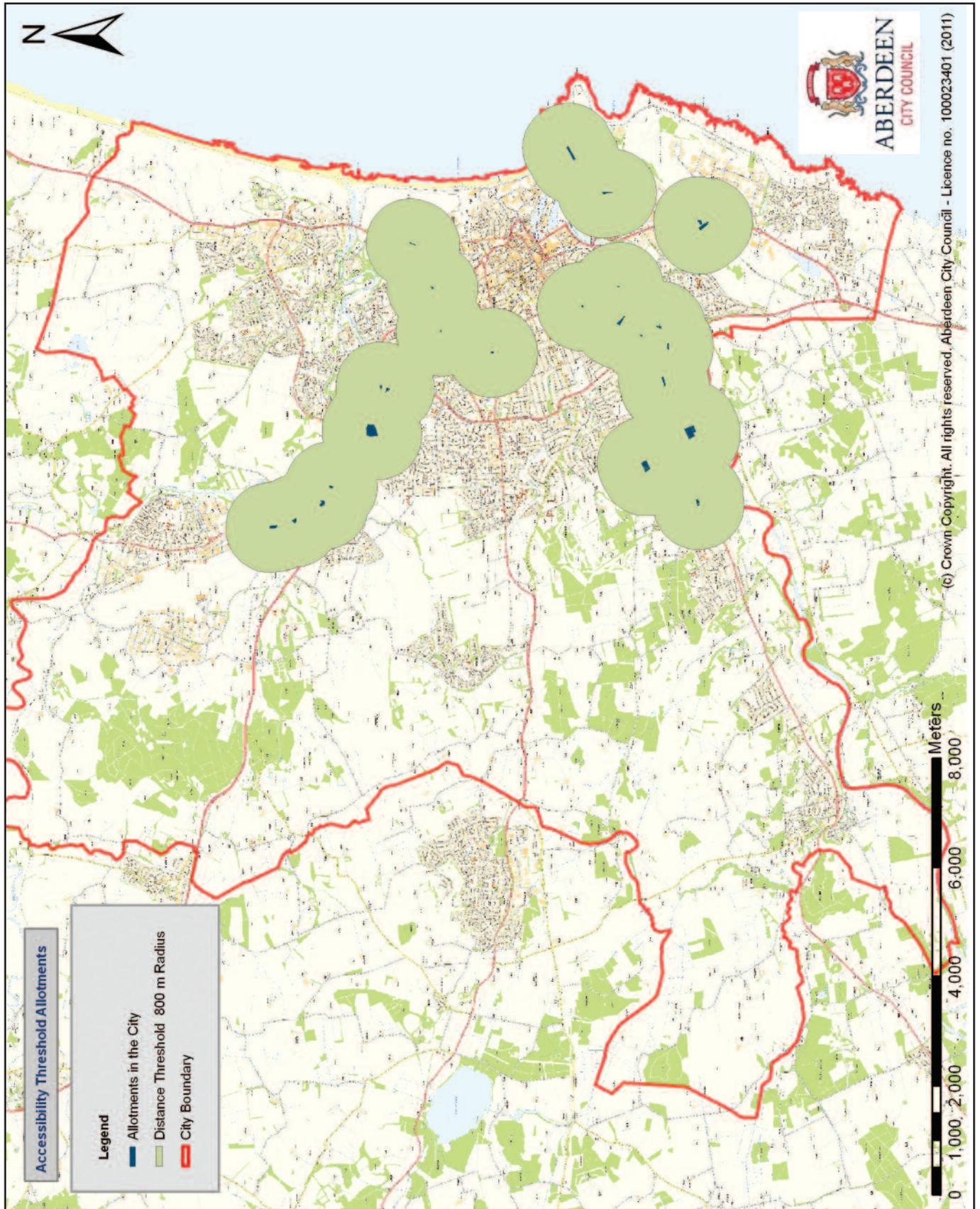
Legend

- Natural Greenspaces & Green Corridors
- Distance Threshold 2000 m Radius
- City Boundary



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Abbreviations

AG	Aberdeen Greenspace
APP	Aberdeen Play Forum
AYC	Aberdeen Youth Council
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
DWS	District Wildlife Site
EC&S	Education Culture and Sport
EP&I	Enterprise Planning and Infrastructure
FCS	Forestry Commission Scotland
GSN	Green Space Network
H&E	Housing and Environment
JHI	Jame Hutton Institute (formerly known as Macaulay Land Use Research Institute)
LA	Local Authority/ies
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plan
NESBReC	North East Scotland Biological Records Centre
NESTRANS	North East Scotland Transport
NHS	National Health Service
NESLBAP	North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
SPP	Scottish Planning Policy
SPG	Supplementary Planning Guidance
SUDS	Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems

Technical Terms

Biodiversity	Biodiversity is the variety of life including all living things from the smallest insect to the largest whale, as well as the environments they live in
Green Space Network	Green Space Network is a strategic network of woodland and other habitats, active travel and recreation routes, greenspace links, watercourses and waterways, providing an enhanced setting for development and other land uses and improved opportunities for outdoor recreation, nature conservation and landscape environment
Habitat	It is the natural environment in which an organism lives, or the physical environment that surrounds (influences and is utilized by) a species population
Monitoring	The mechanism to monitor continuous improvement and the status of the open spaces across the local authority area
Open Space Audit	An assessment and analysis of greenspace provision across a Local Authority area to establish the quality, quantity and accessibility of greenspace assets
Open Space Standard	PAN 65 defines the open space standard as “the assessment of greenspace provision and need based on the quality, quantity and accessibility of open spaces”
Open Space	Open Space is the open, usually green land within and on the edges of settlements
Sustainable Development	Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
Species	A group of organisms capable of interbreeding and producing fertile offspring

References & Research

1	Aberdeen Greenspace Mapping October 2007
2	Aberdeen Greenspace Audit Draft Report August 2007
3	A Guide to Health Impact Assessment of Greenspace 2010
4	Aberdeen's Strategy for Access to the Outdoors 2004
5	Aberdeen Local Transport Strategy 2008
6	Aberdeen Parks and Green Space Strategy 2006
7	Bristol Parks and Green Space Strategy 2008
8	Draft Fife Greenspace Strategy
9	Dundee Public Open Space Strategy
10	East Dunbartonshire's Greenspace Strategy 2005
11	Forest and Woodland Strategy for Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City 2005
12	Greenspace and Health Outcomes Framework
13	Greenspace Quality - A guide to assessment, planning and strategic development
14	Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network
15	Inverness Greenspace Strategy
16	North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan
17	Open Space Audit Report 2010
18	Proposed Draft Open Space Supplementary Guidance March 2011
19	Planning Advice Note PAN 65
20	Scottish Planning Policy
21	Single Outcome Agreement
22	The Scottish Forestry Strategy

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