

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCABINET26 January 2023Report by Director of EnvironmentOPEN SPACE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2023-2028**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To advise the Cabinet on the updated Open Space Asset Management Plan 2023-2028 (copy attached).

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is recommended that the Cabinet approves the Open Space Asset Management Plan 2023-2028.

BACKGROUND

3. This is the new Open Space Asset Management Plan (OSAMP) which fits into the hierarchy of the Corporate Asset Management Plan and outlines the work being undertaken by the Council in relation to the management of open spaces across its area.

REPORT

4. The objectives of the Open Space Asset Management Plan are:

- Provide fit for purpose open space assets
- Meet the needs of the community
- Minimize costs whilst enhancing service delivery
- Provide opportunities for exercise, learning and enjoyment
- Provide a well-managed, accessible and attractive local environment
- Encourage nature conservation and biodiversity

5. It identifies future actions and potential risks and seeks to continue to provide well-managed open space assets.

6. The OSAMP is aligned with the overarching Corporate Asset Management Plan (CAMP) which in turn is aligned to the council aims, objectives and delivery of priorities.

7. The OSAMP delivers benefits across all council outcomes from Early Years, through Learning Life and Work, the Economy and Environment, delivering safe and supported communities and benefits to all residents through the maintenance of green and open spaces throughout the council area.

8. There is now a greater coordination between strategic and operational Council Services which has helped develop a better understanding of the Council's assets in terms of condition, future requirements and associated financial expenditure.

FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY

9. The Open Space Asset Management Plan will be used to inform and prioritise future capital and revenue spend on open spaces. Core maintenance costs are met through the Councils revenue budget which is reviewed annually.

CONSULTATION

10. The OSAMP has been jointly prepared by Neighbourhood Services, Planning and the Corporate Asset Management Group.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

11. A number of activities within the OSAMP demonstrate an established pattern of partnership working on the part of the Council. Key actions are detailed which will require continued collaboration with key stakeholders.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS

12. The Plan will enable a long term strategic and more informed approach to open space management resulting in multiple benefits and value for money. This plan will have no negative impact on staffing, legal, IT or equalities.

CONCLUSIONS

13. With the continued pressure on budgets and expenditure, asset management is a critical tool in ensuring best use is made of available funding. The Asset Management Plan is a live document and will be continually updated to assist in this process and highlight improvements.

RECOMMENDATIONS

14. It is recommended that the Cabinet approves the Open Space Asset Management Plan 2023-2028.

Director of Environment

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26 JANUARY 2023

East Renfrewshire Council

Environment Department

Open Space Asset Management Plan
2023-2028

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Open Space Asset Management Plan (OSAMP) covers the period 2023 – 2028 and seeks to provide a Policy context for open space and provides an overview of the quantity, existing uses and current activities. It identifies future actions and potential risks and seeks to provide a well-managed accessible, attractive environment with a variety of opportunities for residents and visitors to exercise, learn and enjoy.

It is aligned with the overarching Corporate Asset Management Plan (CAMP) which in turn is aligned to council aims, objectives and delivery of priorities.

This asset management plan delivers benefits across all Council Outcomes from Early Years, through learning Life and Work, the Economy and Environment, delivering safe and supported communities through to the benefits to Older People through the green spaces within the council area.

Throughout this Open Space Asset Management Plan there are links to the CAMP and to the Councils Community Planning pages where Council priorities and its aims and objectives are outlined in greater detail.

1. INTRODUCTION

East Renfrewshire Council serves a population of 91,000 living within an area of approximately 18,000 hectares.

East Renfrewshire is viewed as a desirable place to live within a high quality built and natural environment. There is a network of open space across the Council area including parks, play areas, recreational areas, green corridors and semi-natural spaces. The urban settlements and villages have a full range of open space provision within walking distance addressing a diverse range of local need including a country park, public parks, formal sports provision, woodland, access opportunities, play areas and play spaces, green corridors and semi-natural spaces.

This Open Space Asset Management Plan has at its core the aim to provide fit for purpose open space assets that meet the needs of the communities whilst minimizing costs and enhancing service delivery.

It will ensure co-ordination and effective management of open space within East Renfrewshire and will drive towards consistent approaches for maintenance recharging, clarifying responsibility and upkeep whilst making best use of available funding.

The corporate objectives for Open Spaces are:

- Provide a variety of opportunities for residents and visitors to exercise, learn and enjoy
- Provide a well-managed, accessible, attractive environment

Provision of land/asset for biodiversity, flora, fauna, carbon sequestration, flood risk reduction, climate adaptation

A cross discipline team comprising officers from the Planning and Development teams, Neighbourhood Services and Roads Services liaise on a regular basis to maximize partnership working and ensure effective project updates are communicated and opportunities maximised.

2. BACKGROUND

National Context

The importance of a sustainable, high quality, accessible environment is a fundamental objective in planning for the future and the Scottish Government provides direction on the creation, protection and management of an environment where physical well-being is improved and activity made easier.

The importance of a good quality environment is increasingly highlighted as an essential component of successful, healthy and sustainable communities.

Access to good quality open spaces can encourage people to be physically active and in settlements, green networks of linked, good quality open spaces are important for their contribution to amenity and their role in nature conservation, biodiversity, recreation and physical activity.

The planning system sits at the heart of this and the policy context for open space and green networks is well defined at national and strategic levels.

Scottish Planning Policy supports the protection of the landscape and natural environment and directs planning authorities to take a broader approach to this rather than simply conserving designated or protected sites and species. It recommends wildlife sites and corridors, landscape features, watercourses and areas of open space are linked together in green networks.

The draft NPF 4 puts front and centre attention on the climate emergency, nature crisis, well-being economy and 20 minute neighbourhoods. The Councils' open spaces have an important role to play in delivering on these national priorities. Many of our open spaces already sequester carbon and provide walking and cycling links that support the 20 minute neighbourhood. Future management of open space will expand on and maximise these opportunities.

Open space forms part of this and Scottish Planning Policy states that “planning authorities should take a strategic and long term approach to managing the open space in their area, assessing both current and future needs and protecting all spaces which can help to meet them”. The Planning Advice Note 65 states that “the planning system performs two key functions in relation to open space:

- Protecting areas that are valuable and valued; and
- Ensuring provision of appropriate quality in, or within easy reach of new development.”

Scottish Government Policies Designing Streets and Designing Places also highlight that most successful places are generally well located, designed, managed and

adaptable. Spaces that exhibit these characteristics are likely to be of a high quality, safe and therefore well used. Spaces that do not exhibit these characteristics are likely to appear neglected, feel unsafe and contribute little to the quality of the surrounding environment.

The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 requires planning authorities to prepare and publish an Open Space Strategy (OSS).

The OSS is to set out a strategic framework of the planning authority's policies and proposals as to the development, maintenance and use of green infrastructure in their district, including open spaces and green networks. An open space strategy must contain an audit of existing open space provision and an assessment of current and future requirements. The Act also introduces a requirement for planning authorities to prepare a Forestry and Woodland Strategy and to carry out a play sufficiency assessment.

Local Context

The Council is working to deliver better outcomes for its customers and residents and aims to reduce inequalities within populations and between areas. Links below to the overarching Corporate Asset Management Plan and the Councils' Community Planning portal for information on the latest aims and priorities for the Council.

Link: <https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/community-planning-partnership>

Key Drivers

A number of strategic drivers will shape the Council's future asset requirements over the life of the plan.

➤ Capital Investment Strategy

The Council's Capital Investment Strategy considers how best to deal with short to medium term financial uncertainty by taking a longer term view of how capital investment can be put to best effect to meet the needs of the area, as demonstrated in our strategies and plans, such as the Local Development Plan and Housing Strategy.

➤ Community Plan

The wider management of open space to provide multiple benefits remains a priority and current work seeks to achieve opportunities for health and well-being coupled with wider environmental and educational benefits, reducing social isolation and encouraging community engagement for both existing and new residents.

➤ **Local Development Plan**

The Local Development Plan aims to ensure that the provision of open space, play and sports facilities keep pace with development and that the range and availability of facilities are suited to the varying needs of the whole community. The plan also seeks to retain and enhance the amenity, environmental and biodiversity value of open spaces, including their cumulative and linked value as part of the green network. The Local Development Plan 2 which is in preparation strengthens many of these environmental objectives.

➤ **Local Strategies/ Plans**

A number of strategies/ plans are in place which will influence future activity including the East Renfrewshire Local Development Plan (Local Development Plan), Sports Pitch Strategy, Parks Strategy, Core Paths Plan, Local Transport Strategy, and Sports and Physical Activity Strategy.

➤ **Burial Space Improvements**

Further development of burial space is required across the authority to meet the forecast depletion of existing lair capacity.

➤ **National Best Practice**

The Council's four major parks will continue to be developed towards Green Flag status.

➤ **Availability of Funding**

The creation, enhancement and maintenance of the green network, including open space, is funded through a variety of sources.

Whilst funding is currently made available through the capital and revenue budgets, there is an increasing emphasis on opportunities to secure external funding.

The Adopted East Renfrewshire Local Development Plan sets out an agenda for long term growth and the development of the green network across the Council area. Development contributions and Glasgow and Clyde Valley City Deal are key to the implementation of this and work is being developed in collaboration with a range of Council Services and key stakeholders.

Funding for future maintenance of open space remains a key concern and future planning is required to address this shortfall.

➤ **Health & Safety**

European Safety Standards for play equipment have changed over the years and the council is removing and upgrading play equipment and play areas to meet the current safety standards.

➤ **Challenge and Review**

We hold quantitative and qualitative information on all of our assets to inform us of the assessment of our open spaces portfolio.

➤ **Climate Change**

The Scottish government has set legally binding targets of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045. In addition to the net-zero target for 2045 Scotland will reduce emissions by 70% by 2030 and 90% by 2040. Open spaces can play an important role in carbon capture, reducing car use by offering safe active travel routes, and mitigating the effects of climate change by providing open space that can naturally manage increasing rainfall. Clyde Climate Forest is an initiative across all 8 authorities in the Glasgow City Region to plant 18 million trees. The expanded forest will absorb carbon, mitigate the impacts of climate change and improve air quality. East Renfrewshire will support the forest by increasing woodland planting in its open spaces, adopting the “right tree in the right place” principle.

3. EAST RENFREWSHIRE OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT

Open space assets across the Council area are in both public and private ownership and the Council manages these through a variety of means. Responsibility for the management of open space within East Renfrewshire lies jointly with Neighbourhood Services and Strategic Services.

Neighbourhood Services aims to provide quality public parks, open spaces, sport pitches, play spaces, woodlands and cemeteries and provides operational responsibilities and day to day management of these. It is responsible for the maintenance of nearly 500 open spaces equating to over 345 hectares.

Neighbourhood Services has a well-established maintenance regime in place which is carried out on behalf of a number of Services including Planning and Housing and is funded through established revenue budgets.

Alternative, less intensive maintenance regimes which support biodiversity and sustainable water management and, reduce overall maintenance costs are now being investigated and have been implemented at a number of locations including Rouken Glen and Cowan Parks.

The work of Strategic Services seeks to manage the wider open space resource (both publicly and privately owned) and in doing so provides strategic direction to the future development, enhancement and protection of it within the East Renfrewshire area through policy development and project implementation.

The quality and quantity of open space in the built up area contributes much to the local amenity and provides a resource that can be enjoyed by local residents and visitors alike. It provides a setting for development and contributes to the area's natural environment, offering valuable habitats and helping to offset the impact of climate change.

Leisure opportunities exist for people of all ages and abilities and can take many forms. They are supported by a range of different outdoor facilities, including areas of informal open space, walking and cycling routes and tracks, sports pitches, play areas and growing spaces.

Walking and cycling as leisure pursuits are becoming increasingly popular. Indeed, according to SportsScotland, they are the recreational activities with the highest participation for adults.

The demand for leisure and recreation facilities is continuing to increase and become more varied and multi-faceted. Activities range from organised and active sport pursuits to more sedate and informal recreation. Contemporary demands stem both

from the increasingly sophisticated leisure expectations of the population and from national guidance to promote sport, health and access.

Furthermore, the leisure industry is increasingly important in economic terms. The area's leisure and recreation facilities, notably Dams to Darnley Country Park, Rouken Glen Park and Whitelee Windfarm, Greenbank House and local walking and cycling routes have a role to play in making East Renfrewshire a tourist destination, particularly for day visitors.

The wider management of open space to provide multiple benefits remains a priority and current work seeks to achieve opportunities for health and well-being coupled with wider environmental and educational benefits for both existing and new residents. The Council's Countryside Ranger Service runs a variety of events primarily focussed around Dams to Darnley Country Park, Rouken Glen Park and Whitelee Windfarm.

4. CURRENT PERFORMANCE

A key objective of the Asset Management Plan is to identify the current performance levels being achieved by the Open Space asset group. Performance indicators have a fundamental role to play within a strengthened performance management regime for the corporate running of the Councils' assets.

The Council has established a range of key performance targets for Open Space assets that are both relevant and measurable and fit with national performance benchmarking. In addition, the service will continue to develop local performance criteria in accordance with the Council's corporate standards and work to continually improve service provision in accordance with the needs of the community.

The Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in place for the service are as follows:-

- Bookings / usage of sports pitches within East Renfrewshire
- Number of available sports pitches
- Condition of available sports pitches
- Numbers of burials per year
- Available burial space
- Land usage
- Building usage

Spot checks are routinely carried out on specific sites and operations.

A Green Space audit has been carried out by Strategic Services and provides information on the quality of green space.

Benchmarked performance information and analysis is provided through participation in the APSE (Association for Public Service Excellence) performance networks and is used to evaluate performance in comparison with other local authorities.

Benchmarking information will be used to inform the Service Best Value review process to provide externally validated statistics and drive forward continuous improvement.

The performance of the Parks Service has been assessed as being particularly successful by external bodies. It has been awarded a four-star visitor attraction rating for Rouken Glen Park from Visit Scotland, and Green Flag status for 2021/22, the eleventh year running from Keep Scotland Beautiful. Improvement work in Rouken Glen Park has led to an increase in visitor numbers to over 1.62 million over the last year. The 2021 visitor survey found that 85% of people surveyed rated the Park as good or excellent.

The Council should continue to strengthen its processes for data collection relating to Open Spaces, by regularly collecting high quality data, implementing a robust data management system and increasing the frequency of performance reporting. In doing so the Council will be better able to present informed options to key decision-makers

internally, and to various partners and stakeholders when collaboration is required to determine the best value outcomes for its assets.

➤ **Sustainability**

The Open Space Asset Management Plan must contribute positively to the Council's wider commitment to sustainable development and meet recognised standards for carbon management and climate change. Environmental Change is a critical issue for the future of our community and has major implications for the planning and management of East Renfrewshire's open space system. The consequences of our changing climate will require a review in the approach to the planning, development and management of open spaces.

The Council's Local Development Plan (LDP) is in place to ensure potential environmental impacts resulting from potential land use change are identified, addressed and reduced through planning policy. The strategic aim of the LDP is to foster a rich and diverse environment and promote and manage land use changes for the benefit of the local community and economy in a manner that is sustainable.

5. FUTURE PROVISION OF OPEN SPACES

The following sections look at the various forms of open space which exist within East Renfrewshire and highlight key work which is underway. A number of actions come out of this section and are detailed later in the Plan under Key Actions and Appendix 1.

➤ Major Public Parks

There are 4 major public parks within East Renfrewshire which are an attraction to both residents and visitors alike. The character and potential of each Park varies and opportunities exist to maximise their popularity, attractiveness and longevity.

Whilst the Council has direct responsibility for their maintenance, a range of interested groups influence ongoing activity and management.

Site	Partners/ Engagement	Designations/ Interest
Rouken Glen Park	Heritage Lottery Fund	Sites of Special Scientific Interest; Designed Landscape Local Biodiversity Site; Green Network Green Flag
Cowan Park		Core Path Green Network
Busby Glen		Queen Elizabeth Field in Trust Site of Special Scientific Interest Local Biodiversity Site Tree Preservation Order Core Path
Orry, Eaglesham	Eaglesham Development Trust	Local Biodiversity Site Eaglesham Conservation Area Green Network

➤ Funding

Significant investment in Rouken Glen Park was been made possible through the successful award of £2.1 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund's "Parks for People" programme to support a £3.2 million programme of works and activities to conserve various heritage features in Rouken Glen Park and make these features more accessible to people, especially park visitors.

Works have been implemented over a three and a half year period and have led to improvements in infrastructure and activities within the Park through the development of a diverse range of events and programmes for visitors.

➤ **Playing fields and outdoor Sports activities**

There are extensive resources in place for outdoor sport and physical activity at a local neighbourhood level as well as across East Renfrewshire. A range of key Council policies emphasise the importance of providing opportunities to meet positive outcomes for people through sport and physical activity in relation to health and well-being, lifelong learning, regeneration, community safety and a sustainable environment.

The Council manages 21 facilities which provide 10 grass pitch locations and 11 synthetic pitch locations. Tennis courts are available for public use at Cowan Park, Barrhead and Rouken Glen Park, Giffnock.

The sport seasons vary and whilst the Council is continually looking to create new opportunities and maximise the use of existing pitches.

➤ **Funding**

Maintenance of grass pitches for pre-season works is important and funding is allocated annually towards this. Additional works are undertaken throughout the season including grass cutting, drainage, spraying and lining parks for games. These additional monies come from the main Neighbourhood Services revenue budget.

Synthetic pitches have a life span of 8-10 years before surfaces require to be replaced via the Capital Program. A 10 year plan for all Council owned pitches is currently being considered as part of the Capital budgeting process. Historically the maintenance and repair of these pitches came from the main Neighbourhood Services revenue budget.

Use of sports pitches is at a premium and generates approximately £200,000 income to the Council per annum which gets re-invested in the maintenance of these facilities.

Location of Grass Pitch	No. of pitches
COWAN PARK	4 x 11 a-side 10 x 7 a-side
CROOKFUR PLAYING FIELDS	2 x 11 a-side
EAGLESHAM PLAYING FIELDS	1 x 11 a-side
HUNTLY PLAYING FIELDS	3 x 11 a-side 1 x 7 a-side x
KINGSTON PLAYING FIELDS	2 x 11 a-side
MUIREND PLAYING FIELDS	2 x 11 a-side 5 x 7 a-side
NETHERLEE PLAYING FIELDS	6 x 4 a-side
OVERLEE PLAYING FIELDS	2 x 11 a-side 5 x 7 a-side
WOODFARM PLAYING FIELDS	2 x 11 a-side (Currently on lease to ER Cricket Club)
MEARNS CASTLE HIGH SCHOOL	1 x 11 a-side (Education, not let out)

Location of Synthetic Pitch (let out by Neighbourhood Services)	No. of pitches	Type of pitch
BARRHEAD HIGH	1 x 11 a-side Running Track	Football – 3 rd Generation Polymeric
CARLIBAR PRIMARY (Responsibility of BAM)	1 x 5 a-side	Football – 3 rd Generation
CROSSMILL PARK	1 x 7 a-side	Football – sand based(Not currently in use)
MACTAGGART & MEIKLE	1 x 11 a-side	Football – 3 rd Generation
MEARNS PRIMARY (Responsibility of Bellrock)	1 x 11 a-side	Football – sand based
MUIREND	2 x training areas (4 x 5 a-side with goals)	Football – 3 rd Generation

ST LUKE'S HIGH SCHOOL (Responsibility of Education)	1 x 11 a-side	Football – 3 rd Generation
WILLIAMWOOD HIGH (Responsibility of BAM)	1 x 11 a-side 1 x 11 a-side 1 x Running Track	Football – 3 rd Generation Football/Hockey – sand based Polymeric
WOODFARM	1 x 11 a-side 3 x 5 a-side	Football – 3 rd Generation Football

The Council currently lease out 2 synthetic pitches to Barrhead YFC and Giffnock Soccer Centre. The lease for GSC expires on 31st July 2038 and Education/ERC have a right to use the pitches during the school week, from 9 until 6 and for one week at Easter and four weeks over the summer.

The lease for Barrhead YFC has not been finalised however this is most likely to be a 25 year lease. This will have the same conditions as the GSC lease above.

The Council also lease two former 11 a-side grass pitches to East Renfrewshire Cricket Club. This is for a period of 30 years and will therefore expire on 24th June 2046.

Other Council Owned Synthetic Pitch Facilities	No. of pitches	Type of pitch
EASTWOOD HIGH (ERC Leisure Trust)	1 x 11 a-side 1 x 11 a-side 1 x Running Track	Football – 3 rd Generation Football/Hockey – sand based Polymeric
ST NINIANS HIGH (Giffnock Soccer Centre/Education)	1 x 11 a-side 1 x 11 a-side	Football – 3 rd Generation (GSC) Football/Hockey – sand based (Edu)
BARRHEAD HIGH (Barrhead YFC)	1 x 11 a-side	Football – 3 rd Generation
MEARNS CASTLE HIGH (Education)	1 x 11 a-side	Football/Hockey – Red Blaes
ST CADOC'S PRIMARY (Education)	1 x 5 a-side	Football – 3 rd Generation
ST CLAIRE'S / CALDERWOOD LODGE (Education)	1 x 7 a-side	Football – 3 rd Generation

The Council overseas several areas containing outdoor exercise equipment as well as tennis courts and skate parks as detailed below;

<https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/getfitoutdoors>

➤ **Outdoor play facilities**

There are 37 equipped areas for play throughout the Council area which are inspected weekly by Neighbourhood Services staff. An annual report is carried out by an independent consultant on all play areas for insurance purposes and to also highlight defects, repairs and out of date equipment.

The Play Area locations are as detailed below;

<https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/playlocations>

➤ **Woodland**

There are 250 hectares of woodland within East Renfrewshire which lie within both the urban and rural areas. They provide a setting for biodiversity, recreational opportunities and are an important component of the environment and the wider climate change agenda.

The scale of woodland is significant and funding only permits the active maintenance of 116 hectares of this by the Council.

Forestry & woodland strategy are now a requirement of Planning Act 2019. East Renfrewshire is within the preferred zone for new woodland planting and would be eligible for woodland grants.

To assist in the management of its woodland the Council has produced a Woodland Strategy (extract attached, Appendix 2) and in doing so has taken a lead from the Forestry Commission's National Forestry Strategy "Forests for Scotland". The Council's Strategy is firmly based on the following five core principles:

- *Sustainability*: Woodland management must contribute positively to the Council's wider commitment to sustainable development and meet recognised standards of sustainable forest management.
- *Integration*: Woodland management must fit in with other parts of the rural economy, such as farming, fishing and tourism and take account of the many social and economic demands on urban open space
- *Positive value*: Woodlands contribute to quality of life in many ways and these need to be recognised and understood. Most woodland will have a primary function, such as timber production or recreation. It will also have a wide range of other social, economic or environmental benefits that need to be measured against costs.

- *Community support*: Wherever possible, woodland management operations should have the understanding and support of local communities. Mechanisms should be in place for developing participation, sharing and explaining views and for working towards consensus.
- *Diversity and local distinctiveness*: The contribution of woodlands to local landscapes and cultural heritage needs to be fully recognised, along with their great importance as habitats for wildlife.
- Woodland contribution to climate change: adaptation and mitigation in line with Clyde Plan Regional Forestry Strategy.

The strategy proposes five strategic directions for the Council:

- to ensure that East Renfrewshire's Council's woodlands make a positive contribution to the Environment;
- to deliver best value from the Council's woodland holding through developing a diverse and productive wood resource that will contribute to the economic development of East Renfrewshire;
- to create opportunities for more people to enjoy trees, woods and forests in East Renfrewshire;
- to help communities to benefit from woods and forests
- plant new woodland where this achieves council objectives

Priorities for action are listed for each Strategic Direction and Woodland Management Plans are currently being prepared for all major parks and large open spaces. The actions are designed to build on work that is already being undertaken and set a clear baseline for developing an approach that is Council wide, benefits from external partnership and involves local communities.

➤ **Ash Dieback Disease**

The council has now got a strategy in place for managing Ash dieback disease which is now very prevalent throughout most Woodland areas and is unfortunately likely to have a major impact on our ash tree stock over future years. All woodland areas will be surveyed prior to the required felling works taking place. A wide spread tree re-planting scheme has been put in place in order to alleviate the effect on the environment.

➤ **Funding**

A limited annual budget is set within our revenue accounts which covers woodland management, disease and storm damage.

➤ **Cemeteries**

It is a requirement that each local authority area provides adequate land for burials. There must be at least one burial ground with capacity in each council area.

The forward planning to ensure that there is appropriate space is essential.

At present the Council has responsibility for the maintenance of and holds records for our cemeteries within its area:

- Cathcart Cemetery including Muslim and Hebrew sections
- Mearns Cemetery
- Eaglesham Cemetery
- Neilston Cemetery

In addition to this it also holds responsibly and records for the burial grounds within the following kirkyards:

- Mearns Parish Kirkyard
- Eaglesham Kirkyard
- Neilston Kirkyard

In order to effectively plan for the future, Neighbourhood Services is working with partners in Planning in order to ensure our burial ground have the required capacity for generations to come. At present there is anticipated shortage which will arise across all cemeteries in the short-medium term future and the service is actively looking at ways to generate more ground to accommodate this. There will be a potential loss of income unless this is addressed.

A Cemeteries Action Plan is attached at Appendix 1 which highlights key issues to be addressed over the period of this Plan and beyond including the provision of new land for burials.

➤ **Funding**

Cemetery maintenance is funded through Neighbourhood Services revenue accounts which covers grounds maintenance, burials, arboriculture and management of the plan.

In addition to the above the Council is also required to undertake a programme of memorial inspection and testing for every structure within its burial grounds. This is a significant programme of works which is being established currently and will benefit from the digitalisation of processes in order to accurately record data to inform decision making.

➤ **Allotments and Food Growing Areas**

Part 9 of Community Empowerment Act (2015) places a number of responsibilities on the Council which have implications for the council's management of open space. The council will develop a Food Growing Strategy which will identify the objectives and actions which will ensure these responsibilities are met. The Council has two allotment sites which are leased to two self-managing allotment associations.

- Dunterlie allotments with (8 plots)
- Eastwood Nursery Allotments (57 plots)

The 2015 Act places seven new duties placed on the council. There is a duty to maintain an allotments waiting list. In the case of the two allotments the waiting lists are managed by the allotments associations, this arrangement is compliant with the legislation. There is also a duty to make allotment regulations and this function is currently managed by the individual allotment associations. There is a further duty to publish an annual allotments report. Councils are obliged to ensure that they provide reasonable access to their allotment sites. Should the council wish to change the use or dispose of an allotment site this will now require the consent of the Scottish Ministers. There is a duty to adopt the afore mentioned food growing strategy.

Of particular importance to the future management of open space is the requirement that when trigger points are met the council takes reasonable steps to ensure that the number of people on the waiting lists for an allotment does not exceed half the total number of allotments owned and leased by the authority *and* that a person on the list does not wait more than five years for an allotment. The trigger point has been reached and the obligation currently rests on the council.

To ensure the allotment waiting list can be managed the food growing strategy will identify land for new allotments and other community growing spaces and describe how the authority will meet demand for such land. The process of identifying council owned open space for food growing areas is ongoing.

➤ **Open Space Provision in New Development**

The Local Development Plan and Green Network and Environmental Management Supplementary Planning Guidance include guidance which sets out aspirations and requirements in relation to the provision of open space and green infrastructure e.g. swales, wetlands, greenspace, within new development. This is intended to contribute to place making, environmental enhancement/ mitigation and recreational activity.

All new development should incorporate or have satisfactory access to appropriate open space and the provision of a range of open space and water management solutions including landscaping, wetland creation, access routes and play spaces contribute positively to mitigate climate change and enhance biodiversity and physical activity.

Developers may also be required to include other leisure and recreation facilities appropriate to the scale and nature of the proposal e.g. multi use games area (MUGA), 5-a-side pitch. Specific guidance is contained within the Green Network and Environmental Management Supplementary Planning Guidance on the provision of open space and green infrastructure provision within new development.

The Green Network and Environmental Management Planning guidance will shortly be updated as part of Local Development Plan 2.

➤ **Development Contributions/Funding**

As previously mentioned, where a proposed development would create new or exacerbate existing deficiencies in local physical or community infrastructure, facilities or the environment, the Council will seek contributions from developers to assist in making good the deficiencies.

It is important that developers are given clear guidance in relation to development contributions at the earliest opportunity and the Council must be in a position to provide this. In terms of open space provision, the Council must understand the resource, how it will be affected by development and therefore what opportunities exist to mitigate.

Mitigation in relation to green network and parks and open space can take a number of forms including enhancement of existing open space, play and sports facilities or the creation of new space altogether, access improvements and habitat enhancement.

The development contributions are negotiated by Strategic Services in consultation with other Council Services. In total since 2013/14, the Council has received over

£8.3million in Development Contributions with £2.6 million collected to date towards increasing capacity and enhancing a range of community facilities, parks (including Dams to Darnley Country Park), open space, sports, green network and access. In addition, a further £310,000 was received as part of a larger community contribution for Barrhead Town Centre which has been used specifically at Carlibar Park (see further below).

Another key body of work which has been reported previously relates to a number of key Strategic Development Opportunities which have been identified through the Local Development Plan. These will bring large scale mixed use development to land in Newton Mearns and Barrhead over a period of time to 2025 and beyond. Masterplans have been prepared for these areas and set out the planning context and provide clear guidelines for the development of these sites. As part of this process a range of wider community benefits have been identified and development contributions are being sought towards these.

In particular, contributions will sit alongside Glasgow and Clyde Valley City Deal funding to improve infrastructure within Dams to Darnley Country Park including provision of a rail station, road realignment, a visitor facilities, Ranger base and a proposed wake park which will bring new recreational opportunities to Balgray Reservoir.

A greenspace audit has been undertaken which assessed the quality of areas of green space within the Council area. This has been used to inform the emerging Local Development Plan 2 and will also be used to identify opportunities close to development sites for improved play, access, greenspace or habitat enhancement work.

➤ **Other Projects**

The City Deal Team in collaboration with other Services and Departments are using £2.5m external funding to deliver the restoration of derelict and contaminated land and improve the natural flood management on the Lavern Water by constructing blue/green infrastructure within Carlibar Park work.

Under the banner of the Go Newton Mearns a footpath link across Council owned greenspace between Capelrig Road and Barrhead Road, Newton Mearns has now been constructed.

It provides a multi user path network for local residents and provides a safe off road link between Eastwood High School and Crookfur and St Cadoc's Primary Schools and adjacent residential areas. Associated enhancement work including art installation, signage, seating and educational spaces have now been created using external grant funding.

➤ Partnership Projects

A number of cross boundary projects run in partnership with other local authorities and organisations have been established to implement greenspace, access and biodiversity policy development and implementation at a strategic level.

A number of partnerships projects operate within East Renfrewshire and sit within the Planning Service. They are taken forward by dedicated staff members at relatively low cost to the partner authorities.

○ **The Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership**

The Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership is integrated within the Central Scotland Green Network and provides the framework for a wide range of action on the ground. It is supported by the 8 local authorities located within the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning area.

The role of the Green Network Partnership is to co-ordinate action at a strategic level, ensure local activity fits in to the big picture and projects undertaken by key agencies and the local authorities contribute to making the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network prosper.

○ **Dams to Darnley Country Park and Whitelee Access Project**

Both Dams to Darnley Country Park and Whitelee Access Project provide the basis for a range of activities to protect and enhance heritage and environmental resources, support opportunities for improving health and well-being, facilitating sustainable transport and providing learning and engagement. Project Officers are in place for both projects and they oversee the implementation of strategy and physical enhancement works.

Dams to Darnley Country Park is run in partnership with Glasgow City Council and is currently being developed through a series of improvements, leading to new recreation and visitor facilities and infrastructure.

Work is currently ongoing in partnership with key landowners and stakeholders to develop a range of visitor facilities and recreational opportunities within the Park, including a water sports facility, visitor centre and environmental education base. Funding for these developments will come through development contributions, Glasgow and Clyde Valley City deal, external grant assistance and private sector capital investment.

Whitelee Access Project is run in partnership with a number of key agencies including South Lanarkshire and East Ayrshire Councils and is currently being developed through a series of improvements, leading to new recreational infrastructure. An Access Plan has been approved covering a 5 year period from

2015-19. This identifies a wide range of improvements including new or upgraded paths, upgraded site entrances, viewpoints, signage and interpretation.

Construction of Mountain Bike Trails at Whitelee was completed in June 2014. The trails cover an area of 0.35 hectares and satisfy a strong demand for technical mountain bike facilities which cannot be provided by windfarm roads and multi user paths alone.

Both Dams to Darnley and Whitelee have a Countryside Ranger Service in place. The Rangers run a series of events for the public, volunteers and school children including health walks, biodiversity and educational events.

The 5 Rangers also provide an on-site presence, liaise with visitors, landowners and undertake survey work.

6. ASSET RATIONALISATION/ACQUISITION PROGRAMME

➤ Asset Value / Disposal of Assets

The assessment of value allows an objective approach to identifying those spaces that should be given the highest level of protection through the planning system, those that require enhancement and those that may no longer be needed for their present purpose.

By taking a more corporate and strategic approach to how the Council uses its Assets through the Corporate Landlord model, the Council's Land and Property Asset Disposal Framework sets out the procedures for disposal of assets.

Through the corporate approach to dealing with surplus property assets, the Council determines which land and property assets are surplus to both Directorate and Council requirements. For Open Spaces, the Parks Section will engage with Legal, Estates and Strategic Services to establish whether the asset can be disposed of. An Options Appraisal framework is crucial to ensure our disposals / acquisitions are fully informed and based on robust evidence. Appraisals will include an assessment of:

- Costs of ongoing usage
- Future maintenance costs
- Carbon impact against Net Zero Carbon Standard
- Historical / appropriate use of the asset
- Future use of the asset
- Anticipated future effects if asset is no longer available for use by customers / the Council
- The need to maintain the asset
- Implications of disposal
- The policies that apply in the Local Development Plan. It should consider any designations e.g. as urban greenspace, local biodiversity site, local nature reserve, a wildlife corridor, its value as part of a green network and the green belt. It should include assessment of the environmental value of the site e.g. the flora and fauna that exists, important trees on the site and consider its role in amenity terms for example as structural landscaping around development. The foregoing should be taken into account in considering the suitability and value of any proposed or future use of land being considered for disposal

The asset will be declared surplus to requirements through sign off by the Cabinet and will be passed to the Head of Environment (Strategic Services) to commence the marketing and disposal process.

Such disposals might take the form of an outright sale on the open market, where no other options exist. However there are also assets which might be able to be disposed of to local community groups, partners or through alternative management

arrangements, thus relieving the Council of any ongoing revenue costs or future capital commitments whilst allowing such assets to continue to operate as community facilities where a robust Business Case exists.

➤ **Asset Enhancement**

Strategic Services hold qualitative, quantitative and geographical information on open space. Where there are known to be deficiencies in open space provision or opportunities to maximise benefits, we will investigate ways of increasing value. As such a formal Option Appraisal process is used to support projects to ensure they align with this Asset Management Plan and deliver against the corporate objectives of the Council.

Work can be undertaken to raise awareness of the health, environmental and educational benefits of open space and the Council's Ranger Service is integral to this. Investing in site infrastructure including interpretation and encouraging community involvement is important.

7. Capital/Revenue/External Funding Allocation

➤ Capital Investment

The Prudential code placed a formal requirement on local authorities to take account of asset management planning and option appraisal when agreeing capital investment proposals. The current process for the allocation of funds for open spaces is service led. It is envisaged that the creation of this plan will require even greater coordination for the future allocation of investment.

The Council has an approved corporate process for the prioritisation of Capital bids. It follows a structured Capital Project Appraisal (CPA) process which starts in April of each year and concludes by November with the Corporate Management Team (CMT) making recommendations to the Budget Strategy Group. Further details about the CPA process are outlined in the Capital Asset Management Plan.

Open Spaces asset investment priorities for East Renfrewshire are:

- Parks infrastructure
- Sports pitches: synthetic surfacing provides an all-weather facility with low associated revenue costs but a maximum life cycle of 12 years. Spend is prioritised by assessing age, condition, usage, remedial repair costs against footfall and any health and safety liabilities. Newer assets including skate parks and all weather tennis courts are monitored using the same processes with any repairs paid for out of revenue budgets.
- Cemeteries: Spend is prioritised using an assessment of demand, condition of the ground, safety implications of dangerous structures and likely future trends, particularly for faith burials;
- Play equipment: the Asset Management Plan provides detail of the condition of the councils play parks and when the current assets are no longer fit for purpose with dangerous equipment being removed and/or replaced and equipment nearing the end of its useful life being highlighted as priority for replacement. Spend is prioritised based on footfall of playpark, area needs, safe lifespan of equipment as well as potential local match funding.

➤ Revenue Expenditure

A core contract budget is available to the Neighbourhood Services Service to undertake grounds maintenance of open space, sports pitches, play areas, cemeteries (including burials), woodland and provision of Parks Rangers (excluding Countryside Rangers associated with Dams to Darnley Country Park who are jointly funded by Strategic Services and Glasgow City Council) and Whitelee Windfarm where funding is

provided via development contributions by the Strategic Services and South Lanarkshire Council.

Open space revenue is split between several services (Housing/Education/Roads). Most of the revenue expenditure is focused on regular maintenance such as grass cutting, weed killing, litter collection etc. One off works including, fence work and drainage have little revenue budget allocation across services and a lack of cross service coordination can result in funds not been allocated on a priority bases. It is envisaged that this plan will help with the allocation of budget on a priority basis.

➤ **External Funding**

The Council has had considerable success in securing external funding for project implementation through a variety of sources including City Deal, Regeneration Capital Grant Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund, Sportscotland, Scottish Rural Development Programme, Leader, Central Scotland Green Network, Forestry Commission and Sustrans. In order to continue to achieve this, it is important to demonstrate a planned approach to open space management in line with Scottish Government and Council Policy. Great emphasis is placed on the multiple benefits which can be achieved through well managed and planned open space provision and it is important that Council Policies continue to reflect this and influence future investment within the area.

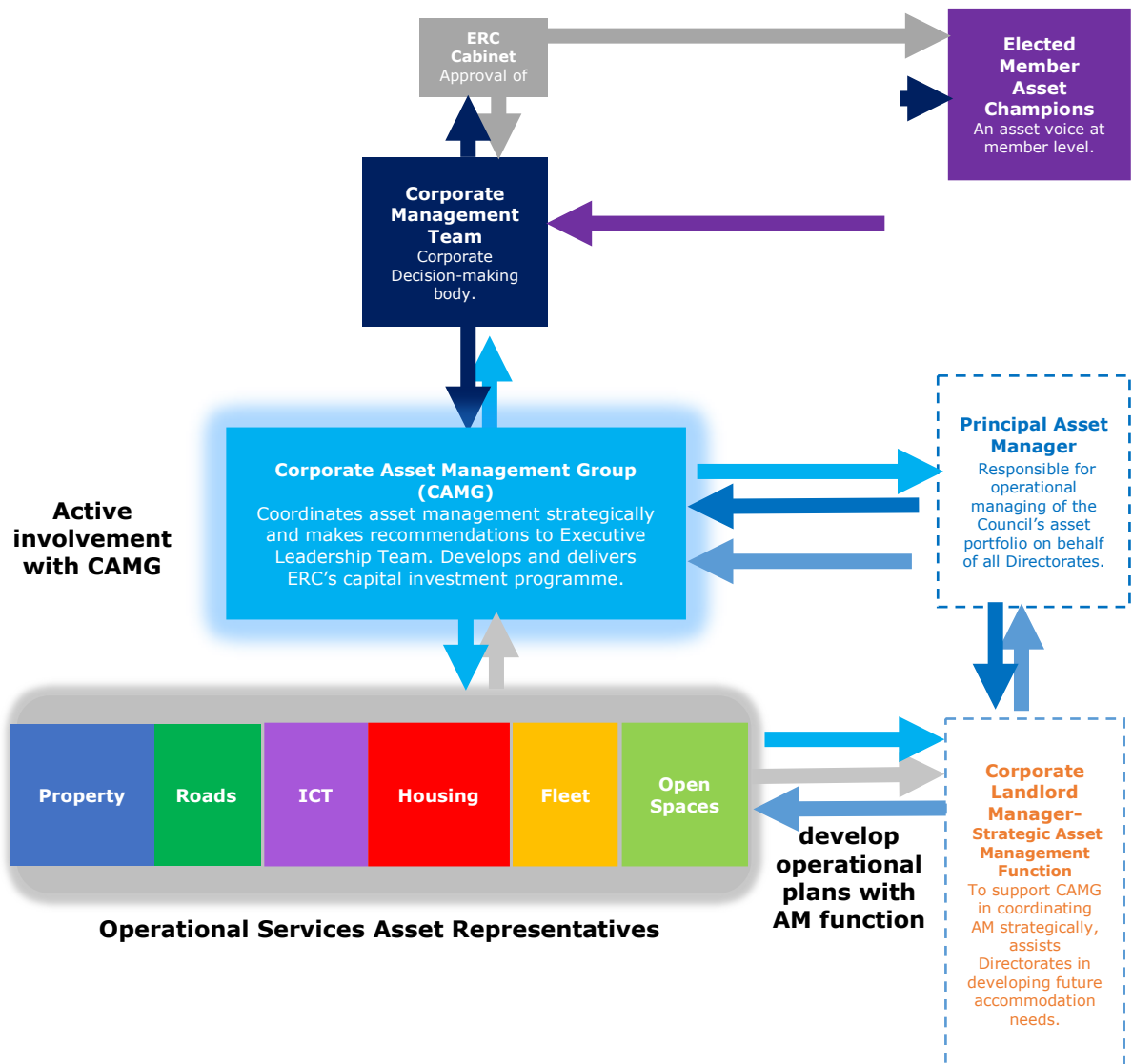
External funding will continue to be sought to ensure that opportunities are maximised and best use of Council resources is achieved. However, the Council realises that there is a risk of being over reliant on external funding, especially in the current financial climate where funding pots are reducing whilst numbers of applicants continue to increase.

8. GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE

➤ Asset Management Governance

East Renfrewshire Council has implemented a Corporate Landlord ownership model for the management of Council assets. This model ensures that all service’s needs, as well as those of local residents are considered when strategic decisions are being made.

The figure below from the CAMP details the principal governance structure within East Renfrewshire Council for asset management.



➤ **Corporate Asset Management Group (CAMG)**

The need to manage Council’s Open Spaces assets as a corporate resource is recognised and championed at the highest level. The Corporate Asset Management Group (CAMG) provides an oversight of the management of corporate assets within the Council and provides a decision-making gateway to ensure that management decisions are undertaken in a corporate manner. The group also provides co-ordination, direction and operational asset management planning. Refer to the CAMP for the structure of the CAMG.

➤ **Ownership of the Open Spaces Asset Management Plan**

The Open Spaces Asset Management Plan will be a live document controlled by the Head of Environment (Operations Manager) and the Chief Planning Officer who are responsible for:

- Distribution to appropriate staff, members and the public
- Monitoring of improvement actions and the implementation plan
- Authorising and actioning the updates to the plan

The persons charged with the delivery of this Open Spaces AMP and their roles within the process are detailed below:

Position	Role
Head of Environment (Operations) and Chief planning Officer	Owners of the AMP.
Operations Manager, Neighbourhood Services Support Managers and Outdoor Access Officer	Oversight, ensuring that all appropriate information is collated and passed to the relevant parties involved in the asset management process.
Open Spaces Asset Officers	Assist with the collection and management of asset information.
Principal Officer Asset Management and the Corporate Landlord Manager.	Assists with coordinating information to deliver a comprehensive document of assets, their upkeep, usage and future running costs.

Regular meetings and exchanges of information occur between the parties involved in the management and delivery of the Open Spaces AMP. These are jointly held between Planning and Neighbourhood Services and ensure updated information is being coordinated and fed through the AMP on an on-going basis.

At a minimum, the AMP will be reviewed and updated annually, with key processes linked to the budget cycle of the Capital Planning process. Any changes will be approved by the Capital Asset Management Group.

➤ Equality and Diversity

The Equality Act 2010 became law in October 2010. The Act aims to streamline all previous anti-discrimination laws within a Single Act. The new public sector Equality Duty, which is part of the Equality Act 2010, came into effect on the 5 April 2011.

East Renfrewshire's Equality Mainstreaming Report and Equality Outcomes 2013 – 2017 provides an overarching framework and focus for the Council's work on equalities, helps ensure compliance with the Equality Act 2010 and describes the Council's commitment to equality for all citizens, service users and employees. It sets out the Council's journey to embed equality considerations into our policies and the outcomes we will pursue to ensure that no one is disadvantaged or left behind in East Renfrewshire. It is underpinned by a set of high level strategic objectives which incorporate the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Management and investment in the Council's assets and operational estate has the potential to make a significant difference to opening up access to services and enabling service delivery to become more inclusive and physically accessible as well as responsive to risk.

Equality and Diversity training is mandatory for all staff. Within corporate training, we are looking to mainstream equality into other courses as appropriate in addition to offering equality and diversity specific training. This will be built into future revisions of this AMP as a future action point.

➤ Communications

Effective communication is critical to the successful implementation of the Open Spaces AMP, and as we move forward with delivery it is recognised that communication and consultation will be key to our success.

The basis of a communications plan for the Council is provided in the Capital Asset Management Plan (CAMP) which focuses on the following fundamentals to good communication:

- **Identify stakeholders:** this is the process of recognising all the people and organisations affected by the AMP and documenting specific information concerning their interests, level of involvement and impact on the success of the project

- **Plan communications:** this involves identifying stakeholder information needs and approach to communications
- **Distribute information:** this is the process of making relevant information available to stakeholders as planned
- **Manage stakeholder expectations:** this is about working with the stakeholders to meet their communication needs and dealing with issues as they occur
- **Report performance:** this involves collecting and distributing performance data, such as status reports, progress measurements and forecasts.

➤ **Reviews and Lessons Learned**

Arrangements for governance and performance monitoring in Asset Management include closure reviews of completed capital schemes to ensure that the Council has delivered the outcomes we expected and to understand any lessons learnt that need to be embedded within the organisation. Closure reviews are informal and occur at project level. These are monitored by the CAMG and the outputs are used to inform future activity.

The focus of closure reviews are the outcomes that were achieved, benefits realised as well as the processes followed. There is also a focus on the how risk is managed and efficiency delivered.

➤ **Customer Feedback and Complaints**

Feedback from our customers, both positive and negative, is analysed to identify areas of the service that require extra attention in response to customer needs. This may include altering the specification standards or targeting problem areas with additional resources.

The service will utilise customer feedback from:

- Citizen's Panel
- Comprehensive Survey Carried out in Rouken Glen Park
- Consultation with members of the public for individual projects
- Consultation with user groups hiring our facilities
- Social Media Reporting
- Suggestion Cards

- LAGAN enquiries and responses

➤ **Risk Management**

The Council has identified various key risks to the delivery of this AMP. Risks are identified, assessed and managed using a live Risk Register. The Risk Register is included in Appendix 3.

9. THE WAY FORWARD

Open space management and maintenance within the East Renfrewshire area is moving forward and a substantial amount of activity is currently underway. Increased emphasis is now placed on the benefits that open space provision can bring to an area and its residents. Significant funding is in place to assist and develop a network of sites, sports facilities and access routes which will provide multiple benefits for an area and its residents.

There is however greater need for a co-ordination of efforts across Council Services and a better understanding of the Council's assets in terms of condition, future requirements and associated financial expenditure.

Looking forward, Open Spaces asset management will focus on developing a common and consistent approach to management, maintenance, operation and delivery of East Renfrewshire's parks and open spaces. The implementation of consistent lifecycle management will optimise the performance, cost and quality of service in the Council's open spaces. Regular ongoing work is necessary to keep assets operating, including instances where portions of the asset fail and need immediate repair to make the asset operation – this work includes, reactive, planned and cyclical maintenance work activities.

Key activities that will drive forward performance improvement are:

- Ensuring our green spaces are designed as safe and welcoming spaces encouraging sports participation and play;
- Using community engagement to inform policy;
- Benchmarking with other local authorities; and
- Moving towards providing residents with an online service provision

The Council's performance against agreed levels set in this plan will be monitored along with the performance of the commitments as outlined in the 'Key Actions' plan below.

Appendix 3 also outlines a programme of activity required to further develop this AMP in line with good practice criteria. The Council will be addressing all priority actions as a matter of urgency.

➤ System Maintenance

The open space asset data requires to be kept up to date. It is important that this process is established to ensure the currency of data is appropriate and fit for purpose.

➤ **Site Infrastructure Condition Assessments**

Clarification is required on the need to undertake condition assessments of infrastructure elements such as fencing, signage and drainage.

➤ **Capital and Revenue Expenditure**

There is a need to consider the level of capital and revenue expenditure allocated and/or spent against each of the open space typologies. There is a significant level of investment and expenditure relating to open space, however, the current financial systems do not allow easy analysis and work is required to permit such analysis to take place. This will allow a critical analysis of the investment strategy across the wide range of types of open space. This in turn should lead to improved decision making, better allocation of resources and better coordination of effort across all open space assets. This will require the current financial systems to be examined to determine how best to satisfy this need.

➤ **Co-ordination of Effort**

The effect of investment on revenue budgets is not properly understood and systems are not robust enough to ensure coordination of effort. The drive for development can override any concern with resultant additional maintenance costs. It is often expected that maintenance providers simply absorb such costs, this is unsustainable. Furthermore, when considering the change of use or the disposal of open space sites there can be poor co-ordination with each part of the council looking at the open space site from their own perspective rather than from the perspective of the council as a whole.

➤ **Recharging Model**

The vast majority of open space is maintained by Neighbourhood Services and the majority of the sites have a revenue budget directly allocated to the grounds maintenance service. There are different arrangements in place across the different services, for example, Educational Services have a budget for maintenance of school grounds. The school grounds which are maintained by Parks Services are recharged to the budget holder. In this example it is clear that the budget holder has responsibility for all matters affecting the open space. In other cases, for example Housing services, there is a recharge made by the grounds maintenance service for some works in some areas. This leads to confusion as to who has responsibility for matters affecting the open space beyond its ground maintenance. It would be beneficial to assess and perhaps apply a consistent recharging model across the asset base. The consideration of Service Level Agreement between departments may improve this process.

➤ **Key Actions**

In addition to this a number of key actions have been identified which will help to ensure that progress continues to be made.

Actions	Lead Service	Timescale	Cost
Continue to protect a range of open space provision in line with Council Plans and Strategies	Parks, Strategic and Property and Technical Services	Ongoing	
Identify Surplus Assets	Property and Technical services	Ongoing	
Continue to investigate external sources of funding to implement open space enhancement	Strategic/ Neighbourhood Services/Planning	Ongoing	
Investigate the development of a consistent recharging model	Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	
<p>Barrhead Community placemaking Implementation of the action plan which has emerged from community consultation. This includes Waterworks, Carlibar and Cowan Parks and Auchenback.</p>	Strategic Services, Neighbourhood Services, PATS and HSCP	Short/ Medium / long term	
<p>White Cart Tributaries Development contributions will be used alongside funding from SEPA Water Environment Fund monies to scope out and implement enhancements to the Lavern Water and Capelrig Burn.</p>	Strategic and Neighbourhood Services.	Short term	£1.26m Feasibility physical enhancement
<p>Dams to Darnley Country Park: Implementation of the Dams to Darnley Country Park Plan and opportunities arising from the Local Development Plan Strategic Development Opportunities. This will lead to improved access and recreational provision within the Park including the development of watersports and visitor facilities, environmental education base,</p>	Strategic Services and Economy and Infrastructure Team Glasgow City Council Landowners Scottish Water SNH Neighbourhood Services Sportscotland Governing bodies and user groups	2013- 2030	£5.2m

Actions	Lead Service	Timescale	Cost
access enhancements and associated infrastructure.			
<p>Whitelee Outdoor Access Project: Implementation of the Access Plan which will lead to existing paths within the windfarm site upgraded, the construction of new paths, creation of recreational opportunities, improved site entrances, car parking and signage.</p>	<p>Whitelee Project Officer(based within ERC Strategic Services) ERC Strategic Services South Lanarkshire Council East Ayrshire Council Scottish PR FC SNH Local community Governing Bodies and user groups</p>	<p>Short/medium /long term</p>	<p>£680,000</p>
<p>Woodland Management Plans: Plans to be maintained for all major parks and large open spaces incl. Rouken Glen Park, Eastwood Park, The Orry, Arthurlie Park</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Services</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	
<p>Parks infrastructure : Ongoing enhancement works e.g. fencing, path, drainage works & furniture replacement.</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Services</p>		<p>£300,000 annually until 2024/25</p>
<p>Annual Woodland Management Revenue Spend</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Services</p>	<p>Running programme</p>	<p>£80,000 annual</p>
	<p>Ash Dieback</p>	<p>Running Programme</p>	<p>1st Phase Managing - Stage 3 & 4 Trees within Parks and Open Spaces – within</p>

			current budget
Climate Change Adaptation; Review open space management against need to deliver climate change targets and the development of climate resilient greenspaces	Strategic Services/Neighbourhood Services	Short term	
Food Growing Strategy Identify new land for allotments and food growing areas and ensure duties of the Community Empowerment Act (2015) are met	Development Plans Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing programme: Act states certain dates by which duties must be met	Budget to be identified

Actions	Lead Service	Timescale	Cost
Grass pitches: A renewal schedule of all 7 and 11 a side goals has been identified.	Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing renewal over 6 years	£4,000 per annum capital.

Appendix 1: Cemetery Action Plans

Cemetery	Location	Available lairs	Average Burials per year	Approx. Years remaining for use
Eaglesham	Holehouse Road	Assessment of available lairs currently being carried out in all cemeteries.	6	Assessment of available lairs currently being carried out in all cemeteries.
Mearns	Crofthead Road		27	
Cathcart	Netherlee Road		48	
Cathcart			68	
Muslim Cemetery Cathcart	Netherlee Road		10	
Hebrew Cemetery Neilston	Neilston Road		34	

Appendix 1: Cemetery Action Plans (cont'd)

Cemetery	Condition	Actions	Timescale
Mearns	Assessment of available lairs currently being carried out.	Identify and make ready land for future burials. Plan for memorial inspection programme to commence in 2022/23.	2023 reassess burial capacity.
Eaglesham	Assessment of available lairs currently being carried out. Additional land will be required and the surrounding private landowners will need to be contacted if the council wish to increase the size and capacity.	Future purchase of land to provide 110 lairs. Plan for memorial inspection programme to commence in 2022/23	2023 reassess burial capacity.
Neilston	Assessment of available lairs currently being carried out. A new section of the cemetery was opened in 2005 and the last phase of development was completed in 2012. In addition, opportunity exists to develop further lairs at the bottom end of the cemetery.	Identify and make ready land for future burials. Plan for memorial inspection programme to commence in 2022/23	Reassess 2023.
Cemetery	Condition	Actions	Timescale
Cathcart - All Sections	Assessment of available lairs currently being carried out. The Council erect up to 100 fallen headstones per year.	Work with Planning services via Local Development Plan process to identify and make ready land for future burials. Continuation of memorial inspection and stability programme of approximately 15000 stones.	Assess potential expansion 2023. Ongoing

Appendix 2: Woodland Management Action Plan

W/LAND M/MENT	LOCATION	ACTIONS	TIMESCALE	COSTS
Tree Management	Rouken Glen Park	Felling/Thinning Removal of diseased decaying trees	ongoing	As appropriate
Tree Management	The Orry Eaglesham	Felling/Thinning Removal of diseased decaying trees	ongoing	As appropriate.
Tree Management	Pollok Glen Uplawmoor	Felling/Thinning Removal of diseased decaying trees	ongoing	As appropriate
Tree Management	Carlibar Park	Felling/Thinning Removal of trees	ongoing	As appropriate
Tree Management	Busby Glen	Felling/Thinning Removal of Diseased Trees	ongoing	As appropriate

Appendix 3: Open Spaces Programme of Activity

PLAY AREAS, See link below;

<https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/playworks>

Sports Pitches (Grass)

See link below;

<https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/playworks>

<u>SYNTHETIC SPORTS PITCHES(NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES RESPONSIBILITY)</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>ACTIONS</u>	<u>TIMESCALE</u>	<u>COSTS</u>
Mctaggart & Meikle 3G 11-A-Side Pitch (Includes 1 x Set of 11's & 4 x Sets of 7's Goals)	Mearns Castle High School	Replacement Of Carpet And Goals	21/22 & Every 10 Years Thereafter	£250,000
Woodfarm 3g ,3 X 5's Pitches (Includes 3 X Sets Of 5's Goals)	Woodfarm High School	Replacement Of Carpet And Goals	22/23 & Every 10 Years Thereafter	£150,000
Woodfarm 3g 11-A-Side Pitch (Includes 1 X Set Of 11's Goals & 4 Sets Of 7's Goals)	Woodfarm High School	Replacement Of Carpet And Goals	26/27 & Every 10 Years Thereafter	£250,000

Appendix 4: Risk Register

Open Space Asset Management Plan										Completed By: Neighbourhood Services Support Manager – Business Lead (G Blaney)		Version: December 2021 Update		
Risk Status S/C/N (Same, Changed, New)	Risk Number	Risk (Threat / Opportunity to achievement of business objectives)	Risk Control Measures (Mitigations) current In place	Likelihood (Probability)	Impact (Severity)	Risk Score	Proposed Risk Control Measures (Mitigations)	Date for completion	Re-scored Likelihood (Probability)	Re-scored Impact (Severity)	Re-scored Risk Score	Risk Owner	Evidence Held (Detail)	Where Held
S (14/12/2021)	1.1	COMPETITION Competition from other grass / synthetic sports pitch providers impacts on the usage of East Renfrewshire facilities.	The Council looks to provide a quality product, with a competitive pricing policy. Best value principles & setting up of frameworks is utilised to use the strongest quality support that provides value for money in the upkeep and for parts. Sports Pitch Strategy and Marketing & Financial Plans are regularly reviewed, ensuring they remain fit for purpose and reflective of the current environment.	1	1	1	Contracts for sports pitches to be reviewed, looking for best value when pricing works.	31/03/2022	1	1	1	DMc	Thornliebank Dept, charges from other provider	I Drive & paper registration documents
S (14/12/2021)	1.2	ARCHIVE INFORMATION Loss of Archive information, particularly in relation to Burial Grounds is caused by a fire in building, theft etc. This results in significant distress for impacted persons and reputational damage for the Council.	Premises are alarmed, and equipped with a Fire Screen. Regular maintenance and review is undertaken of fire and security measures within the building.	2	4	8	Look to scan records and books, storing them securely in another building. Cemetary Records will be backed up on computer drives.	31/12/2022 31/12/2022	1	4	4	DMc	Ledger	Thornliebank Depot. All information is kept in books next to Sandra Rankins' desk.
S (14/12/2021)	1.3	BOOKING INFORMATION Loss of booking information and databases for teams / pitch allocations results in confusion and operational difficulties. This presents distress for impacted persons and reputational damage for the Council.	All premises where information is held are alarmed. Customer First carry out bookings. Both Customer First and Neighbourhood Services have copies of all relevant information, ensuring there is sufficient backup.	1	3	3	New ICT system to be considered.	31/12/2022	1	2	2	LMc	Customer First, Plus 2 System, Backup Spreadsheet in T Drive	Customer First, Plus2 System, Spreadsheet Backup in T Drive
S (14/12/2021)	1.4	ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN A lack of ownership and oversight sees the implementation of the Asset Management Plan delayed / not progressed. This results in the quality of assets deteriorating and therefore potentially in heightened costs to replace / fix assets as well as reputational damage to the Council.	A Departmental working group has been established and meets on a four weekly basis. Continuous updates are provided to the Corporate Asset Management Group.	3	2	6			3	2	6	Head of Environment (Operations) (A Corry)	Thornliebank Depot	Thornliebank Depot

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