



ABERDEEN  
CITY COUNCIL

# OPENSOURCE

Aberdeen Open Space Strategy  
2011-2016



## **ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT September 2011- April 2013**

## **Contents**

Executive Summary -----	3
1.0 Introduction -----	5
1.1 Open space strategy background -----	5
2.0 The quantity and distribution of open space in Aberdeen -----	5
3.0 Delivery Action Plan -----	7
3.1 Summary of Actions -----	7
3.2 Summary of Key Milestones Achieved against each objective -----	7
4.0 APPENDIX A -----	16

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the last 18 months Officers have been working in partnership with different partners to deliver the Strategy. Various services were involved at different levels to ensure that key actions are delivered where possible, according to the timescales given in the Strategy action plan.

The Council's Housing and Environment Service and Planning and Sustainable Development team have worked together along with other services and partners to achieve strategic objectives of the Strategy. Various projects have been taken forward on the ground as well as tools developed for better management and planning of open spaces. Officers continue to work on exploring various sources of funding and developing partnership approaches working with the communities, business and other partners. Where funding was available, progress has been made to achieve the targets. The major focus has been to improve the quality of existing open spaces and create new better quality open spaces meeting community needs.

The major achievements over the reporting period of this Strategy has been developing a Geographic Information System (GIS) planning and management tool in order to protect, create and enhance Green Space Network (GSN) across the city linking various species and habitats (communities of animals and plants). GSN is being promoted through the process of masterplanning and Local Development Plan policies to protect and enhance open spaces. Access to the open spaces has been improved where resources were available. Publicity and promotion material has been produced to assist in achieving better access to open spaces and promoting the use of open spaces for the benefits it provide in improving healthy lifestyles.

New community groups have been established who have either taken over the responsibility or working in partnership with the Council to manage their local open spaces. These groups have been involved in developing open space management and maintenance plans. Open spaces are promoted for out door learning and school children and community groups of all ages have been involved in various activities.

Major improvement work has been carried out under the Duthie Park Restoration project and various activities were held by the Housing and Environment service. Work is underway to get the Green Flag status for Duthie Park. Events were held in parks and open spaces to promote their use.

Work has been undertaken to tackle challenges of climate change and the role of open spaces in mitigating its impacts. We have started a pilot project at Hazlehead Park working in partnership with Greenspace Scotland to design and manage the park to meet the challenges of Climate Change. Aberdeen Trees and Woodland Strategy, Aberdeen Pitch Strategy and Play Strategy are in progress which will help improve the quality of our open spaces and the natural environment.

Aberdeen City Voice Survey results shows that the majority of the public is satisfied with the quality of open spaces in the City. However residents living in the North and Central part of the city are not satisfied with the quality of open spaces in their area. These results reflect the findings of the Aberdeen open space audit 2010. More work is required in the future to

improve the quality of open spaces in these areas. Details of each action and its progress are provided in the Appendix A.

A number of awards have been won by the Council in delivering quality open spaces and various projects have been recognised nationally over the reporting period of the Strategy.

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Aberdeen Open Space Strategy was adopted in September 2011 and was published in February 2012. The Strategy sets a strategic vision for the city's open spaces. The Strategy contains high level aims and objectives and an action plan setting various tasks and resources required for its delivery.

The Strategy revolves around four major aims.

1. Provide good and equitable access to a network of quality open spaces that promote stronger, responsible and proud communities
2. Promote and facilitate healthier life styles
3. Ensure Aberdeen is an attractive and appealing place to enjoy living, working and investing in
4. Protect, enhance and value our environment for current and future generations

This is the first annual monitoring report since the publication of the Strategy covering period from September 2011 to April 2013. There are eight objectives in the Strategy and 33 various actions identified by the partners, stakeholders, and the public who contributed towards the development of the Strategy. The report shows the progress made under each objective.

Over the last year we have been working towards achieving these aims taking forward the high priority actions under eight different objectives. Some of the actions are completed, a few are near completion and others are in progress. These are explained in detail in Table 1 Appendix A.

### **1.1 OPEN SPACE STRATEGY BACKGROUND**

The Strategy considers open space as defined by Planning Advice Note 65, Planning and Open Space. 'Open space' is the 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. The Aberdeen Open Space Strategy covers an area of 3471 hectares (not including private gardens or sites under 0.2 hectares) based on the findings of the Open Space Audit 2010. The Strategy covers Council owned and private land in and around the city.

## **2.0 THE QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF OPEN SPACE IN ABERDEEN**

The Open Space Audit 2010 results showed that open spaces across the city are not evenly distributed. The poorest quality parks and open spaces tend to be found within the regeneration priority areas.

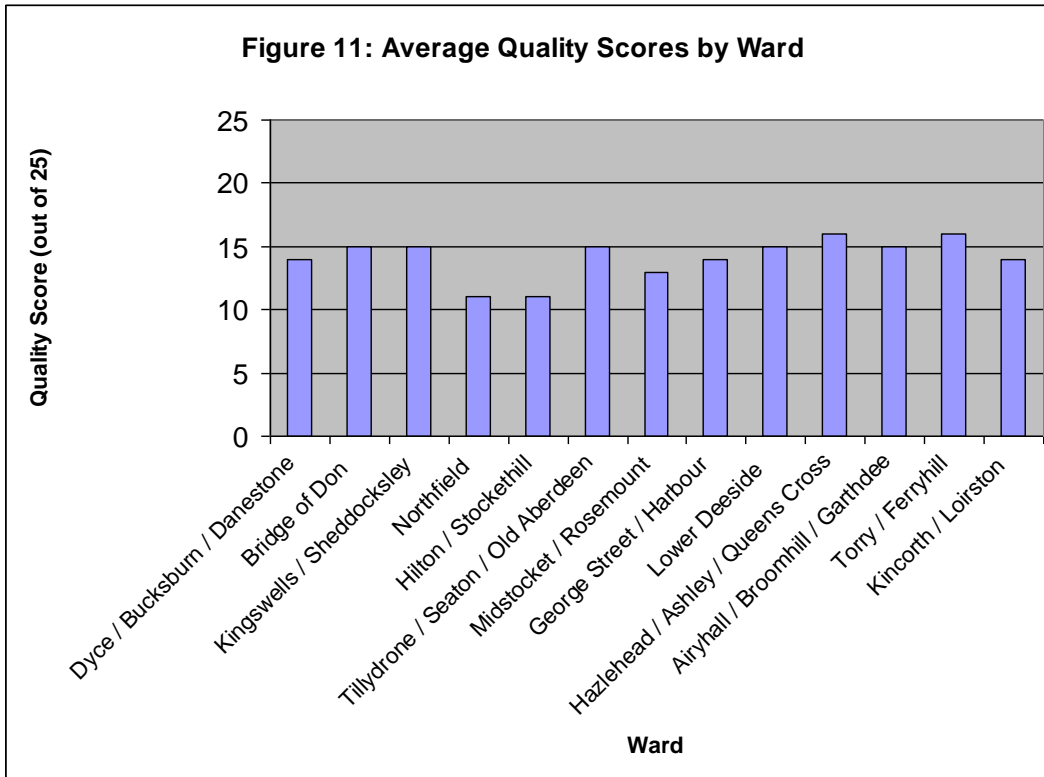


Figure 1 Quality of open spaces across city wards

About 18% of the area in the City is amenity open spaces. These amenity areas are low in quality and are costly to manage providing little value. See Figure 2. The Open Space Strategy provided the opportunities to increase the quality of open space in these areas, review the management of them and consider the possibilities for developing existing amenity open space into alternative, higher quality and more publicly desirable types of open space. Developers are encouraged to use Open Space Supplementary Guidance and follow the quality standards in the new developments.

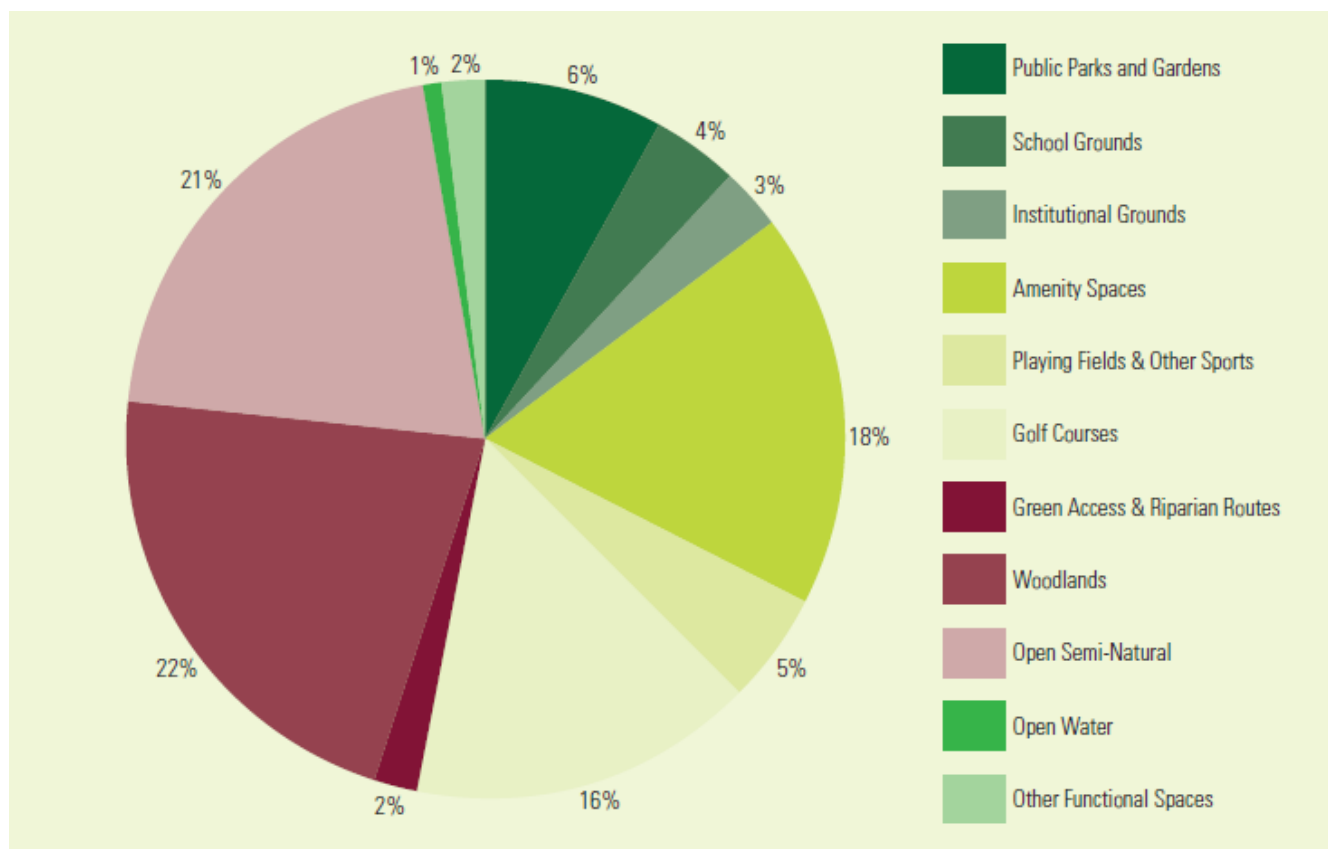


Figure 2 Types of open spaces across the City.

### 3.0 Delivery Action Plan

The priorities of the Strategy are based on the results of the open space audit outlined in section 7 of the open space strategy. Only those actions are taken forward which shows high to medium priority over the course of the Strategy. However progress has also been made on some of the low priority actions as well where opportunities were available for their delivery.

#### 3.1 Summary of Actions

#### 3.2 Key Milestones Achieved against each objective, September 2011 to April 2013

##### Objective 1- Create, protect enhance green space network

The basic purpose of this objective is to connect urban open spaces with other rural greenspaces and its surroundings communities providing social, health, economic and environmental benefits.

A significant progress has been made to achieve these objectives. A Geographic Information System (GIS) tool has been developed to protect enhance and manage green spaces across the city. This is an innovative tool developed in house by the Officers within Planning and Sustainable Development which will be used as a planning tool to enhance the greenspace

network around the City. Green Space Network web page has been created on the Council website providing further details.

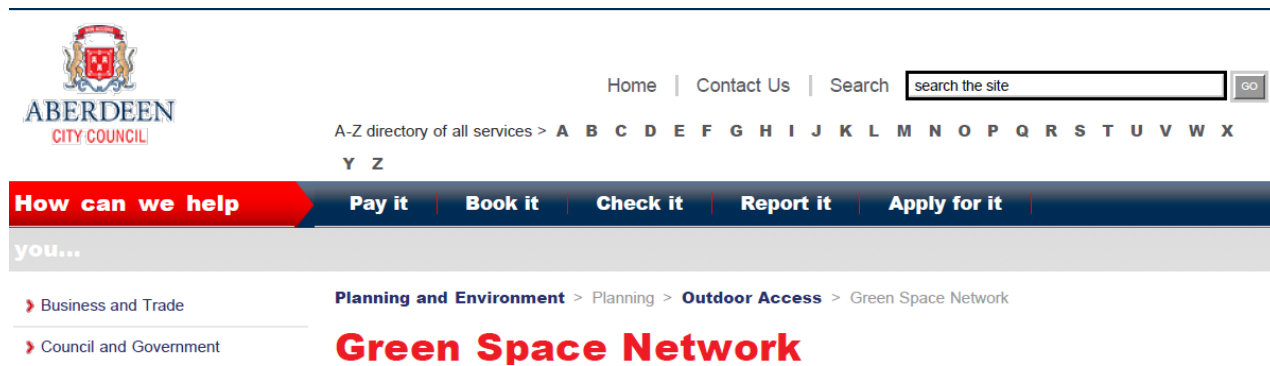


Figure 3 Abstract of Aberdeen Green Space Network webpage

There has been a great interest from various organisations to make this tool publically available. This map based spatial information will soon be available to the public to use it for protecting, enhancing and creating green space network in the City.

Workshops have been held within the Council and a presentation was given at the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (formally Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management IEEM) at the annual conference in Stirling to promote the green space network. This has been well received by the audiences and there has been a great demand to share the GIS tool with interested parties.



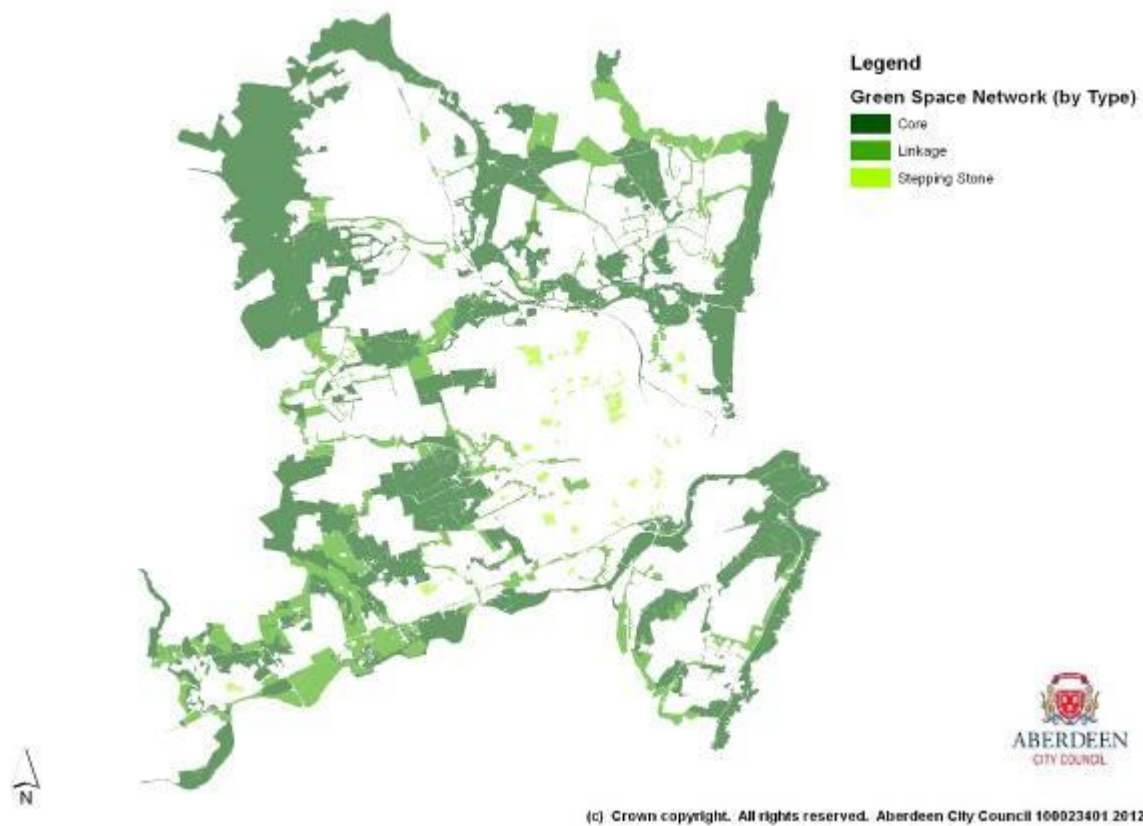


Figure 4 Aberdeen Green Space Network

The Transport Strategy team have worked on various projects by creating a network of paths and cycling lanes linking green space network and promoted its use by encouraging school children and the public through various projects. The Transport Strategy Team have also updated the Aberdeen Cycle map showing cycle routes to access open spaces and parks.

Officers in Housing and Environment and from Aberdeen Greenspace have been working on waymarking the Core Path network in and around the city to promote the use of these paths. The first of a series of leaflets illustrating the core path network has been produced for the Hazlehead area of the City

### **Objective 2 - Improve the quality of open spaces**

This objective focuses on improving the quality of open spaces and their associated facilities, in order to make better use of what we have.

The Housing and Environment team have worked with partners and community groups to deliver various projects. The major focus has been on the restoration and improvement of Duthie Park. The Countryside Ranger Service has been involved in enhancing the quality of open spaces and improving the public perception about the safety and use of quality of open spaces. Friends of parks groups have been formed and communities are encouraged to

become involved in the management and maintenance of open spaces. Community groups and school children are involved in development and management of open space plans. There has been reduction in wilful fires at Tullos Hill. Work is underway to apply for a Green Flag Award for Duthie Park.

A play area review is being carried out by the Housing and Environment team and work on the condition survey have been completed. The results of the survey are being used to develop an overall play strategy setting direction to provide good quality play areas in the city. Events are planned to promote National Play days and launch of Play Policy.

In terms of public perception about safety and anti social behaviour in open spaces the results of the Aberdeen City Voice survey shows that people are generally satisfied with safety in the open spaces particularly major parks taking into account the aspects on levels of crime and anti-social behaviour, vandalism and dog fouling. However residents living in the Northern and Central part of the City are dissatisfied with the overall safety considering above aspects compared to the South of the City.

Progress has been made on publicity and promotion of open spaces. However the results of the City voice survey shows that people have shown dissatisfaction on publicity and promotion of open spaces. The results also shows that there has been very little interest in people getting involved in preparing management and maintenance of open space management plans. However several of the Friends Groups have showed great commitment to working with Aberdeen City Council to enhance their local areas through developing plans and obtaining funding.

Various projects have been taken forward to promote the art in open spaces. A public art plan is proposed for the River Don corridor which will set out the framework for the arts projects in the corridor. Five public art events are promoted along the corridor. Further public art events are proposed in the future.

Although good progress have been made to improve the quality of open spaces and various projects have been taken forward, little attention has been paid to the open spaces identified by the Open Space Audit 2010 that are poor in quality. This has been reflected in the Aberdeen City Voice survey carried out by Aberdeen City Voice forum. The result shows that the quality of open spaces across the city wards varies considerably. The citizens living in North and Central part of the City showed dissatisfaction about the over all quality of the open spaces compare to Southern part of the City. Surprisingly the results are not much different from the findings of the Aberdeen City Open space Audit 2010.

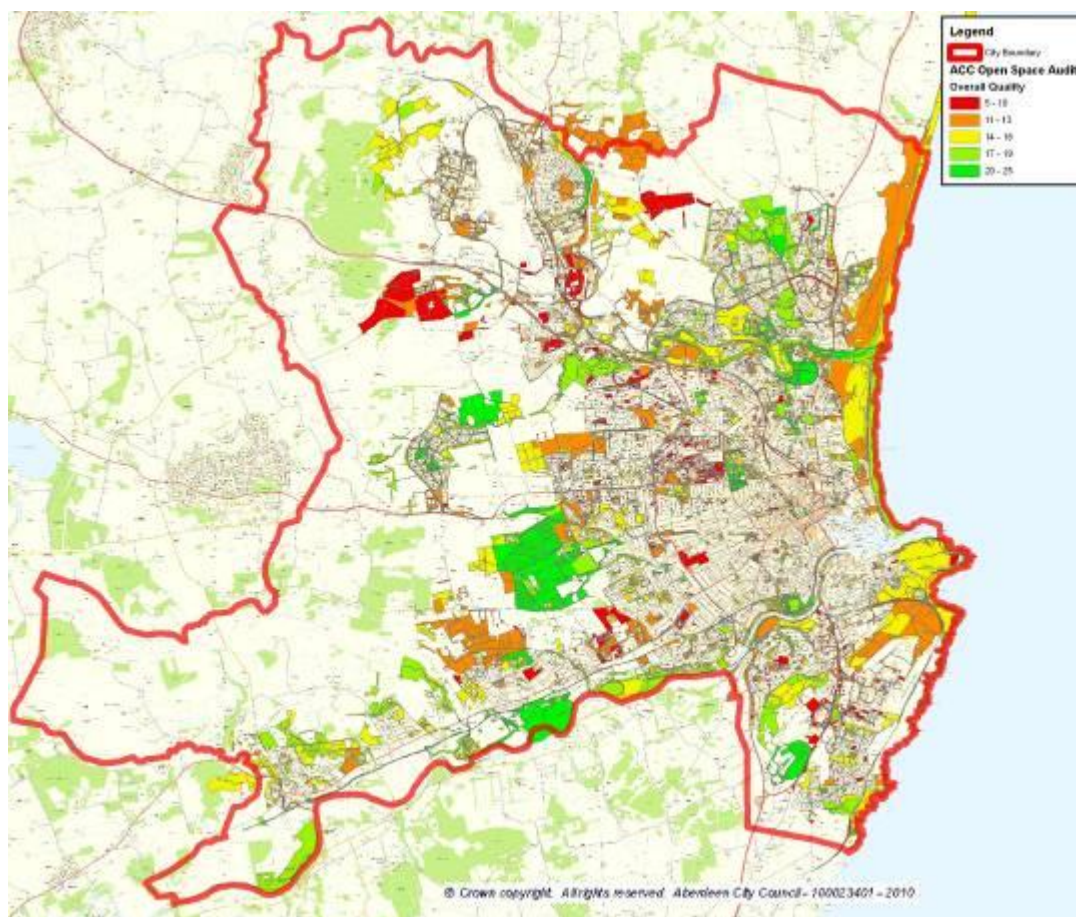


Figure 5 Open Space Quality Map

**Objective 3-** Provide well maintained and managed open spaces, balancing available resources with community demand

This objective focuses on finding innovative ways of managing and maintenance of open spaces by promoting park user groups and engaging communities. Promoting more natural management that benefits the environment.

Management of open spaces is a major challenge facing the Council under the current financial climate. We have used some innovative ways of managing open spaces and involved communities and promoted park user groups to take ownership and management of their local open spaces. Two new park user groups have been formed and they are actively involved in the management of open spaces with the support from the Council and partner organisations.



Figure 6 Hazlehead Primary School Children out door learning

The Housing and Environment team have worked closely with the schools and community groups in designing and managing open spaces and have promoted the use of open spaces using a variety of tools, such as visual displays, distributing leaflets and giving presentations at various events. The Duthie Park Ranger Service involved Friends of Duthie Park in preparing park management plan. The Countryside Ranger Service have created an online Flickr group <http://www.flickr.com/groups/countrysiderangerservice/> to promote the use of country sites.

**Objective 4-** Improve access to and within open spaces

This objective focuses on improving access to the open spaces and provides information on how to access different types of open spaces. Access to the quality open spaces has been a major concern shown by the communities during the Strategy development consultation process.

Information on how to access open spaces has been disseminated by taking various initiatives. The Transport Strategy Team has reprinted the Aberdeen Cycle Map showing cycle routes, off road recreational routes and shared path to access open spaces.

The Housing and Environment have been working with Aberdeen Greenspace on waymarking the Core Path network to promote their use in and around the city.

The Housing and Environment team produced a number of leaflets and promotion material, newsletters, articles in the media and published an events programme. Under the Duthie Park Restoration Project work is underway to develop an interpretation panel providing information

on the Park. Students have been involved in developing Facebook and Twitter pages for the Duthie Park promotion and disseminating information through Blue Badge Tourist Guide.

Major progress has been made to develop the Aberdeen Sports Pitch Strategy. Education Culture and Sport Team have worked with the consultants and an assessment been carried out. Open space Audit 2010 results have been used to improve access to the specific types of open space. The playing pitch strategy will be presented to the committee for approval in autumn 2013 and will cover a period from 2013 to 2020.

**Objective 5-** Increase the value and use of open spaces for health, education, play and lifelong learning

The focus of this objective is to maximise the use of existing open spaces by promoting active lifestyle and encouraging events in open spaces to increase their use. Involving schools to use open spaces as out door learning centre and making open spaces more multifunctional, with a range of attractions and facilities attracting people of all ages and abilities. Controlling issues of anti-social behaviour dog fouling and litter in open spaces and making safer to use.

This is an ongoing action throughout the life of the strategy. The Housing and Environment Service has worked with the Education, Culture and Sport team and helped to develop lesson plans and Forest School programmes for schools based on the Curriculum of Excellence.

The Transport Strategy Team has been involved in the Greenbrae Cycle Project and has done work in improving paths linking open spaces and schools. Open spaces are used to promote family cycling events and corporate volunteering days working with partners and business to make best use of the spaces. The Countryside Ranger Service has organized health walks in partnership with NHS Grampian and Walk Aberdeen.

Events are also promoted under the SURF project using social media. For details please visit <http://www.sustainablefringes.eu/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=432&SID=44>.

Green Flags awarded are promoted in the Schools. A total of 16 City schools have Green Flags and 93% of Aberdeen City Council schools are registered for Eco-Schools awards.

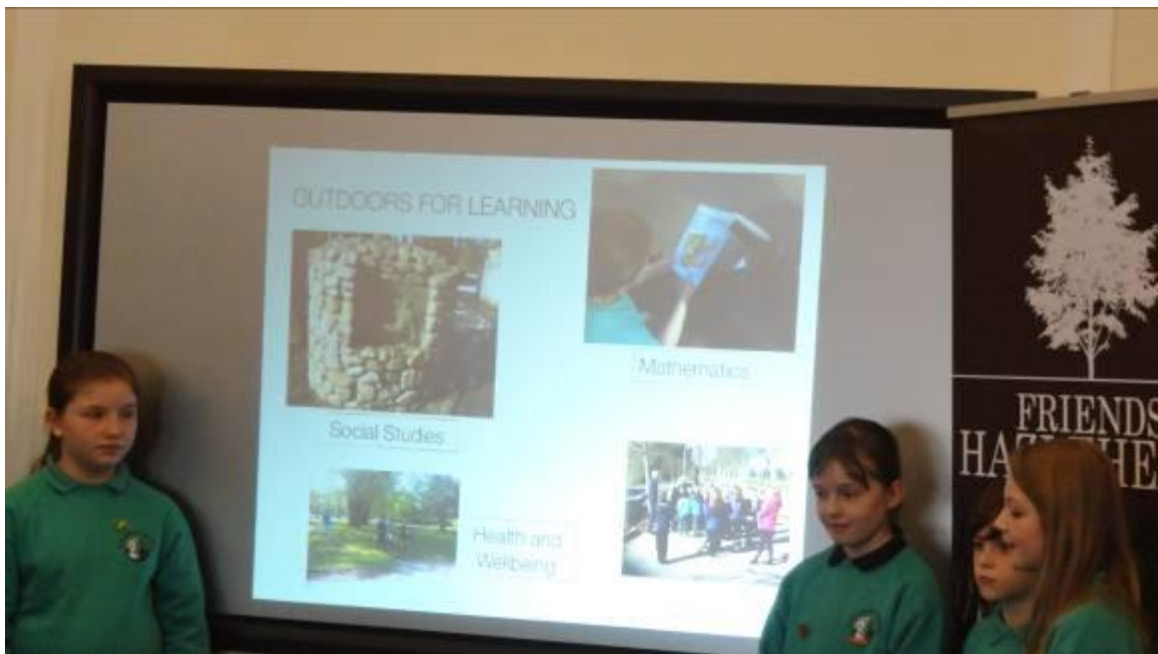


Figure 7 Hazlehead Primary School Children giving presentation on benefits of outdoor learning

Forest School initiatives have been promoted in various schools. Students at the Sunnybank Primary School have engaged in creating allotments to promote outdoor learning activities. Green gym initiatives have been taken forward with a support from The Conservation Volunteers (TCV Scotland) in Sunnybank Park and other areas to promote active and healthy lifestyles.

**Objective 6-** Seek business community and other agency involvement

This objective focuses on the use of parks and open spaces for events and festivals, social interaction, cultural and other activities to increase the value of open spaces. Involving people, partners, business and other agencies in management and maintenance of open spaces and take shared approach to reduce costs.

This is an ongoing action throughout the life of the Strategy. The Environmental Policy Team has worked closely with the Masterplanning and Design Team and developers.

The Environmental Policy Team worked closely with the masterplanning team and developers on a number of masterplans and provided input on creating of new high quality open spaces in new developments. Developers are encouraged to use Open Space Supplementary Guidance and follow the Open Space Quality standards

Private companies and business staff who volunteered and worked on various projects across the city contributed thousands of pounds worth of volunteer time. For example Friends of Sunnybank Park (FoSP) raised more than £150,000 through a mixture of external funding and in kind work.



Figure 8 volunteers working in Sunnybank Park

Work is currently in progress to form an Environmental Monitoring and Policy Group. This will be a City wide group responsible for monitoring overall environmental policies, strategies and projects. Representatives from the partner organisations and relevant stakeholders will be invited to sit on the group. It is proposed that an elected member will be the Chair of the Group.

**Objective 7-** Recognise the economic, environmental and social value of open spaces

This objective focuses on protection of open spaces and the benefit it provides for the wider economy and the environment and aims to work with communities and partners to measure and promote the value of open spaces.

This is a medium priority action in the Strategy. A community group Friends of Sunnybank Park worked in partnership with Greenspace Scotland to undertake a study on Social Return on Investment (SROI) on community programmes by investing in the Community Events Programme in Sunnybank Park. The Social Return on Investment (SROI) provides a principled approach to measure and account for a broad concept of value. SROI measures social, environmental and economic change from the perspective of those who experience or contribute to it. The Study found that every £1 invested would generate around £8 of benefits. Details of the study can be found at: [www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/SROI/](http://www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/SROI/)

Work is in progress to highlight the economic, social and environmental value of the open spaces and gather evidence through various case studies to show the value of open spaces it provide to its users. A newly formed community group “Friends of Hazlehead Park” is currently looking at various opportunities to generate activities in the park. A park plan is proposed to come up with various actions including including the sustainable management of surface water, improving Pets Corner, improving the path network, ensuring the park is managed and developed to respond to forecast long term climate changes and to the use of the park to hold more events and festivals and generate income to reinvest in the park. Hazlehead Primary School children are involved in preparing a park management plan.

**Objective 8-** Maximise opportunities to mitigate and adapt to climate change and further biodiversity

The objective focuses on the role of open spaces in reducing floods, improving air quality, reducing noise in urban areas and help tackling issues of climate change and enhancing biodiversity in the urban environment.

This is an ongoing action throughout the life of the Strategy. It also has overlaps with other strategies for example Nature Conservation Strategy. Under the Aberdeen City Nature Conservation Strategy a review of Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS) formally known as District Wildlife Sites (DWS) was carried out. Eighty sites were reviewed under set criteria for LNCS defined by the Scottish Planning Policy. Among 80 sites only 65 sites met the criteria and declared as LNCS thus losing 19 per cent of its total non-statutory local designated sites since they were first surveyed in the nineties.

The Open Space Strategy supported the initiatives taken by various partners such as Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels project and control of Grey Squirrel. The results show that numbers of Red Squirrels are increasing particularly on the edge of Aberdeen in conifer habitats. Work on developing Aberdeen City Trees and Woodland Strategy is in progress which will further promote the habitat for the Red Squirrel. We are at scoping stage of the Strategy identifying stakeholders and finding gaps within in existing strategies.

The Granite City Tree Planting Project continued and 90,000 trees have been planted over the last year and a half. It is proposed that further planting may be carried out on open spaces suitable for planting to increase the biodiversity value.

Open Spaces are promoted for supporting renewable energy technologies. A Feasibility Study has been undertaken for a biomass production facility at Hazlehead Park.

Aberdeen City Council is working with Greenspace Scotland to promote management of parks and open spaces as climate change green spaces. The main focus is to retrofit parks and open spaces in urban settings to mitigate the effects and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Hazlehead Park in Aberdeen has been selected as Scotland's first climate change park. The Friends of Hazlehead Park is working with Aberdeen City Council, Greenspace Scotland and other partners to prepare a management plan for the park. Details are available at. <http://www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/climate-change-parks.aspx>





Figure 9 Proposal to create Climate Change Park at Hazlehead

Open spaces plays an important role in reducing noise and provides peace and tranquillity. Aberdeen City Council is working with the Scottish Government and in a process of developing a noise action plan. The purpose of the plan is to reduce the harmful effects of noise. This will include the preservation and protection of existing quiet areas as such parks and open spaces.

APPENDIX A

Table 1

The following table shows the progress against each action and their status.

Actions	Summary of Actions	Status
1.1 Ensure green infrastructure (Green Space Network) is considered within new developments as a key form of necessary infrastructure	Green Space Network has been prompted through a number of Masterplans in new developments. Network through out the City. A number of workshops and meetings were held with the developers as part of the planning process and developers are encouraged to enhance the Green Space Network (GSN). The exact area of GSN promoted is given in the individual masterplans.	Complete
1.1.1 Publish Supplementary Guidance on Open Space, including section on Green Space Network	Supplementary Guidance on Open Space has been adopted and is being used to enhance and promote the Green Space Network	Complete
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	GIS layer explaining the rationale of Green Space Network has been completed. A user friendly GIS tool has been promoted within and out with the Council. A webpage on Green Space Network has been developed on the Council's website to facilitate the process.	Complete
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	This is an ongoing action throughout the life of the Strategy.	Two workshops were held within the Council to promote GSN. Presentation was given at the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management conference to promote the GSN at the National level. Further work is on going
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	This is an ongoing action throughout the life of the Strategy. Progress has been made to implement this action by the Transport Strategy team by linking various open spaces through a net work of paths. This has improved the quality of open spaces and increased its use. This has been done through the Greenbrae Cycle Project. Details are available at: <a href="http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/communitycycling/">http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/communitycycling/</a>	A new pedestrian and cycle path have been developed from Denmore Road to Greenbrae School - this forms part of Core Path (107) which links onwards to Scotstown Moor Local Nature Reserve.  Total length of path developed 233 m

		<p>A pedestrian and cycle path have been installed and upgraded linking the Seaview housing development to Greenbrae Drive improving access to a children's play park in Seaview.</p> <p>Total length of path improved and upgraded 257m</p>
2.1 Use the findings of the Open Space Audit to develop a strategic framework of short, medium and long term priority projects	Housing and Environment team have worked with partners and community groups to deliver various projects.	<p>Four major projects were undertaken and a number of other projects are underway.</p> <p>Tree for Every Citizen Duthie Park Restoration Community Garden Project Seaton Backies improvements Piper Alpha Rose Garden Restoration</p>
2.2 Encourage good practice in design of new and existing open spaces	This is an ongoing action throughout the life of the strategy. Application is presently underway for Greenflag Award for Duthie Park.	The results of the City Voice 27 survey shows that the public is generally satisfied with the safety in 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	The partnership working of the Countryside Ranger Service, Grampian Fire and Rescue Service and Grampian Police has resulted in the reduction in wilful fires at Tullos Hill, Kincorth Hill and around the Bucksburn Valley area	There has been a reduction in number of anti-social behaviour incidents. For example reduction in wilful fires on Kincorth and Tullos Hills (7 in 2012) as a result of joint working with Ranger Service, primary schools, Police and Fire Brigade
2.3 Encourage public art in open spaces	<p>This is an ongoing action throughout the life of the strategy. Work is currently going on to promote Art in open spaces. Ranger Service is working with communities in Torry to develop an project on Tullos Hill</p> <p>Public art plan is proposed for the river Don corridor which will set the framework to shape the delivery of public art projects in the corridor in the future</p> <p>Interpretation of the sculptures in Hazlhead Park is being developed with support from the Aberdeen Art Gallery.</p>	<p>One project under way</p> <p>One community Art exhibition held in the River Don corridor</p> <p>Inprogress</p>
2.4 Review the distribution and quality of play spaces	Housing and Environment team has been working on the review of play areas and a significant progress has been made. Development of play area is proposed in Duthie	A Condition Survey and Play Value Survey have been completed for all Play Areas. This is being used to develop an overall strategy for the

	<p>Park. A National Play day event and a launch of Play Policy is planned by Housing and Environment Service in partnership with other partners at Duthie Park. Play areas are being developed through Community/, Private Funding and Aberdeen Greenspace</p> <p>A play area review is being carried out by the H&amp;E.</p>	<p>provision of fixed play in the City for improvements and development. Play areas are developed at: Seaton Gardens South, Seaton Gardens North, Seaton Avenue North and Seaton Crescent. Kincorth Circle through Community funding and a grant from Britvic. A number of equipped play areas are proposed in new developments through the process of masterplanning.</p>
<p>3.1 Review, write and implement open space management and maintenance plans that fit with the objectives in this strategy</p>	<p>Management plans for most of the designated site already exists.</p> <p>A 10 year Duthie Park management plan has been reviewed involving Friends of Duthie Park community group.</p> <p>Management Plan for the Hazlehead park is being prepared by Housing and Environment team and the Friends group.</p>	<p>Two management plans are being written</p>
<p>3.2 Provide and promote site management information</p>	<p>Housing and Environment staff has been involved in promoting open spaces through various initiatives in the City. For example giving presentations and using visual displays and distributing leaflets to the public and various organisations.</p> <p>Information has been disseminated through various projects activities using web-based resources, such as social media, interpretation panels and leaflets. New interpretation panel developed at Don outh and leaflets have been produced to promote the area. 6 Web-based community groups have developed Facedbook pages</p>	<p>Four major promotion events held over the reporting period of this strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tenants' Open Day</li> <li>• Aberdeen Highland Games</li> <li>• Launch of Friends of Hazlehead.</li> <li>• Duthie Park Restoration Project</li> </ul>
<p>3.3 Support communities and organisations who express an interest in community-led maintenance of open spaces</p>	<p>Eight active community and "Friends of" groups already exists. Housing and Environment Team and other services in the Council are providing support to these groups. For example Friends of Denburn now have a webpage on the ACC Countryside Ranger Service pages.</p>	<p>Three new groups "Friends of Hazlehead Park", Friends of Sunnybank Park and Friends of Seaton Park has been formed over the reporting period of this Strategy. These groups are quite active and taken up projects to improve the quality of the open spaces.</p>

		<p>Countryside Ranger Service has an active online Flickr group.</p> <p>Six schools were involved in design of Duthie Park Play Park design consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hazlehead Primary</li> <li>• Hazlehead Academy</li> <li>• Airyhall Primary</li> <li>• Loirston Primary</li> <li>• Walker Road and</li> <li>• Kirkhill Primary Schools</li> </ul>
3.4 Explore alternative models for delivering open space management and maintenance service	<p>A review is currently being carried out to explore alternative models to manage and maintain open spaces.</p> <p>Progress has been made in managing part of Nellfield Cemetry for biodiversity and converting amenity grass areas into woodland through the Tree for Every Citizen project.</p>	Ongoing
4.1 Provide information on how to access open spaces in Aberdeen	<p>The Aberdeen Cycle Map have been reprinted for 2013 by the Transport Strategy Team and contains information on cycle routes through parks and areas of open space, as well as showing how to access such areas by bicycle.</p> <p>Environmental Policy team published an online newsletter and produced leaflets to promote outdoor access. The first of a series of leaflets illustrating the core path network has been produced for the Hazlehead area of the City</p>	<p>A City wide map showing cycle routes to access open spaces have been printed.</p> <p>Housing and Environment service produced a number of leaflets and promotion materials, newsletters, articles in the media and published an events programme.</p> <p>Duthie Park Rangers Service has promoted its programmes online in the press and around the Park. Work on interpretation panels are in progress.</p> <p>Students are involved in developing Facebook and Twitter pages for the Duthie Park promotion. Information disseminated through Blue Badge Tourist Guide.</p> <p>One web based newsletter "OnTrack - Autumn 2012" have been published on outdoor access</p>

		One leaflet developed on “access opportunities around Hazlehead and Countesswells” with 15,000 copies printed and a lower resolution web friendly version uploaded to website.
4.2 Support the implementation of the Core Path Plan	This is an ongoing action through out the life of the Strategy. Progress has been made to way mark the core paths.	13km of core paths waymarked since September 2011 Further work is in progress
4.4 Use the Open Space Audit findings to identify priorities for improving access to specific open space types	An assessment has been carried out and the consultants are now in the process of developing the strategy. The playing pitch strategy will be presented to the elected members for approval in Autumn 2013 and will cover a period from 2013 to 2020.	Ongoing. 70% work has been completed.
5.1 Encourage schools and educational institutions to use open spaces	<p>This is an ongoing action throughout the life of the strategy. Housing and Environment Service played a leading role to deliver the action and worked with Education, Culture and Sport team and helped develop lesson plans for schools based on curriculum of excellence.</p> <p>Transport Strategy Team is delivering projects to promote open spaces. The Greenbrae Cycle Project is identifying and improving a number of paths in the Bridge of Don area for use by children travelling to and from school, some of which pass through areas of greenspace or promote the use of greenspace.</p> <p>Forest School initiative has been promoted as an out door learning activities through various projects using different types of open spaces at various places in the City.</p> <p>Sunnybank park provided allotments to the Sunnybank primary school as an outdoor learning involving school children in raising allotments.</p>	<p>Countryside Ranger Service has worked directly with 3463 young people over 87 sessions. Aberdeen Greenspace have established an outdoor classroom area.</p> <p>Countryside Ranger Service have also established outdoor classrooms at a number of schools, community centres and on the countryside sites</p> <p>6 Green Flags awarded in 2012/13. Total of 16 City schools have Green Flags. In addition 3 independent schools in Aberdeen have Green Flags. 93% of Aberdeen City Council schools are registered for Eco-schools awards.</p> <p>4 schools were involved in Forest Schools Bucksburn Academy, Riverbank Primary, St Joseph's RC School and Sunnybank Primary</p>
5.3 Promote active and healthy lifestyles	This is an ongoing action through out the life of the Strategy. Some progress has been made and different activities have been carried out to achieve the	Ongoing promotion of the Aberdeen Health Walks devised by ACC Countryside Ranger Service with NHS Grampian & Walk Aberdeen.

	<p>objectives.</p> <p>The Transport Strategy team worked to increase the number of children cycling through encouraging schools to deliver cycle training and taking part in road safety initiatives such as Give Me Cycle Space.</p> <p>Publication of the Aberdeen Cycle Map and other promotional literature.</p> <p>Physical infrastructure to support active travel - new cycle routes around the Greenbrae area, implementation of A96 cycle route.</p> <p>The results of the city voice survey shows that people would like more facilities in the open spaces such as water features, food and drink, play areas, toilets, planting, cleanliness, good design and accessibility.</p>	<p>Creation of a Alzheimer Scotland garden group at Duthie Park</p> <p>Transport Strategy team held 8 Getabout events - 4 in schools, 3 public events and 1 workplace event (AMEC), as well as 2 school events as part of the Give Me Cycle Space campaign to encourage healthy living through walking and cycling.</p> <p>Transport Strategy team provided advice to individuals and businesses on active modes of transport</p> <p>Transport Strategy team provided travel planning advice and support to developers, businesses and schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The results of the City voice survey showed that 45.6 % of the residents visit Duthie Park as a major recreational open space,</li> <li>• 23.7% use Hazlehead Park,</li> <li>• 10.3 % Seaton Park and</li> <li>• Less then 5 % people use Victoria and Westburn Park.</li> <li>• 14.8 % have no preference of using open spaces.</li> <li>• 37% of the city residents visit thier favourite open spaces or parks 1-5 times a year,</li> <li>• 21% visits 6-11 times a year,</li> <li>• 19 % visits 1-3 times a year and</li> <li>• Only 2.2 % people visit daily.</li> <li>• The results suggests that the most favourite types of open spaces are trees and woodlands (48.6%), followed by</li> <li>• Open semi natural areas (47. 2%),</li> </ul>
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<p>5.4 Enable and promote events in open spaces</p> <p>5.4.2 Work with event organisations, business and communities to encourage the use of open spaces for events</p>	<p>This is an ongoing action throughout the life of the Strategy. Housing and Environment Team run Corporate volunteering days with various organisations such as Nexen, Scottish Enterprise Grampian and Mitie to run Corporate volunteering days.</p> <p>Various events were held over the year to promote the use of open spaces. The major ones are a Bike Week, with Getabout and Active Schools and a family cycling event in Hazlehead Park supported by the Transport strategy team.</p> <p>As a part of the Queen,s Dimond Jubilee celebration an event was organised by the local community group Common Good Aberdeen at the Union Terrace Gardens in June 2012. The event was attended by the residents of the City and also attracted visitors from other parts of the Country and abroad. People from all age groups enjoyed a day in the park drinking Tea and listening to the live music performed by various artists.</p> <p>An Art competition was held in the Union Terrace Garden Age Group 4 -12 in December as a part of the Christmas celebrations.</p> <p>In October 2011 a bulb planting event was held in the Union Terrace Garden. Children from Gilcomston Nursery and Primary School planted 3000 bulbs. Friends of the Denburn planted 500 crocus bulbs at the end of</p>	<p>Family Funday for Nexen held at Lochinch Farm. One corporate volunteer day held at Duthie Park</p> <p>Over 40 people attended the Hazlehead family cycling event</p> <p>Over 3500 people attended the Diamond Jubilee Tea Party in the Union Terrace Garden.</p> <p>Over 600 people attended the event family Christmas Festival.</p>



	Ord Street.	
6.1 Develop private, public and voluntary partnerships	This is an ongoing action throughout the life of the Strategy. Business and communities are involved in developing with “Friends of” groups and Community Safety Partnerships. Countryside Ranger Service and community committees are established to provide opportunities for community volunteering.	Three partnership projects have been developed. Piper Alpha Rose Garden Restoration Duthie Park Restoration and Seaton Backies  Café facility development in Hazlehead Park & Duthie Park
6.3 Encourage business, community and other agency involvement in the planning process, and active engagement in developing, enhancing and maintaining open spaces	Environmental Policy Team worked closely with the masterplanning team and developers on a number of masterplans and provided input on creating of new high quality open spaces in new developments. Developers are encouraged to use Open Space Supplementary Guidance and follow the Open space Quality standards.  Housing and Environment have developed business sponsorship of hanging baskets etc in the City centre, roundabout sponsorship, business involvement with Britain In Bloom/Beautiful Scotland In Bloom etc	Comments on following masterplans are provided <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loriston Masterplanning framework</li> <li>• Grandhome Masterplanning Framework</li> <li>• Maidencraig Master planning Framework</li> <li>• West Huxterstone Masterplanning Framework</li> <li>• New Hills Master Planning framework</li> <li>• Stoneywood Master planning Framework</li> </ul> <p>Business sponsorship has been achieved for the restoration of the Piper Alpha Rose Garden, Tree for Every Citizen, Duthie Park Restoration, city centre floral displays etc along with in kind contributions through staff volunteering opportunities with Housing and Environment projects</p>
6.4 Pursue income, sponsorship and other, in kind assistance to improve the quality and maintenance of open spaces	A review of corporate environmental policies of various businesses is under way which will set a strategic direction to approach business in Aberdeen and pursue funding opportunities and sponsorships to improve the quality of open spaces in the city.	Ongoing Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policies of 6 companies have been reviewed and further research is currently going on to find best ways of managing and maintaining open spaces. The Piper Alpha rose garden in Hazlehead Park has had a major restoration project this year with the replacement of the soil and replanting of all the roses funded by the Oil and Gas sector.
6.5 Establish an Open Space Forum to promote, encourage	Work is currently in progress to form an Environmental Monitoring and Policy Group and invite a Councillor to	Ongoing

and oversee community based projects and share skills and experience	Chair the Group. This will be a City wide group responsible for monitoring overall environmental policies, strategies and projects. Representatives from the partner organisations and relevant stakeholders will be invited to join the group.	
7.1 Promote the economic, environmental and social value of open spaces to all users	<p>This is a medium priority action throughout the life of the strategy having cross over with other objectives of the strategy.</p> <p>A case study on social return on investment (SROI) in a Sunnybank on community events programme has been carried out by Greenspace Scotland showing the social, environmental and economic value of the park.</p> <p>The report provides a forecast of the social return from investing in the Sunnybank Park Community programme.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>A newly formed community group “Friends of Hazlehead Park” is currently looking at various opportunities to generate economic activities in the park.</p> <p>One case study showing the economic value of community events in the park.</p> <p>The study found that every £1 invested would generate around £8 of benefits.</p> <p>The ARCHIE foundation launched its Garden Development Project at Royal Cornhill Hospital to transform a garden into a therapeutic outdoor space to be utilised by patients in the Young People Department (YPD) of Cornhill: a department dedicated to the support and recovery of youth with mental health illnesses. Various business supported the project</p>
8.1 Support the delivery of Aberdeen City’s Nature Conservation Strategy and Local Biodiversity Action Plan	<p>Housing and Environment Team worked in partnership with Aberdeen Greenspace to create a wildlife area in Duthie Park to promote biodiversity. Native trees and hedge rows have been planted to create a wildlife corridor. The area will be used for education and learning purposes to promote biodiversity.</p> <p>The Urban and Communities NELBAP has been setup to help implement the Council's NCS. It will help to improve the quality of life for people who live and work in an urban environment by encouraging them to protect, enhance and promote biodiversity in their area</p>	<p>A Biodiversity Management Plan has been included as a part of 10 year Duthie Park Management Plan.</p> <p>Management plan for Hazlehead park is currently being developed involving communities and partners.</p> <p>Use of tree prunings and felled trees from the Arboriculture Service is being used/sold for biomass and for wood burning systems</p>
8.2 Encourage Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs) a valued, functional open spaces	<p>This is an ongoing action throughout the life of the strategy.</p> <p>Plans are being developed with the Friends of Seaton</p>	Provision for SUDS has been made in six masterplans submitted over the last 18 months

	<p>Park to improve the facilities of the park. This includes a study into the drainage systems, consideration for creating and managing a pond/wetland area where water is naturally collecting, refurbishment of the fountain, refurbishment of the walled garden</p>	
<p>8.3 Consider the use of open spaces for energy efficient/renewable energy and other technologies where appropriate</p>	<p>The work on the Trees and Woodland Strategy has been taken forward by a year due to resource constraints. However the work on stage one the scoping of the Strategy is in progress to identify stakeholders and finding gaps within in existing strategies.</p>	<p>Ongoing – In progress</p> <p>Feasibiity Study has been undertaken for a biomass production facility at Hazlehead Park</p>
<p>8.4 Protect open spaces for the role they play in flooding management, air quality, and furthering biodiversity</p>	<p>Aberdeen City Council is in a process to develop a noise action plan. The purpose of the plan is to avoid, prevent or reduce on a prioritised basis the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to exposure to environmental noise." This includes the preservation of existing quiet areas as well as reducing high levels of noise in major agglomerations developing Candidate Noise Management Areas (CNMAs) and Candidate Quiet Areas (CQA). CNMAs are locations where residents are potentially exposed to highest noise levels. CQAs are areas in an urban environment such parks and open spaces where people can visit to enjoy peace and tranquillity. The action plan will add further protection to the open spaces and amenity areas and exposure to environmental noise.</p> <p>Policies in the Local Development Plan are fully supported to protect the open spaces and the use of open spaces in flooding management and tackling climate change. In the new developments developers are encouraged to design open spaces to reduce the flood risk and make provision of SUDS where opportunities are available.</p> <p>Aberdeen City Council is working with Greenspace Scotland and community group Friends of Hazlehead Park to promote management of parks and open spaces as climate change green spaces. The main focus is to retrofit parks and open spaces in urban settings to</p>	<p>SUDS system has been developed as part of the Duthie Park Restoration project. The runoff from the park will be collected and re-circulated through the lake system. This will be a part of the management for the site.</p> <p>Hazlehead park has been selected as a pilot project to create first climate chnange park in Scotland.</p>

	mitigate the effects of climate change.	
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	Planting under the Granite City Tree planting project continued	90,000 trees have been planted under the Granite City Tree Planting Project.