

APPENDIX B - DRAFT STANDARDS FOR OPEN SPACE IN RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ON GREENFIELD SITES

A hierarchy of open space sites is explained in Figure 1. Indicative sizes for sites, accessibility standards and quality standards are provided, the aim being to ensure appropriate levels of provision of good quality and accessible open space. In order to deliver larger open space sites, it is important that these guidelines are taken into account during the masterplanning of development allocations.

A minimum of 2.8 hectares of open space per 1000 population is required within residential, greenfield development. This should comprise the categories of open space listed in Figure 2, although a degree of flexibility will be required in terms of the nature of the development.

The development of new open space should take into account the Open Space Audit's maps which show the provision of each type of open space. The maps should be used to identify the current level of provision of each type of open space in the surrounding area, so that new open space provision relates to the needs of the area.

FIGURE 1: HIERARCHY OF OPEN SPACE SITES				
Open Space Type	Description	Indicative Site Size	Accessibility Standard	Quality Standard
Major Open Spaces	Large areas of open space attracting visitors from Aberdeen City and Shire, often offering a wide range of uses, including informal recreational, sport, large scale equipped play facilities, walking routes, seating, lighting, toilets, car parks etc. There may be a diversity of habitat/landscapes. Receives regular maintenance.	>5 hectares	All residents within 1500 metres (around 20 minute walk) of a Major Open Space.	Green Flag 'good' standard*
Neighbourhood Open Spaces	Open spaces that provide a range of recreational uses, attracting users from more than one neighbourhood. These spaces could include equipped play facilities, natural areas, seating, paths/ access, community event space, some formal landscape features, car park etc. Receives regular maintenance.	2-5 hectares	All residents within 600 metres (around 10 minutes walk) of a Neighbourhood Open Space.	Green Flag 'good' standard*
Local Open Space	Smaller spaces that provide a more limited range of local recreation uses, and are spread throughout a local area. As most users will reach them on foot, they are well connected by paths to community facilities and surrounding areas. Receives regular maintenance.	0.4-2 hectares	All residents within 400 metres (around 5 minutes walk) of a Local Open Space.	Green Flag 'good' standard*

FIGURE 2: CATEGORIES OF OPEN SPACE				
Open Space Type	Description	Indicative Quantity	Accessibility	Quality
Play space	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people. E.g. Equipped play areas, ball courts, outdoor basketball hoop areas, skateboard areas, teenage shelters.	0.3ha per 1000 population	All residents within 400 metres of a Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP)	National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) LEAP Standards
Outdoor Sports Areas	Natural or artificial surfaces used for sport and recreation. E.g. playing fields, pitches, tennis courts, bowling greens, athletics tracks, water sports facilities.	1.6ha per 1000 population	All residents within 1200 metres of Outdoor Sports facilities.	NPFA Standards
Natural Greenspace and Green Corridors	Includes woodland, heathland, scrub, grassland, wetland, coastal areas, riverbanks, disused railway lines, green access routes and open water. Also includes designated areas such as Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS), Local Nature Reserves (LNR), Sites of Special Scientific Interests (SSSI) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC). The primary purposes include nature conservation, walking, cycling, horse riding, leisure, non-motorised travel, environmental education.	1ha minimum Natural Greenspace per 1000 population	All residents within 400 metres of a natural greenspace >2ha and 2000 metres of a natural greenspace >5ha	**Based on principles explained further in guidance below: Natural Appearance, Enable Contact With Wildlife, Recognisable Features, Sense of Seasonality, Explore, Priority Habitats and Species
Allotments or Community Gardens	Areas or plots which are mainly cultivated by the occupier or community group for the purpose of producing fruit or vegetables for personal consumption.	0.3 hectares per 1000 properties with less than 60m ² private green spaces, cultivatable according to the health quality standards set out below.	Allotments should be no more than 800m from peoples' homes, and that the (minimum) size/number of plots at a site will be determined through a mix of the quality standards below and the number of people within the allotment catchment area.	***Based on principles explained further in guidance below: Safe & Secure, Biodiverse, Services, Inclusive, Access, Community, and Health.

***Green Flag 'Good' Standard:**

The Green Flag Award® scheme is the benchmark national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales and is becoming more widely used in Scotland. There are eight key criteria used in judging open spaces put forward for Green Flag Awards, which are similar to the quality criteria used in Aberdeen's Open Space Audit 2010. They relate to: A welcoming place; Healthy, safe and secure; Clean and well maintained; Sustainability; Conservation and heritage;

Community involvement; Marketing; and Management. Although it is not necessarily being suggested that sites should be put forward for the award, the standards of quality defined in the scheme are regarded as appropriate measures of quality to work towards.

More information is available at <http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/GreenFlag/AboutUs/Default.aspx>

****Natural Greenspace and Green Corridors**

All natural greenspace and green corridors should meet the following quality criteria: -

Natural Appearance- sites should be 'natural' in appearance and include minimal manmade artificial features so that people can be provided with a sense of nature and tranquillity.

Enable Contact - sites should enable contact with wildlife.

Recognisable Features - important features should be present including recognisable habitats and wildlife such as birds, butterflies, wildflowers, open water etc.

Sense of Seasonality - sites should allow people to get a real sense of what season it is.

Explore - sites should provide opportunities for exploration or 'nature play' through the existence of varied habitats.

Priority Habitats and Species - sites should consist of at least local-level priority habitats and species as per the North East Local Biodiversity Action Plan

*****Allotments or Community Gardens:**

Allotments and community gardens should meet the following quality criteria: -

Safe, Secure: Appropriate measures to ensure a safe site, i.e. natural surveillance, lockable communal storage area / meeting space. Design should meet Grampian Police 'Secure by Design' standards.

Biodiverse: Include native, secure, productive living fencing; other peripheral / communal planting / wildlife schemes (i.e. ponds and beekeeping) and consider Aberdeen City Council and other local and national nature conservation guidelines.

Services: One compost bin per plot; community composting facility for general use; dedicated burning area; metered water supply with turn taps on stand pipe(s) - one standpipe per 10-15 plots; sites should make use of water efficiency opportunities, i.e. ground water, rain water capture; at least one communal Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant toilet - one per 50 plots. Natural / low maintenance systems preferred, i.e. off the main water network – soakaway / septic tank.

Inclusive: At least one disabled friendly plot with wheelchair access and raised beds.

Access: One plot per site located close to entrance, toilet and standpipe, with a minimum of one per 50 plots; car access to gate, with appropriate turning/parking/etc – determined by location / distance from homes; appropriate parking - disabled parking spaces should match number of disabled plots, and where parking desired, one additional parking space per ten plots. Design should meet DDA guidelines and provide best drainage solutions, i.e. reduction of hard surfaces.

Community: A flexible mix of plots sizes, from 50m² to 200m²; community / group plots size as appropriate, through discussion with local community / stakeholders; weather and vandal proof notice board inside site; name sign outside; set aside area in site for potential future communal meeting space, other initiative for decision of plotting community, i.e. demonstration beds, wildlife initiatives, etc.

Health: Ground cultivatable to a minimum depth of 60cm (100cm ideal standard); tested / known to be safe for the growth of consumable products (as determined by local authority potentially contaminated land records); away from areas that pose risks of contamination, i.e. busy roads, industry and flood risk.