

APPENDIX B - STRATEGY CONTEXT

National Strategy Documents

1.1 The following strategy documents provide an overview of the national strategic context and actions in relation to open space and are summarised in the following paragraphs:

- Promoting Healthy Cities (Royal Town Planning Institute, 2014);
- Green Infrastructure Strategies (Natural England guidance, 2014);
- The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP) The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (2011); and
- Everybody Active, Every Day (Public Health England, 2014).

Promoting Healthy Cities (Royal Town Planning Institute)¹

1.2 The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) published Promoting Healthy Cities, a document tackling the role of planning in creating healthy cities in October 2014.

1.3 The report calls for the UK to develop more integrated strategies for healthy place making, gather greater intelligence on the social and economic determinants of health and reform and strengthen institutions to ensure integration of health policies. This process should involve a range of professions and community stakeholders.

Green Infrastructure Strategies (Natural England)²

1.4 Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategies (Natural England, October 2014) provides guidance on:

- Why we need GI;
- What GI should achieve;
- What GI is; and
- GI strategies.

1.5 Natural England states that GI:

"Contributes so much to the setting and quality of people's living and working environments, and its role in generating economic benefit has often been overlooked".

1.6 The guidance states that *"policies and decisions on development proposals should conserve and enhance environmental assets"*. Consideration should be made to providing off road, green routes for walkers and cyclists, and consider privately owned land, which provides connectivity for wildlife, and helps tackle climate change and flooding.

¹ <https://www.rtpi.org.uk/policy/2014/february/promoting-healthy-cities/>

² <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/35033>

The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP) The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (2011)³

- 1.7 The NEWP states that *“People cannot flourish without the benefits and services our natural environment provide. Nature is a complex, interconnected system. A healthy, properly functioning natural environment is the foundation of sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal wellbeing”*.
- 1.8 The Government wants to put the value of nature at the heart of decision-making, in Government, local communities and businesses. To achieve this the NEWP focuses on four key areas:
- Protecting and improving our natural environment - Achieve a better quality natural environment by taking and promoting actions across farmed land, woodlands and forests, towns and cities, and rivers and water bodies;
 - Growing the green economy - Economic growth and the natural environment are mutually compatible. Sustainable economic growth relies on services provided by the natural environment, often referred to as ‘ecosystem services’;
 - Reconnecting people and nature - High-quality natural environments foster healthy neighbourhoods; green spaces encourage social activity and reduce crime. The natural environment can help children’s learning; and
 - International and EU leadership - Environmental leadership should be demonstrable internationally and within the EU, to protect and enhance natural assets globally, promoting environmentally and socially sustainable growth.

Everybody Active, Every Day (Public Health England, 2014)

- 1.9 Everybody Active, Every Day is the national physical activity framework for England. The aim of the framework is to bring about real and long lasting change using a long-term, evidence based approach to embed physical activity into the fabric of daily life, making it an easy, cost-effective and ‘normal’ choice in every community in England. The priorities of the framework are:
- Active society - Making physical activity part of the daily routine;
 - Moving professionals - Thoughtful urban design, understanding land use patterns and creating transportation systems that promote walking and cycling will help to create active, healthier and more liveable communities; and
 - Active environment - Creating the right spaces, including healthy environments to support health, recreation and wellbeing and encouraging people to use green space, playground and cycle lanes.

Great Manchester Strategy Documents

- 1.10 The following strategy documents provide an overview of Greater Manchester's strategic context:

³

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/228842/8082.pdf

- Greater Manchester Strategy 2021-2031, Good Lives for All (2022);
- Greater Manchester's Springboard to a Green City Region (GMCA);
- Greater Manchester 5-Year Environment Plan (GMCA, 2019); and
- Northern Forest Project (from 2018).

Greater Manchester Strategy 2021-2031, Good Lives for All (GMCA, 2022)⁴

- 1.11 The Strategy is Greater Manchester's plan for all communities, neighbourhoods, towns and cities which make up the city-region. It is a plan for recovery and renewal following the pandemic.
- 1.12 The Strategy aims to achieve the shared vision of '*Good Lives for All: that Greater Manchester is a great place to grow up, get on and grow old; a great place to invest, do business, visit and study*' and how this will be achieved.
- 1.13 The Strategy builds on the work undertaken by the Greater Manchester Strategy - Our People, Our Place (2017), by ensuring that all the people in Greater Manchester have access to safe, decent and affordable transport, accelerate plans towards carbon neutrality, creation of greener homes and communities and better jobs and skills.

Greater Manchester 5-Year Environment Plan (GMCA, 2019)

- 1.14 This Environment Plan is a key part of the Greater Manchester Strategy and brings together a set of bold plans for achieving the aims and objectives of the Strategy for current and future generations.
- 1.15 The Plan focuses on addressing the major environmental challenges that threaten the future health and prosperity of the city-region, including mitigating climate change, air quality, production and consumption of resources, natural environment, and resilience and adaptation to the impacts of climate change.
- 1.16 The Environment Plan sets out the following priorities for the next 5 years in relation to the natural environment:
- Managing our land sustainably, including planting 1 million trees by 2024;
 - Managing our water and its environment sustainably;
 - Achieving a net gain in biodiversity for new development;
 - Increasing investment into our natural environment; and
 - Increasing engagement with our natural environment.

Greater Manchester's Springboard to a Green City Region⁵ (GMCA)

- 1.17 The springboard report follows on from the Green Summit in 2017. The vision is to transport Greater Manchester into a world leading greener, cleaner, climate resilient city region, improving the health and quality of life for millions of people and protecting our green spaces.

⁴ [GMCA Greater Manchester Strategy 2021–2031 \(aboutgreatermanchester.com\)](https://aboutgreatermanchester.com)

⁵ <https://greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/media/1317/springboard-report.pdf>

- 1.18 In terms of the natural environment as well as recognising the multiple roles that green space plays there is the ambition to increase the ability of Greater Manchester's GI to take up and store the maximum amount of carbon dioxide possible.

Northern Forest Project (from 2018)

- 1.19 The Northern Forest Project aims to create a new forest for the nation, across 200 sqm. It is a combined project run by The Woodland Trust and The Community Forest Trust (including Mersey Forest, White Rose Forest, City of Trees and Heywoods). The aim of the project is to plant over 50 million trees over a 25 year period, stretching from Liverpool across to Hull with the M62 as its spine. The project brings together a set of shared ambitions and ideas on the role that trees and woodland can provide in enhancing the environment and improving the lives of communities in and around the towns and cities of northern England.

Local Strategy Documents

- 1.20 The following strategy documents provide an overview of the council's strategic context and actions in relation to open space:

- 'Creating a Better Place' vision;
- Corporate Plan (2017-2020);
- The Oldham Plan (2017-2022);
- Oldham Green New Deal Strategy (2020);
- Climate Change and Flood Risk Topic Paper;
- Natural Environment Topic Paper;
- Open Land Topic Paper;
- Communities Topic Paper;
- Local Green Space Assessment;
- Open Space Study (2006);
- Oldham Playing Pitch Strategy & Action Plan, 2015-2025 (Oldham Council, 2015);
- South Pennines Regional Park; and
- Northern Roots, Oldham Council (since 2019).

'Creating a Better Place' Vision

- 1.21 The 'Creating a Better Place' vision will unlock £306m of investment across Oldham by focussing on building more homes for local people, delivering new jobs through town centre regeneration, and ensuring Oldham is a great place to visit and do business.

- 1.22 It will provide an approach for the council to support inclusive growth, thriving communities and the co-operative agenda by:

- Building quality homes;
- Providing opportunities to learn and gain new skills;
- Providing opportunities to grow local businesses and create jobs;
- Supporting Oldham's ambition to be the greenest borough;
- Embedding sustainability, energy efficiency and low (zero) carbon; and
- Improving life-chances and the health/well-being of our residents and local communities.

Corporate Plan (2017-2020)⁶

- 1.23 The Corporate Plan is part of a wider group of strategies which outline how the council will achieve the co-operative ambition for the borough including Greater Manchester Strategies and Plans and the Oldham Plan.
- 1.24 The ambition of the Corporate Plan is to *"deliver a co-operative future where everyone does their bit to create a confident and ambitious borough"*.
- 1.25 As part of the Plan, the council is committed to creating thriving communities by working proactively with residents and partners to promote healthy, independent lifestyles, living well, eating healthily and inspiring others, leading to healthier communities.
- 1.26 The Corporate Plan is currently under review.

The Oldham Plan (2017-2022)⁷

- 1.27 The Oldham Plan is a collective action statement explaining how the council will best service Oldham, its people, district and businesses. The ambition is to be a productive and cooperative place with healthy, aspirational and sustainable communities.
- 1.28 The Oldham Plan highlights the existing deep social and economic disadvantage present in Oldham, however notes this does not determine the future of Oldham.
- 1.29 Creating thriving communities is a key vision of The Oldham Plan, which means people and communities have the power to be healthy, happy, able to make positive choices and both offer and access insightful and responsive support when required.
- 1.30 The Oldham Plan is currently under review.

The Oldham Green New Deal Strategy (2020)

- 1.31 In July 2019, the council committed to becoming a Green New Deal council, setting targets of carbon neutrality for the council by 2025 and for the borough by 2030. The aim is for Oldham to become one of the greenest borough's in the country and tackle climate change.

Natural Environment Topic Paper⁸

- 1.32 The Natural Environment Topic Paper is one of a series that has been prepared as part of the process of evidence gathering to support the review and preparation of Oldham's Local Plan. The topic paper sets out current key policies, plans and strategies relating to the natural environment that will form the basis for the development of the Local Plan. Draft plan objectives are:
- PO5 Ensuring Oldham is the greenest borough; and
 - PO7 Improving life-chances and the health and well-being of our residents and local communities.

⁶ [Corporate Plan 2017–2020 | Oldham Council](#)

⁷ [The Oldham Plan - Oldham Partnership](#)

⁸ [Natural Environment Topic Paper | Oldham Council](#)

Climate Change and Flood Risk Topic Paper⁹

- 1.33 The Climate Change and Flood Risk Topic has also been prepared as part of the process of evidence gathering to support the review and preparation of Oldham's Local Plan.
- 1.34 The Paper recommends draft plan objective 'PO6 Embedding sustainability, energy efficiency and low (zero) carbon'.

Open Land Topic Paper¹⁰

- 1.35 The Open Land Topic Paper has been prepared as part of the process of evidence gathering to support the review and preparation of Oldham's Local Plan.
- 1.36 The borough has 22 Other Protected Open Land (OPOL) sites in the adopted local plan (2011). These have reviewed these as part of the open space Study. Three of these sites are proposed for de-designation as part of Places for Everyone. A further two are proposed for de-designation as part of the Local Plan review..

Communities Topic Paper¹¹

- 1.37 The Communities Topic Paper notes some of the key issues for Oldham's communities are:
- Pockets of deprivation in the borough, particularly around the inner Oldham area, which have scored higher than the regional and national averages and high levels of child poverty;
 - Oldham has an aging population which brings issues of social isolation and loneliness;
 - Poor public realm in some more disadvantaged communities;
 - Attracting people to live, work and spend leisure time in Oldham, including promoting its town centres as a destination for people living in and outside of the borough. Also retaining people within the borough when they reach employment age, whilst at the same time promoting its links to GM and the city centre;
 - Encourage and support community food growing and education projects, with a food growing hub in every district;
 - The impact of growing populations in minority populations on community integration and cohesion;
 - Improving the life expectancy of Oldham's residents, that is currently below the national average; and
 - Improve air quality.

Local Green Space Assessment

- 1.38 There are 22 designated Other Protected Open Land (OPOL) sites allocated in the Joint DPD. OPOL sites provide similar functions to Local Green Space (LGS) (NPPF 2021, paragraphs 101 - 103) and this assessment provides the re-assessment of OPOL against the LGS criteria.

⁹ [Climate Change Topic Paper | Oldham Council](#)

¹⁰ https://www.oldham.gov.uk/site/custom_scripts/XL-downloads/OpenLandTopicPaper.pdf

¹¹ [Local Plan Review Communities Topic Paper | Oldham Council](#)

- 1.39 The assessment recommends the de-designation of some OPOL sites, which will be identified through the emerging Local Plan review or through GMCA Places for Everyone. Until such time as the Local Plan review or GMCA, Places for Everyone is in place they will continue to be designated as OPOL.

South Pennines Regional Park

- 1.40 Pennine Prospects are working to achieve a regional park, which Oldham falls within. The aims are:
- To positively promote and demonstrate sustainable economic, social and environmental investment at a landscape scale;
 - To positively promote the sustainable use of the natural, built and cultural resources of the South Pennines Regional Park;
 - To champion an inclusive and equal opportunities approach across the park so as to improve the quality of life, well-being and health of all people, communities and biodiversity for now and future generations;
 - To work with others to implement innovative approaches to sustainable land management, spatial planning, cultural and economic development; and
 - To invest in young people's potential to become the next generation of environmental advocates.

Northern Roots, Oldham Council (since 2019)

- 1.41 Oldham Council is planning a 65ha multi-disciplinary GI project called Northern Roots. The Northern Roots site is located in an area known as Snipe Clough, which extends from Alexandra Park southwards to the border with Ashton-under-Lyne and is predominately owned by Oldham Council.
- 1.42 Northern Roots aims to be a productive eco-park, looking to benefit and inspire residents and communities of Oldham, whilst becoming an asset for Greater Manchester and a site of national importance. Green living and sustainability will be at the heart of the project and it will serve as a live demonstration centre for sustainable technology and practise. The project underpins other significant developments across the borough, including the regeneration of Oldham's town centre and re-provision of the Alexandra Park Depot with a new facility - the Environmental Excellence Centre, adjacent to and providing an anchor for the Northern Roots site.

Oldham Playing Pitch Strategy & Action Plan, 2015-2025 (Oldham Council, 2015)

- 1.43 The Strategy provides a framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities between 2015 and 2025. The purpose in terms of planning, is to be an evidence base to shape Local Planning Policy, guide planning decisions on development proposals affecting playing fields and when appropriate, direct open space contributions to where resources are limited. The strategy covers football, cricket, rugby and hockey pitches and tennis courts, bowling greens and athletics tracks.

- 1.44 The Strategy aims to protect existing supply where it is needed, enhance outdoor sports facilities through improving quality and maintenance, and provide new outdoor sports facilities where there is demand.
- 1.45 It states that future local planning policy should seek to protect facilities and the scope to legally safeguard long term use of strategically important sites to the community. It reinforces NPPF and Sport England's policy on playing fields/ pitches, including provision for replacing lost provision and creating new provision.

Open Space Study (2006, 2010)

- 1.46 The Oldham Open Space Study (2006) was undertaken by PMP to provide a local needs assessment and audit of open space, sport and recreation facilities across the borough in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (Planning for Open Space Sport and Recreation, July 2002) and its Companion Guide (September 2002).
- 1.47 Steps one (identifying local needs) and step two (audit of open space provision) were undertaken in 2006 and subsequently updated in 2007-2008.
- 1.48 Steps three, four and five were undertaken in 2010. Step three sets recommended standards for accessibility, quality and quantity of the nine open space typologies in the study. Step four applies the set provision standards to the borough's open space provision and identifies where there are open space needs.
- 1.49 The study considers nine typologies of open space, including:
- parks and gardens;
 - natural and semi natural urban green spaces;
 - green corridors;
 - outdoor sports;
 - amenity greenspace;
 - provision for children and teenagers;
 - allotments and community gardens;
 - cemeteries and churchyards; and
 - civic spaces.
- 1.50 The study assessed quantity, quality and accessibility of the typologies listed above and identified any deficiencies in the borough. Areas to the east of the borough which comprise of moorland, farms and sparse residential settlements, do not meet accessibility standards but it is acknowledged that residents in these areas have better access to open countryside than other parts of the borough.



HEAD OFFICE

Genesis Centre,
Birchwood Science Park,
Warrington
WA3 7BH

Tel: 01925 844004
E-mail: tep@tep.uk.com

**MARKET
HARBOROUGH**

The Reynard Suite,
Bowden Business Village,
Market Harborough,
Leicestershire,
LE16 7SA

Tel: 01858 383120
E-mail: mh@tep.uk.com

GATESHEAD

Office 26, Gateshead
International Business
Centre,
Mulgrave Terrace,
Gateshead
NE8 1AN

Tel: 0191 605 3340
E-mail: gateshead@tep.uk.com

LONDON

8 Trinity Street,
London,
SE1 1DB

Tel: 020 3096 6050
E-mail: london@tep.uk.com

CORNWALL

4 Park Noweth,
Churchtown,
Cury,
Helston
Cornwall
TR12 7BW

Tel: 01326 240081
E-mail: cornwall@tep.uk.com
