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**East Lothian Open Space Strategy 2018 Appendix 1 – 5**

Appendix 1 – Cluster Assessment

Appendix 2 – Sports Pitch Summary Table

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**Appendix 1**  
**Cluster Assessment**



## CLUSTER ASSESSMENT

### GIS Mapping and Assessment

Once the mapping exercise was completed, the application of the accessibility standards enabled the analysis stages of the Strategy to be progressed. Figures 2 to 7 illustrate the application of the quality, quantity and accessibility standards for East Lothian. A summary of which is set out in the sections below.

As expected, there are variations in supply of different types of open space in different parts of East Lothian. Overall, the Council area enjoys a good supply of high quality parks and open spaces. Alongside the supply of parks and open spaces, different levels of demand have been identified in terms of use of sports facilities and allotments. Current and future planned supply of sports facilities and allotments facilities is good and is expected to meet demand.

#### Does the Cluster meet the standard?

Cluster	Green Networks (Semi-natural Greenspaces, Green Corridors)	Parks and Gardens			Amenity Greenspace	Playspace	Sports Areas
	Accessibility	Quantity	Quality	Accessibility	Quality	Accessibility	Accessibility
Dunbar	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Haddington	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Musselburgh	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
North Berwick	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Prestonpans	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tranent	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

## Dunbar Cluster

The Dunbar Cluster area includes the villages of East Linton, Stenton, Innerwick, Spott and Oldhamstocks. Dunbar has a growing population and good road and rail links to Edinburgh and the south. The Cluster includes the small villages of Stenton (Conservation Area), Innerwick and Oldhamstocks are located in the foothills of the Lammermuir Hills.

### Application of Standards Summary

Green Network	Parks and Gardens			Amenity Greenspace	Playspace	Sports Areas
	Access	Quantity	Quality			
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes

### Green Networks

The settlements in the Dunbar Cluster meet the ELC standard, providing areas of greenspace over 0.03ha in size within 300 metres of people’s homes. The smaller villages of Innerwick, Stenton and Oldhamstocks did not fall within the study area for the Characterisation Study so data does not exist for these settlements.

### Parks and Gardens

Since 2009, significant quality upgrades have been undertaken in Dunbar at Ashfield (DU01), Seafield Crescent (DU17) and Winterfield Park (DU24). Open space upgrades have also been undertaken in East Linton (EL01 and EL04) and Innerwick (IN01). A number of privately owned open spaces in Dunbar have been added to the database and quality scores assigned.

In terms of quantity of provision of parks and gardens, the cluster just meets the ELC standard (60m<sup>2</sup>) with 61.48m<sup>2</sup> parks per household. In terms of quality of parks, the cluster meets the standard.



### Amenity Greenspace

The Dunbar Cluster meets the quality standard for amenity greenspace, with an average score of 61%.

### Playspace

Dunbar is the largest settlement in this cluster. There is 1 NEAP, 13 LEAPs and 2 LAPs. Small pockets of new residential development to the south of the railway at Hallhill do not fall within the catchments of nearby play areas. Consider providing a NEAP to the south of the railway at Dunbar in an appropriate central location (possibly at Hallhill Healthy Living Centre or other site) and ensure that all new development provide adequate play provision. All the other smaller settlements in this cluster meet the ELC standard.

### **Sports Areas Actions**

Proposed actions to improve local and regional sports provision:

- Current and future demand will be met for cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis and bowls
- All residential areas within the cluster fall within 1.2km of a football pitch and therefore the Cluster is considered to meet the ELC accessibility standard.
- Dunbar Grammar School growth will yield 1No. 2G pitch on site at the school.
- Consider provision of multi sport area at East Linton to accommodate future tennis demand, increased primary school use and other community club use.
- Consider more formal use of Winterfield and purchase of land west of Hallhill /Dunbar PS.
- Resurfacing of 1No. full size 2G pitches at Hallhill required.

### **Parks and Play Area Actions**

The standards analysis has identified the following key actions:

- In terms of accessibility the residential areas to the south and south east of Dunbar do not fall within the catchments of parks. Consider providing a local park in a central location within a residential area to the south of the railway (for example at Lochend Wood or Ashfield) to ensure that all residents have access to a local park.
- Ensure that any new residential developments around Dunbar, especially at Hallhill, provide adequate on-site open space provision.
- Consider providing a NEAP to the south of the railway at Dunbar in an appropriate central location (possibly at Hallhill Healthy Living Centre, Lochend Wood or Ashfield).

In terms of the LDP, the following represents the current thinking with regard to S75 contributions towards enhancing existing sites rather than asking for stand-alone provision on the site of the development.

- Hallhill North – Subject to route across railway line, opportunity exists to enhance equipped play and informal recreation at Pine Street
- East Linton Orchardfield – Opportunity exists to enhance equipped play in East Linton Park

## Haddington Cluster

Haddington is the second largest town in East Lothian, and the administrative centre for the Council. There are a number of smaller villages scattered throughout the inland area including Athelstaneford (dating back to the 18th Century), Bolton, East Saltoun, Garvald, Gifford, Drem and Humbie. This cluster area extends to the Lammermuir Hills in the south and the historic villages of Gifford and Garvald.

### Application of Standards Summary

Green Network	Parks and Gardens			Amenity Greenspace	Playspace	Sports Areas
	Access	Quantity	Quality			
Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

### Green Networks

The settlements in the Haddington Cluster meet the ELC standard, providing areas of greenspace over 0.03ha in size within 300 metres of people’s homes.

### Parks and Gardens

Since 2009, significant quality upgrades have been undertaken in Haddington at Davidson Terrace (HA12) and Whittinghame Drive (HA37). Memorial Park (HA35). Open space upgrades have also been undertaken in Gifford (GI02, GI04) and Athelstaneford (AT02). A number of privately owned open spaces in Haddington have been added to the database and quality scores assigned.

In terms of quantity of provision of parks and gardens, the cluster meets the ELC standard with 80.08m<sup>2</sup> parks per household. In terms of quality of parks, the cluster meets the standard. Small pockets of residential areas

at the western extremities of Haddington do not fall within the catchments of parks. Therefore, the cluster is not considered to meet the accessibility standard.



### Amenity Greenspace

The Haddington Cluster meets the quality standard for amenity greenspace, with an average score of 60%.

### Playspace

Haddington is the largest settlement in this cluster. There are 2 NEAPs, 11 LEAPs and 4 LAPs. There is only one small pocket of residential land that falls outwith the catchments of the closest play areas. These areas appear to be modern residential developments that have not had play provision included in the layouts. All the other smaller settlements in this cluster meet the ELC standard.

### **Sports Areas Actions**

Proposed actions to improve local and regional sports provision:

- Current and future demand will be met for cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis and bowls.
- 1No. full size sports pitch will be provided at Letham Mains housing development site as a result of housing growth identified in the Local Development Plan.
- All residential areas within the cluster fall within 1.2km of a football pitch and therefore the Cluster is considered to meet the ELC accessibility standard.

### **Parks and Play Area Actions**

The standards analysis has identified the following key actions:

- Small pockets of residential areas at the western extremities of Haddington do not fall within the catchments of parks. However, there are 6 play facilities in the area that may have been built as part of the housing development. Explore if there is scope to upgrade an existing open space to a local park. Ensure that future housing developments to the west of the town include park and play facilities within the development.
- Improve access to the countryside from Haddington.
- Opportunity for green network enhancement at Letham Mains.

In terms of the LDP, the following represents the current thinking with regard to S75 contributions towards enhancing existing sites rather than asking for stand-alone provision on the site of the development.

- No opportunities to enhance existing facilities based on current land allocations



## Musselburgh Cluster

Musselburgh, Inveresk and Wallyford are adjoining communities, located on the north western edge of East Lothian. A high number of residents commute to Edinburgh for employment. Wallyford is a former mining village, with a declining population and high unemployment rates. To the south are the villages of Whitecraig and Old Craighall. Large scale new developments are planned in Musselburgh and Wallyford.

### Application of Standards Summary

Green Network	Parks and Gardens			Amenity Greenspace	Playspace	Sports Areas
	Access	Quantity	Quality			
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

### Green Networks

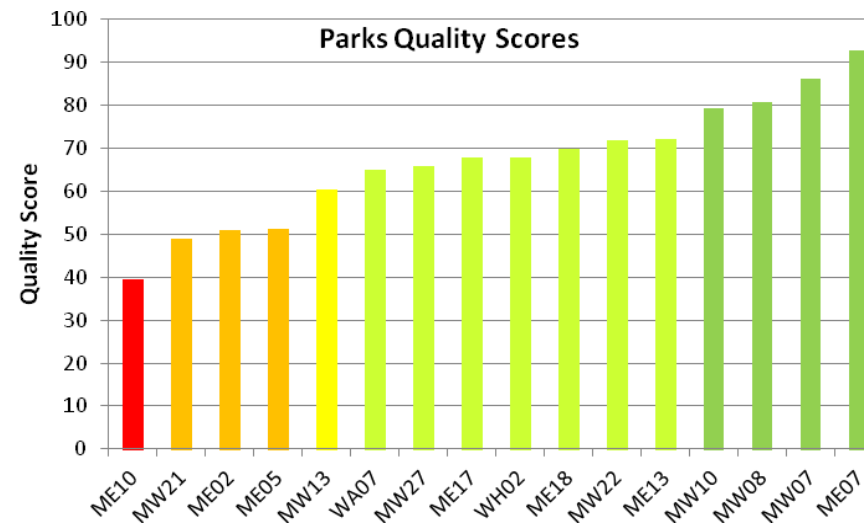
The settlements in the Musselburgh Cluster meet the ELC standard, providing areas of greenspace over 0.03ha in size within 300 metres of people’s homes.

### Parks and Gardens

Since 2009, significant quality upgrades have been undertaken in Musselburgh, including Goose Green, Old Craighall Park and Lewisvale Park. A number of privately owned open spaces have been added to the database and quality scores assigned.

In terms of quantity of provision of parks and gardens, the cluster meets the ELC standard with 68.39m<sup>2</sup> parks per household. In terms of quality of parks, the cluster meets the standard. Only very small pockets of residential areas on the western extremities of Musselburgh do not fall

within the catchments of local parks. Therefore the cluster is considered to meet the accessibility standard.



### Amenity Greenspace

The Musselburgh Cluster is the only cluster not to meet the quality standard for amenity greenspace, with an average score of 57%.

### Playspace

There are only small pockets of residential areas that are not within 400m of a LEAP, including areas to the south of the river in Musselburgh in the historic town centre and a small area of housing to the north of Pinkie playing fields. There are 3 NEAPs, 14 LEAPs and 3 LAPs in Musselburgh and, therefore, is considered well provided for in terms of children’s play. Wallyford has 1 LEAP and 1 NEAP and therefore is well provided for. Whitecraig has 1 NEAP and Old Craighall have 1 LEAP and therefore the villages are well provided for.

### Sports Areas Actions

Proposed actions to improve local and regional sports provision:

- 4No. full size sports pitches, which will be provided through the delivery of a 3G and 1 full size grass pitch at Wallyford as a result of housing growth identified in the Local Development Plan.
- 3No. full size grass sports pitches will be provided at Craighall, Old Craighall and Newton Farm as a result of housing growth identified in the Local Development Plan.
- Current and future demand is met for cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis, shinty and bowls
- All residential areas fall within the cluster fall within 1.2km of a football pitch and, therefore, the Cluster is considered to meet the ELC accessibility standard

### Parks and Play Area Actions

The standards analysis has identified the following key actions:

- Explore opportunity to provide a LEAP play area in the heart of the town, to ensure that all residents of Musselburgh have access to a good quality play area. Alternatively, upgrade Lewisvale Park play facilities and provide better signage from the town centre.
- Access to the surrounding countryside is limited due to the A1 road corridor that acts as a barrier. Explore opportunities to improve access links to the wider countryside path network through masterplanning new residential developments and the delivery of the Segregated Active Travel Corridor (SATC).
- Improve path network and signage links to Levenhall Links to increase the use of this open space resource.
- Opportunity for green network enhancement at Wallyford (SESplan)
- Ensure that any new residential developments around Wallyford provide adequate on-site open space provision.
- Address quality issues at Macbeth Moir (ME10), Stoneyhill Avenue (MW21), Edenhall (ME02) and Levenhall (ME05).

In terms of the LDP, the following represents the current thinking with regard to S75 contributions towards enhancing existing sites rather than asking for standalone provision on the site of the development.

- Craighall – Option exists to enhance capacity at Old Craighall Park for equipped play and informal recreation
- Whitecraig South – Development open space should be sited adjacent to existing Whitecraig Park with S75 to enhance equipped play

## North Berwick Cluster

North Berwick is located on the central part of the coast of East Lothian. The town has a growing population and people commuting to nearby centres of employment. To the west, the attractive historic villages of Aberlady, Gullane and Dirleton follow the coastal road. The areas settlements are set in high quality landscapes, and are largely composed of conservation areas. Conservation of the built and natural heritage is a priority within this area, which forms the focal point for tourism and recreation (particularly golf and coastal access) within East Lothian.

### Application of Standards Summary

Green Network	Parks and Gardens			Amenity Greenspace	Playspace	Sports Areas
	Access	Quantity	Quality			
Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No

### Green Networks

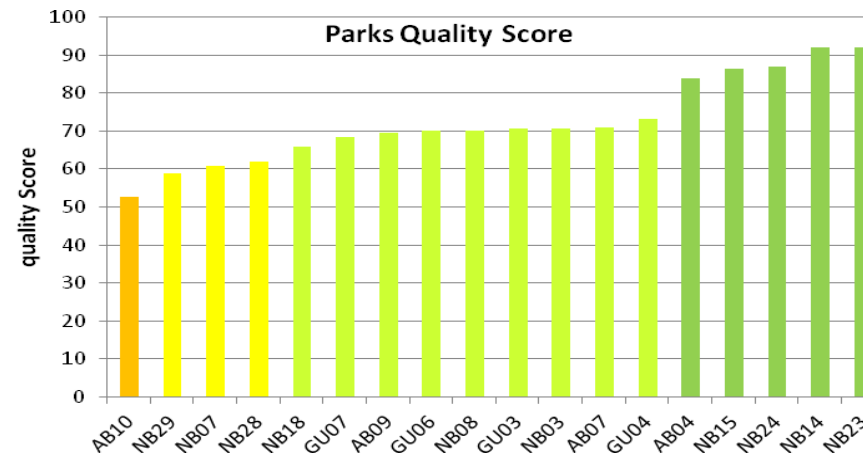
The settlements in the North Berwick Cluster meet the ELC standard, providing areas of greenspace over 0.03ha in size within 300 metres of people’s homes.

### Parks and Gardens

Since 2009, significant quality upgrades have been undertaken in Lochbridge Road (North Berwick) and Gullane Recreation Park. A number of privately owned open spaces in North Berwick have been added to the database and quality scores assigned.

In terms of quantity of provision of parks and gardens, the cluster meets the ELC standard with 67.17m<sup>2</sup> parks per household. In terms of quality of parks, the cluster meets the standard. Small pockets of residential areas on the western extremities of North Berwick and areas to the east and

west of Gullane do not fall within the catchments of parks. Therefore the cluster is not considered to meet the accessibility standard.



### Amenity Greenspace

The North Berwick Cluster meets the quality standard for amenity greenspace, with an average score of 64%.

### Playspace

North Berwick is the largest settlement in the Cluster. Approximately 50% of the residential areas falls below the ELC play standard, with much of the western part of the town at a distance from play areas. There is only 1 NEAP, 3 LEAPs and 2 LAPs, which is relatively few compared with other East Lothian settlements. Further work should be undertaken to establish if there is a requirement for play provision, with regard to the demographics, available land for additional facilities and community needs. An elderly population, presence of large gardens and lack of an appropriate central space may determine provision.

All the other smaller settlements in this cluster meet the ELC standard.

### **Sports Areas Actions**

Proposed actions to improve local and regional sports provision:

- Current and future demand met for cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis and bowls.
- 1No. full size sports pitch will be provided at Mains Farm housing development site as a result of housing growth identified in the Local Development Plan.
- Approximately 50% of the residential areas to the west of North Berwick do not fall within the catchments of football pitches. Therefore the cluster is not considered to meet the ELC accessibility standard. However, overall provision within the town is sufficient at strategically located sites to suit the town's needs.

### **Parks and Play Area Actions**

The standards analysis has identified the following key actions:

- Consult with the local community with regard to the provision of local parks and play provision in North Berwick and Gullane. The relatively high numbers of houses with gardens and the number of retired people in these settlements may preclude the need for these facilities.
- Protect existing open space and ensure that they remain accessible and useful to local communities and visitors alike.
- Address quality issues at the Aberlady War Memorial Open Space (AB10).
- Manage potential conflicts between the use of some of the more sensitive areas of the coast for recreation and the need for conservation of these spaces.

In terms of the LDP, the following represents the current thinking with regard to S75 contributions towards enhancing existing sites rather than asking for stand-alone provision on the site of the development.

- Dirleton – Enhance existing equipped play at Dirleton Green
- Gullane 2 x development on south east – Enhance existing equipped play and informal recreation in Gullane Recreation park
- Heugh Road – Enhance existing equipped play at Recreation Park

## Prestonpans Cluster

The Prestonpans Cluster includes the coastal settlements of Longniddry, Cockenzie, Port Seaton and Prestonpans. These settlements have amongst the highest rates of unemployment in East Lothian, the lowest car ownership rates and a relatively young population (i.e. high proportion of residents under the age of 18). They also are home to a high number of commuters, travelling to the nearby employment centres of Edinburgh and Midlothian.

### Application of Standards Summary

Green Network	Parks and Gardens			Amenity Greenspace	Playspace	Sports Areas
	Access	Quantity	Quality			
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

### Green Networks

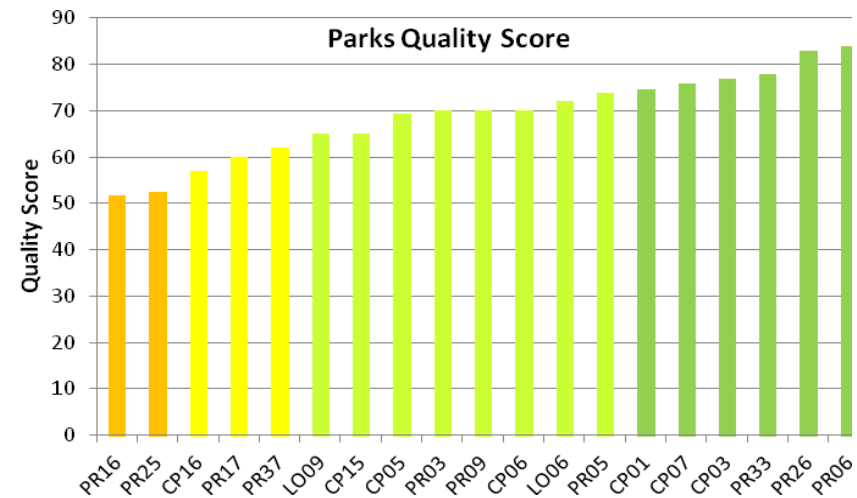
The settlements in the Prestonpans Cluster meet the ELC standard, providing areas of greenspace over 0.03ha in size within 300 metres of people’s homes.

### Parks and Gardens

Since 2009, significant quality upgrades have been undertaken in Prestonpans, including Cuthill Park and Rigley Terrace. Whin Park and Goolwa Park in Cockenzie were also upgraded. A number of privately owned open spaces in Prestonpans, Cockenzie and Longniddry have been added to the database and quality scores assigned.

In terms of quantity of provision of parks and gardens, the cluster meets the ELC standard with 65.37m<sup>2</sup> parks per household. In terms of quality of parks, the cluster meets the standard. There is only 1 park in Prestonpans

that does not meet the quality standard. All residential areas in the Prestonpans cluster fall within the catchment of a town park and most areas fall within the catchment of a local park. Therefore the cluster is considered to meet the accessibility standard.



### Amenity Greenspace

The Prestonpans Cluster meets the quality standard for amenity greenspace, with an average score of 61%.

### Playspace

There is only a small area of housing at the western extent of Prestonpans that does not meet the ELC standard for play. There is 1 NEAP and 15 LEAPs in Prestonpans. Cockenzie & Port Seton meet the ELC standard for play. There is 1 NEAP and 5 LEAPs. However, there is only 1 play area (a LEAP) in Longniddry and approximately 60% of the residential area does not fall within 400 metres of a LEAP.

### **Sports Areas Actions**

Proposed actions to improve local and regional sports provision:

- Current and future demand is met for football, cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis, shinty and bowls.
- 1No. full size sports pitch will be provided at Longniddry as a result of housing growth identified in the Local Development Plan.
- All residential areas within the cluster fall within 1.2km of a football pitch (ELC accessibility standard) and therefore the Cluster is considered to meet the ELC accessibility standard.

### **Parks and Play Area Actions**

The standards analysis has identified the following key actions:

- The provision of a NEAP in a central greenspace in Longniddry (for example at King's Park or Glassel Park, if the residents association support the plans) to ensure that all residents have access to a play area providing facilities for children of all ages.
- Address quality issues at Polwarth Park (PR16) and Wilson Avenue (PR25).

In terms of the LDP, the following represents the current thinking with regard to S75 contributions towards enhancing existing sites rather than asking for standalone provision on the site of the development.

- Longniddry South – Site will require standalone formal and informal recreation facilities but extended Primary School will possibly erode into existing Longniddry Park requiring enhancement of facilities elsewhere to compensate.

## Tranent Cluster

The Tranent Cluster includes the settlements of Tranent, Macmerry, New Winton (Conservation Village), Elphinstone, Ormiston and Pentcailtland. Tranent, Macmerry and Elphinstone are former mining settlements that do not benefit from the visitor numbers and prosperity of the coastal towns to the north. Tranent has a large number of commuters. Macmerry village comprises mainly local authority and former Coal Board housing, with a declining population and low incomes.

### Application of Standards Summary

Green Network	Parks and Gardens			Amenity Greenspace	Playspace	Sports Areas
	Access	Quantity	Quality			
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

### Green Networks

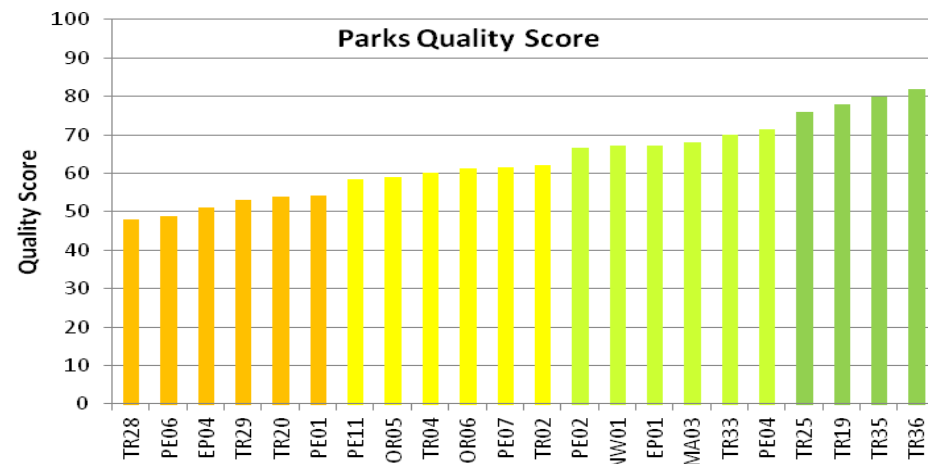
The smaller settlements in the Tranent Cluster meet the ELC standard, providing areas of greenspace over 0.03ha in size within 300 metres of people’s homes.

### Parks and Gardens

Since 2009, significant quality upgrades have been undertaken in Tranent, including Polson Park and Muirpark Road. Moffat Road and Ormiston Park were also upgraded. A number of privately owned open spaces in Tranent have been added to the database and quality scores assigned.

Overall, the Tranent cluster does not meet the ELC standard for parks provision in terms of quantity, falling just below the ELC standard (60 m<sup>2</sup> per household) providing 53.73m<sup>2</sup> of open space per household. In terms of quality of parks, the cluster meets the standard. However, the

settlements of Elphinstone, Ormiston and Tranent each have one site that does not meet the quality standard. As these parks are located in 3 different settlements we have concluded that each settlement reasonably meets the quality standard. All residential areas in the Tranent cluster fall within the catchment of a town park and most areas fall within the catchment of a local park. Therefore the cluster is considered to meet the accessibility standard.



### Amenity Greenspace

The Tranent Cluster meets the quality standard for amenity greenspace, with an average score of 60%.

### Playspace

Tranent is well provided for in terms of play provision. Only a small area of residential housing to the North East is not within 800 metres of a NEAP. There are 1 NEAP, 7 LEAPs and 5 LAPs. The smaller settlements of Macmerry, New Winton, Elphinstone and Ormiston all meet the ELC standard. The western extents of Pentcailtland do not fall within 400 metres of a LEAP, but existing play provision is considered adequate.

## Sports Areas Actions

Proposed actions to improve local and regional sports provision:

- Current and future demand is met for rugby, hockey and bowls
- Resurfacing of 2No. small sided 2G pitches at Forrester Park required.
- 1No. full size sports pitch will be provided at Windygoul South development site as a result of housing growth identified in the Local Development Plan.
- All residential areas within the cluster fall within 1.2km of a football pitch and therefore the Cluster is considered to meet the ELC accessibility standard.

## Parks and Play Area Actions

The standards analysis has identified the following key actions:

- Quality of the sites that fall just below the standard could be improved by facilities upgrades, along with relatively low cost measures such as bulb planting, wildflower meadows or tree planting.
- The small shortfall in overall open space provision in Tranent could be addressed through improvement of accessibility and quality of the existing parks eg. Polson Park (TR19) and Bank Park (TR02) to increase the use of the parks, through directional signage, planting upgrades and additional on-site facilities.
- Address quality issues at Forth View Walk (TR28), Muripark Road (TR29), Sandersons Wynd (TR20), Dovecote (PE01), Trevelyan Crescent (PE06) and Memorial Park (EP04).
- Care should be taken to ensure that the quality of play provision in Tranent and Pencaitland is upheld.
- Ongoing security and maintenance issues in should be addressed, especially in Tranent.

In terms of the LDP, the following represents the current thinking with regard to S75 contributions towards enhancing existing sites rather than asking for stand-alone provision on the site of the development.

- Lammermoor – Opportunity exists to enhance capacity of Polson Park for equipped play and formal sports / informal recreation
- Macmerry – Subject to identification of safe pedestrian route, opportunity exists to enhance capacity of equipped play at Macmerry Park
- Ormiston North – Proposed safe route to school affords opportunity to enhance capacity of all facilities in Ormiston Park



## Blindwells New Settlement

The Development Plan makes provision for the development of a new settlement at Blindwells (130 hectares), consisting of approximately 1600 houses together with associated supporting infrastructure, services and facilities. The development of a new settlement at Blindwells presents a significant opportunity to make good use of previously developed land and to capitalise on the integrated transport opportunities offered by the sites strategic location close to major road and rail networks.

### Green Networks

A landscape framework and open space network will extend around and through the site, reinforcing the landscape character of the area. It will penetrate the settlement from periphery to core with green wedges, fingers and corridors that link internal with external habitats. Development will fit inside the landscape framework and provide an ordered hierarchy and network of attractive and enclosed public spaces, which offer a sequence of views. The effect of this will be to create an attractive and varied townscape character in the settlement. It will be ordered around its local centre as the primary public space, as well as the public parks and gardens and other movement generating uses / areas required.

### Parks and Gardens

For 1600 houses the minimum open space requirement is 9.6 Ha, including a variety of open spaces. This will not include the landscape framework required to provide the setting for the development. Open spaces will be an integral part of the landscape framework, linking features together, including the sports facilities, civic and community spaces and path networks. There is opportunity for green network enhancement through the delivery of the Blindwells development.

### Sports Areas

Provision for sports facilities will include:

- 3 full size community sports pitches
- 3 full size tennis courts
- 6 team changing facilities

### Open Space Actions

Provision for open space will include:

- Town Park with a minimum size of 0.5 – 1.0 Ha and opportunities for play for the 0 – 15 year age groups
- Town / community woodland of a significant size
- Local Parks, which will be easily accessed and have a minimum size of 0.2 – 0.5 Ha and opportunities for play for the 0 – 15 year age groups
- 30 allotment plots will be necessary
- A range of amenity open space of different scales will be distributed in the settlement
- Civic space will be situated at the heart of the development and function as a central meeting point and to provide a multifunctional space for both formal use such as community arts and theatre activities and informal uses
- Play facilities for the 0 – 15 age groups should be provided in the Town Park and Local Parks. Within residential areas play facilities for the 0 – 8 year age group shall be designed to form an integral part of the design layout.

Blindwells new settlement will meet the ELC standards set out in the Open Space Strategy.

## **Appendix 2**

### **Sports Pitch Summary Table**

**Sports Pitch Summary Table**

<b>Cluster</b>	<b>Current Demand</b>	<b>Future Demand</b> (including committed new development)
<b>Dunbar</b>	Current demand met for football, cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis and bowls.	Future demand met for cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis and bowls. Consideration should be given for floodlights at the tennis courts at Winterfield and East Linton. Consider more formal use of Winterfield and purchase of land west of Hallhill /Dunbar PS 1No. 2G pitch on site at Dunbar Grammar School. Extension of sports pitches at Hallhill linked to Local Development Plan housing growth.
<b>Haddington</b>	Current demand met for football, cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis and bowls.	Extension of sports pitches in cluster linked to LDP housing growth at Letham Mains housing development site. Future demand met for cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis and bowls
<b>Musselburgh</b>	Current demand met for football, cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis and bowls.	Extension of sports pitches in cluster linked to LDP housing growth at Wallyford, Craighall, Old Craighall East and Newton Farm housing development sites. Future demand met for cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis, shinty and bowls.
<b>North Berwick</b>	Current demand met for football, cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis and bowls.	Extension of sports pitches in cluster linked to LDP housing growth at Mains Farm housing development site. Future demand met for cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis and bowls
<b>Prestonpans</b>	Current demand met for football, cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis and bowls.	Future demand met for football, cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis, shinty and bowls Strategic reserve of additional land west of Meadowmill can be formalised when required Extension of sports pitches in cluster linked to LDP housing growth at Longniddry housing developments.
<b>Tranent</b>	Current demand met for football, cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis and bowls.	Future demand met for rugby, hockey and bowls. Resurfacing of 2No. small sided 2G pitches at Forrester Park required. Extension of sports pitches in cluster linked to LDP housing growth at Windygoul South housing development site.

## **Appendix 3**

# **East Lothian Open Space Typology**

## East Lothian Open Space Typology

PAN 65 LU* Code	Description	LU Sub-Category
<b>1 Public parks and gardens</b>	Areas of land normally enclosed, designed, constructed, managed and maintained as a public park or garden.	<b>1</b> Country Park* <b>2</b> District Park <b>3</b> Local Park <b>26</b> Town Park <b>31</b> Privately Owned Local Park <b>33</b> Privately Owned Town Park
<b>2 Private gardens or grounds</b>	Areas of land normally enclosed and associated with a house or institution and reserved for private use.	<b>4</b> Institutional Grounds & Gardens <b>5</b> Private Gardens
<b>3 Amenity greenspace</b>	Landscaped areas providing visual amenity or separating different buildings or land uses for environmental, visual or safety reasons i.e. road verges or greenspace in business parks, and used for a variety of informal or social activities such as sunbathing, picnics or kickabouts.	<b>6</b> Residential <b>7</b> Business & Commercial <b>8</b> Institutional <b>25</b> Other <b>27</b> Amenity Residential with Equipped Play (AREP) <b>29</b> Privately Owned AREP <b>32</b> Privately Owned Residential
<b>4 Playspace for children and teenagers</b>	Areas providing safe and accessible opportunities for children's play, usually linked to housing areas.	<b>9</b> Equipped Playspaces <b>28</b> Privately Owned Playspace
<b>5 Sports areas</b>	Large and generally flat areas of grassland or specially designed surfaces, used primarily for designated sports i.e. playing fields, tennis courts, bowling greens; areas which are generally bookable.	<b>10</b> Playing Fields <b>11</b> Bowling Greens <b>12</b> Tennis Courts
<b>6 Green corridors</b>	Routes including canals, river corridors and old railway lines, linking different areas within a town or city as part of a designated and managed network and used for walking, cycling or horse riding, or linking towns and cities to their surrounding countryside or country parks. These may link green spaces together.	<b>13</b> River Valley Greenspace <b>14</b> Core Path Corridors <b>34</b> Privately Owned Green Corridor

<b>7 Natural/semi-natural greenspaces</b>	Areas of undeveloped or previously developed land with residual natural habitats or which have been planted or colonised by vegetation and wildlife, including woodland and wetland areas.	<b>15</b> Regional Park <b>16</b> Coastal / Beach <b>17</b> Woodlands <b>18</b> Bings / Vacant & Derelict Land <b>30</b> Privately Owned Semi-natural Greenspace
<b>8 Other functional greenspaces</b>	Allotments, churchyards and cemeteries. This category also includes golf courses.	<b>19</b> Allotments <b>20</b> Cemeteries / Churchyards <b>21</b> Schoolgrounds <b>22</b> Golf Courses
<b>9 Civic space</b>	Squares, streets and waterfront promenades, predominantly of hard landscaping that provide a focus for pedestrian activity and make connections for people and for wildlife, where trees and planting are included.	<b>23</b> Harbours <b>24</b> Town Squares

\* This category includes those parks that have been formally designated as “Country Parks” and those sites that are considered to provide facilities appropriate to a “country park”, but are not yet designated.



**Appendix 4**  
**2016 Audited Sites**



### 2016 Audited Sites

The following sites were re-audited using the open space audit methodology in the summer of 2016. The following table sets out the changes to the quality scores and the sites added to the database in 2016.

	<b>Code</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>New Quality Score</b> (old and new)
1	<b>AB07</b>	Pleasance	Aberlady	Quality score gone from 70 to 71
2	<b>AB11</b>	Tranter Road Open Space	Aberlady	Quality score 68
3	<b>AT02</b>	Recreation Ground	Athelstaneford	Quality score gone from 78 to 79
4	<b>CP06</b>	Goolwa Park	Cockenzie and Port Seton	Quality score gone from 68 to 70
5	<b>CP15</b>	Whin Park	Cockenzie and Port Seton	Quality score gone from 59 to 65
6	<b>CP16</b>	Long Craigs Open Space	Cockenzie and Port Seton	Quality score 57
7	<b>CP17</b>	Links View Open Space	Cockenzie and Port Seton	Quality score 55
8	<b>DU01</b>	Ashfield	Dunbar	Quality score gone from 75 to 74
9	<b>DU17</b>	Seafield Crescent	Dunbar	Quality score gone from 63 to 67
10	<b>DU24</b>	Winterfield Park	Dunbar	Quality score gone from 68 to 71
11	<b>DU25</b>	East Beach Area	Dunbar	Quality score 83
12	<b>DU26</b>	West Barns Green Corridor	Dunbar	Quality score 69
13	<b>DU27</b>	Hallhill Centre Playspace	Dunbar	Quality score 68
14	<b>DU28</b>	Sailsbury Walk	Dunbar	Quality score 60
15	<b>DU29</b>	John Muir Gardens	Dunbar	Quality score 62
16	<b>DU30</b>	Bordie Road Estate Playspaces	Dunbar	Quality score 68
17	<b>EL01</b>	John Mcintosh Gardens	East Linton	Quality score gone from 61 to 64
18	<b>EL04</b>	Memorial Park	East Linton	Quality score gone from 74 to 76
19	<b>GI02</b>	Gifford Park	Gifford	Quality score gone from 76 to 77

20	<b>GI04</b>	Walden Place	Gifford	Quality score gone from 73 to 74
21	<b>GU06</b>	Recreation Park	Gullane	Quality score gone from 65 to 70
22	<b>HA12</b>	Davidson Terrace	Haddington	Quality score gone from 60 to 68
23	<b>HA35</b>	Memorial Park	Haddington	Quality score gone from 62 to 67
24	<b>HA37</b>	Whittinghame Drive	Haddington	Quality score gone from 75 to 77
25	<b>HA39</b>	Lennox Road	Haddington	Quality score 69
26	<b>HA40</b>	Nungate Gardens	Haddington	Quality score 80
27	<b>IN01</b>	Village Hall and Park	Innerwick	Quality score gone from 78 to 80
28	<b>LO11</b>	Stevenson Way Open Space	Longniddry	Quality score 66
29	<b>LO12</b>	Glassel Park Road Woodland 1	Longniddry	Quality score 60
30	<b>LO13</b>	Glassel Park Road Woodland 2	Longniddry	Quality score 60
31	<b>MA04</b>	Main Road	Macmerry	Quality score gone from 55 to 57
32	<b>MA07</b>	Station Row	Macmerry	Quality score gone from 61 to 64
33	<b>ME04</b>	Goose Green	Musselburgh	Quality score gone from 50 to 60
34	<b>ME17</b>	Levenhall Links Park	Musselburgh	Quality score 68
35	<b>ME18</b>	Pinkie Park	Musselburgh	Building of park not complete
36	<b>MW23</b>	Denholm Road Open Space	Musselburgh	Quality score 68
37	<b>MW24</b>	Denholm Way Play Space	Musselburgh	Quality score 58
38	<b>MW25</b>	Clayknowes Road Open Space	Musselburgh	Quality score 57
39	<b>MW26</b>	New Street Open Space	Musselburgh	Quality score 54
40	<b>MW27</b>	Old Craighall Park	Musselburgh	Quality score 66
41	<b>NB08</b>	Lochbridge Road	North Berwick	Quality score gone from 62 to 70
42	<b>NB26</b>	Windygates Road	North Berwick	Quality score 63

43	<b>NB27</b>	Lady Jane Gardens	North Berwick	Quality score 47
44	<b>NB28</b>	Rhodes Park Open Space 1	North Berwick	Quality score 62
45	<b>NB29</b>	Rhodes Park Open Space 2	North Berwick	Quality score 59
46	<b>OR05</b>	Moffat Road	Ormiston	Quality score gone from 50 to 59
47	<b>PR06</b>	Cuthill Park	Prestonpans	Quality score gone from 48 to 84
48	<b>PR09</b>	Keppock Crescent Playspace	Prestonpans	Quality score gone from 40 to 70
49	<b>PR23</b>	Rigley Terrace	Prestonpans	Quality score gone from 54 to 61
50	<b>PR30</b>	McLachlan Gardens Playspace	Prestonpans	Quality score 69
51	<b>PR31</b>	Preston Road Open Space	Prestonpans	Quality score 55
52	<b>PR32</b>	Glencoe Path	Prestonpans	Quality score 66
53	<b>PR33</b>	Monks Meadow	Prestonpans	Quality score 78
54	<b>PR34</b>	Atholl View	Prestonpans	Quality score 69
55	<b>PR35</b>	Dolphingstone Court Playspace	Prestonpans	Quality score 82
56	<b>PR36</b>	Blink O'Forth Playspace	Prestonpans	Quality score 66
57	<b>PR37</b>	Struan Wynd	Prestonpans	Quality score 62
58	<b>TR02</b>	Bankpark	Tranent	Quality score 62
59	<b>TR19</b>	Polson Park	Tranent	Quality score gone from 76 to 78
60	<b>TR25</b>	Muirpark Road	Tranent	Quality score gone from 48 to 76
61	<b>TR28</b>	Forth View Walk	Tranent	Quality score 48
62	<b>TR29</b>	Muripark Road	Tranent	Quality score 53
63	<b>TR30</b>	Elphinstone Road	Tranent	Quality score 58
64	<b>TR31</b>	Moffat Walk Playspace	Tranent	Quality score 79
65	<b>TR32</b>	Fa'side View Playspace	Tranent	Quality score 69

66	<b>TR33</b>	Sandee Park	Tranent	Quality score 70
67	<b>TR34</b>	Carlaverock Grove Open Space	Tranent	Quality score 56
68	<b>TR35</b>	Brotherstone's Way Open Space	Tranent	Quality score 80
69	<b>TR36</b>	Ness Place Park	Tranent	Quality score 82
70	<b>TR37</b>	Toll House Neuk Open Space	Tranent	Quality score 77
71	<b>WA08</b>	Drumhor Gardens	Wallyford	Quality score 49
72	<b>WA09</b>	Wallace Avenue Playspace	Wallyford	Quality score 71



# **Appendix 5**

## **Consented Housing Developments**

## Consented Housing Developments

Location	Site	Status	Houses	Open space provision (ha)	Plan requirement	Planning ref
<b>Musselburgh</b>	Pinkie Mains	Largely complete	Up to 600	5.3 hectare park	3.6	08/01090/OUT
<b>Wallyford</b>	St Clements Wells	On site, no completions	Up to 1450	8.7	8.7	14/00903/P
<b>Wallyford</b>	Barbachlaw	Awaiting detailed approval	94	0.796	0.56	10/00341/PPM
<b>Prestonpans</b>	Dolphingstone North	Awaiting detailed approval	Up to 160	undetermined	0.96	16/01019/AMC
<b>Tranent</b>	No additional					
<b>Haddington</b>	Aberlady Road	On site	89	0.6	0.534	14/00530/AMM
<b>Haddington</b>	Dovecot	On site	193	1.2	1.158	14/00731/AMM
<b>North Berwick</b>	Gilsland	complete	49	0.4	0.294	12/00339/PM
<b>North Berwick</b>	Mains Farm	On site	420	16.2	2.52	14/00753/AMM
<b>North Berwick</b>	Ferrygate	On site	140	1.08	0.84	15/00966/AMM
<b>Dunbar</b>	Halhill	Largely complete	525	1.3 plus enhanced woodland	3.15	09/00486/OUT
<b>Dunbar</b>	Newtonlees	On site	240	1.8	1.44	15/00630/PM

# East Lothian Open Space Strategy 2018



*Technical Report*



## **FRONTISPIECE**

The reader should note that this Open Space Strategy Report (A4) includes only limited graphic / mapped information. The Strategy should be read in conjunction with the Mapped Assessment Report (A3).



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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 East Lothian Open Space Strategy**

An Open Space Strategy is the formally approved policy document defining a Local Authority's approach, commitment and management to protect, enhance and manage open space assets.

This report, along with the accompanying mapping, forms the Open Space Strategy for East Lothian, thereby fulfilling the requirements of Scottish Planning Policy. The Strategy sets out the policy framework and vision for the protection, management and enhancement of existing as well as for the procurement of new open space and outdoor sports provision in East Lothian towns and villages.

The range of benefits associated with open space are dependent upon the way the resource is planned, designed and managed to secure spaces that are 'fit for purpose' and address the needs of communities and stakeholders. Open spaces contribute to a range of national and local commitments and policies, such as sustainable development, climate change adaptation, carbon management, outdoor learning, healthy living, sustainable transport, biodiversity and social equity policies. The Open Spaces Strategy seeks to secure best value and provide a prioritised framework for investment, maintenance, management and Best Value.

The Strategy intends to help inform decisions regarding the provision, development and management of open space over the period of 2018 - 2022. It will be reviewed every 5 years, to reflect changing needs, demands for specific facilities and the Local Development Plan context.

The study represents an important opportunity to identify the potential opportunities for East Lothian's open spaces and green networks. It also demonstrates how the strategic goals of the Central Scotland Green Network can be met, whilst complementing and supporting strategic and area based regeneration and the delivery of the East Lothian Development Plan.

### **1.2 Open Space and Sports Pitches**

Open spaces play a critical role in the life of a community, providing a range of facilities and places for quiet reflection, physical activity, sport and fun. The multiuse nature of our open spaces can meet many of the local community needs close to where people live, and bring economic benefits to the area through tourism. Open spaces can be used for sport, children's play, relaxation, education and can provide a place for local events. East Lothian's parks, sports pitches and open spaces form a central part of the area's character, ranging from expanses of coastline to school grounds, from village greens to harbours and promenades. Good quality open space contributes to the delivery of the Council Plan particularly in terms of "growing our people" and "growing our communities" by providing an attractive and safe resource for people to congregate, lead healthy active lives, learn and develop.

This Strategy addresses:

- Open space within urban areas and the larger villages in the six Cluster areas, except private and shared residential gardens and all agricultural land
- Open spaces over 0.4 hectares in size (but including some smaller important open spaces), including parks, amenity greenspace, playspace, green corridors, natural/ semi-natural greenspace, allotments/ community growing spaces, golf courses, harbours and town squares
- Sports pitches (hockey, rugby, shinty, football, cricket, bowls, athletics, tennis) included in the Sports Pitch Strategy
- Both Council and privately owned open space (for example factored parks forming part of new housing estates)
- Accessible open spaces (free of charge and open to the public) and facilities that need to be booked and charge for use (eg. Sports pitches)

The Open Space Strategy will provide the Council with a “tool” to improve its management structures and practices, ensuring that the Council has a clear strategic direction to its open space investment and asset management.

The Strategy standards are being set at a time when public, private and voluntary sectors have limited financial resources. Therefore, it is anticipated that the aims of the strategy may not all be met in the first five year period, but in the medium to long term as resources become available.

### **1.3 Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of the Strategy is to ensure that a coordinated approach is taken to meeting East Lothian’s open space and sports needs, whilst protecting and developing the urban networks of open spaces. The study represents an important opportunity to identify the potential for Open Space in East Lothian and demonstrates how it can both deliver for East Lothian and support for both the strategic goals of the Central Scotland Green Network whilst complementing and supporting Strategic and Area Based Regeneration and the delivery of the Local Plan.

The key elements of open space Strategy development are:

- Strategic vision for open space
- Quantitative audit of the open space resource
- Qualitative assessment of the open space resource
- Open space strategy development based on audit intelligence and strategic vision
- Development of locally open space standards
- Frameworks for implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the strategy

The Strategy will provide those who use and manage open spaces with a better understanding of the open space resource that exists across the Council area, and

present an opportunity to assess strategically the needs and opportunities for open spaces and associated facilities.

**East Lothian**

East Lothian is approximately 270 square miles in area, and includes 43 miles of coastline. It extends from Musselburgh, eastwards to Dunbar and beyond to its boundary with the Scottish Borders. From the coastline of the Firth of Forth an agricultural plain extends southwards to the Lammermuir Hills. It is an area of small towns and villages set in attractive countryside and coastal landscapes.

More than half the population live in its western half, the main towns being Musselburgh, Prestonpans, Tranent and Cockenzie/Port Seton. The principle towns in the east are Haddington, North Berwick and Dunbar. Although Musselburgh is the largest town, Haddington is the administrative centre. Unlike much of Scotland, East Lothian's population continues to show a sustained increase.

East Lothian's economy was built on farming, fishing, coal mining and general manufacturing. Today, East Lothian has a diverse economy, ranging from the primary industries of agriculture, energy production and fishing, to secondary and tertiary industries such as electronics, biotechnology, construction, distribution, catering, finance and retailing. Tourism, always a significant element of the local economy, continues to grow in importance.

The quality of the urban and rural environment is one of East Lothian's greatest assets. East Lothian's towns and villages, and its coastal, hill and agricultural landscapes, combine to create an environment of considerable interest and quality. Its countryside contains a number of valuable wildlife habitats and high quality, productive farmland. Many of the towns and villages are renowned for their historic and architectural interest, and are attractive places to live in or to visit. The Lodge Grounds, North Berwick won a Green Flag Award in 2010 and 2011 and seven of East Lothian's beaches have received Seaside Awards for many years.

Tourism is an important and developing industry. East Lothian is renowned for its golf, with a total of 19 courses. Musselburgh Links is the oldest surviving golf course in the world, but the most famous East Lothian course is Muirfield, home to the Open Championship 14 times since 1892, last held there in 2013.



## 2.0 POLICY CONTEXT

### 2.1 Requirement for an Open Space Strategy

Scottish Planning Policy: Open Space and Physical Activity sets out the Government's policy on open space provision. The Policy requires planning authorities to carry out a comprehensive Open Space Audit and prepare a strategy for their area, which will inform the regular review of the Development Plan. The policy emphasises the need for local authorities to take a strategic and long term view of open space and sports provision, ensuring that the current and future needs of communities are met.

The Open Space Audit and Strategy has been prepared in accordance with guidance produced by the Scottish Government including PAN 65 Planning and Open Space, which underpins Scottish Planning Policy.

### 2.2 National Planning Policy

Open Space Strategies need to be set within a clear national and local policy framework, informed by local needs and opportunities. The preparation of the Open Space Audit was developed in response to the requirements set out in the **Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) (2014) Planning Advice Note (PAN) 65** Planning and Open Space and the **National Planning Framework 3** (2014).

The SPP states that the planning system should:

- *consider green infrastructure as an integral element of places from the outset of the planning process;*
- *assess current and future needs and opportunities for green infrastructure to provide multiple benefits;*
- *facilitate the provision and long-term, integrated management of green infrastructure and*
- *prevent fragmentation; and*
- *provide for easy and safe access to and within green infrastructure, including core paths and other important routes, within the context of statutory access rights under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.*

Current Scottish Planning Policy states that:

*“Development plans should be based on a holistic, integrated and cross-sectoral approach to green infrastructure. They should be informed by relevant, up-to-date audits, strategies and action plans covering green infrastructure’s multiple functions, for example open space, playing fields, pitches, outdoor access, core paths, active travel strategies, the historic environment, biodiversity, forestry and woodland, river basins, flood management, coastal zones and the marine environment.... Local development plans should identify and protect open space identified in the open space audit and strategy as valued and functional or capable of being brought into use to meet local needs.”*

PAN 65 states that *“Local authorities should aim to maintain or form networks of green and civic spaces, which:*

- *contribute to the framework for development;*
- *maintain and enhance environmental qualities;*
- *provide a range of opportunities for recreation and leisure;*
- *link and create wildlife habitats; and*
- *encourage walking and cycling and reduce car use, in line with local transport strategies and Core Paths Plans.”*

The National Planning Framework 3 states that green infrastructure and improved access and education have a key role to play in building stronger communities.

The proposed Strategic Development Plan (2016), prepared by **SESplan**, includes a policy to “*protect and provide access to open space*”, ensuring that people have easy access to green / open space, including places where they can enjoy nature. A planned approach to identify and safeguard key strategic areas of open space should be progressed.

East Lothian’s open spaces are part of the **Central Scotland Green Network**, embedded within the National Planning Framework. The vision for Central Scotland is that: “*By 2050, Central Scotland has been transformed into a place where the environment adds value to the economy and where people’s lives are enriched by its quality*”.

### 2.3 Local Planning Policy

East Lothian Council has a range of plans, policies and strategies in place to inform and co-ordinate the provision, management and maintenance of its Parks, Open Space and play areas.

The emerging **East Lothian Local Development Plan** (2016) seeks to protect, enhance and promote the provision of new open space and play provision. The best open spaces are parts of wider networks and are designed to complement surrounding places, buildings and land uses. High quality open spaces are multifunctional and contribute to an area’s sense of place and identity. Multifunctional open spaces can help to create better places, for example by including provision for a range of formal and informal leisure activities, by integrating with active travel networks, by including provision for biodiversity as well as forestry and woodland planting. Where appropriate open space may contribute towards flood management.

Open space and play facilities are essential to the attractiveness of East Lothian’s towns and villages. Opportunities to take part in organised sport and informal recreation are essential to the quality of life enjoyed in the area. It is the Council’s objective to ensure recreational facilities and open spaces form part of the green network, are well designed, easily accessible and meet the needs of all in the community. This is essential to healthy lifestyles, community integration, physical and mental well being, and for general amenity, and can contribute towards objectives for biodiversity and resilience to climate change.

The emerging **ELC Corporate Asset Strategy and Management Plan 2017** sets out the Council’s vision for asset management, ensuring that the assets that the Council holds

contribute to the creation of sustainable communities and the delivery of better public services.

ELC are currently developing a **Green Networks Supplementary Planning Guidance** (SPG), with the aim being “to create a network which connects habitats and communities, improves access to the countryside and the coast, and enhances the character and appearance of the area”. Green Networks are places of landscape quality that can help to define landscape or townscape structure, provide links with the countryside, promote walking and cycling, and enhance connectivity for species and habitats.

**The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003** came into effect in February 2005. The Act gives the public a right of responsible access to most land and inland water in Scotland. This extends from parks and open spaces in towns to more remote areas of the countryside. The right is for crossing land or for going onto land for recreational purposes.

The value of parks and open spaces is recognised in **East Lothian Council Single Outcome Agreement** (SOA). The purpose of the SOA is to identify areas for improvement and to deliver better outcomes for the people of East Lothian through specific commitments of the Council, community planning partners and the Scottish Government. Outcome 8 aims to ensure that “East Lothian has high quality natural environments”. The East Lothian Partnership is committed to providing a high quality environment, improving the wellbeing and quality of life of our communities and promoting a sustainable lifestyle, and will work with, encourage and support communities to become actively engaged with their local environment.

The 2013 vision for the Urban Greenspace Networks **Biodiversity Action Plan** is for “existing urban areas and new urban developments will be managed and designed to ensure that wildlife will flourish in local towns.” The Priority habitats of Urban Greenspace Networks include wooded parkland, veteran trees, hedgerows, burns and rivers, urban woodland and orchards. The objectives of the Urban Greenspace Networks Plan are to expand and enhance urban greenspace networks for people and wildlife; link urban biodiversity to other initiatives such as green tourism and healthy living; involve local communities and businesses in urban biodiversity; and increase awareness of the importance of wildlife in urban landscapes and its role in maintaining our quality of life.

Other key East Lothian Strategies and Action Plans include the following:

- Environment Strategy
- Heritage Strategy
- Economic & Regeneration Strategy
- Core Path Plan
- Tourism & Place making
- Burial Strategy
- East Lothian Coastal Tourism Strategy
- Carbon Management Plan

- Active Travel Improvement Plan (in preparation)
- Play Strategy
- Allotment and Food Growing Strategy (in preparation)

## 2.4 Benefits of Open Space

East Lothian's open spaces provide a wide range of benefits for communities, the environment and the local economy. They make an important contribution to the character and biodiversity of the region and to quality of life and place by providing the setting for a wide range of social interactions and pursuits that support personal and community well-being. They allow individuals to interact with the natural environment and provide habitats for wildlife.

A good-quality environment offers opportunities for promoting a sense of wellbeing, a healthy lifestyle, active travel (encouraging walking and cycling for everyday journeys, to school, shops or work instead of driving) and safe and successful communities. The Central Scotland Green Network aims to deliver a high-quality 'green network' that will meet environmental, social and economic goals designed to improve people's lives, promote economic success, allow nature to flourish and help Scotland respond to the challenge of climate change.

Scotland's Third National Planning Framework states that *"creating walkable places, with well-designed streets that link our open spaces and wider active travel networks, can deliver better environments for pedestrians and cyclists in town and city centres, and improve health and well-being."*

Open spaces can also be important in defining the character and identity of settlements. Connecting them in a green network can provide enhanced benefits for people, the environment and biodiversity. They also provide valuable 'ecosystem services' such as climate change regulation, filtering of pollution, flood prevention and carbon sequestration.

Well planned and managed open space should provide a wide range of social, environmental and economic benefits to communities. These include<sup>1</sup>:

**Outdoor recreation and health improvement** – affording communities the opportunity to play, exercise and enjoy the outdoors close to home, making a contribution to improved physical and mental health.

**Contributing to sustainable lifestyles** – providing opportunities for sustainable travel, using safe, off-road paths and cycleways. Through allotments and other community growing schemes, open spaces can create opportunities for people to grow their own food, reducing indirect carbon emissions and contributing to healthier diets.

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<sup>1</sup> SNH Way Finder Guide

**A sense of place in space and time** – open spaces are a key aspect of townscape and local character, providing a sense of history and contributing to local distinctiveness. They can make the difference to increasing the desirability of an area.

**Regulating the urban environment** – open spaces function as ‘green lungs’ for our cities, with trees intercepting pollution, absorbing carbon dioxide and oxygenating the atmosphere. They also help to regulate local climate, reducing the ‘urban heat island’ effect. Trees, plants and soil lock up carbon and are critical in absorbing and retaining rainfall, helping to avoid flooding.

**Bringing nature into town** – urban green spaces are oasis for wildlife in our towns and cities. When linked together, they can create extensive networks of habitat, allowing species to migrate and adapt to the effects of climate change – and bringing people closer to nature.

## 2.5 Open Space Audit 2009

In 2009 East Lothian Council completed a Geographical Information Systems (GIS) based Open Space Audit of all significant open space assets within the local authority area of the Council. The Council’s Parks and Open Spaces Strategy was produced in 2000 and a Sports Pitch Strategy in 2007. The Audit was prepared to inform the production of an Open Space Strategy for East Lothian that focuses primarily on the regeneration, connectivity and enhancement of urban parks, open spaces, beaches and other linear corridor spaces, civic spaces together with Regional Parks, Country Parks and other open space sites.

The audit included 303 open spaces over 0.4 hectares in size, mapped in GIS. Some sites between 0.1 hectares and 0.4 hectares were also audited, due to their strategic importance. The aim of the open space audit was to undertake an assessment of the nature, quality, spatial distribution and use of existing open spaces and identifying the quality of those open spaces. The audit was undertaken in accordance with the “Greenspace Quality: A Guide to Assessment, Planning and Strategic Development” (2008).

The Open Space Audit provides the essential baseline understanding of open space assets across the Local Authority area. An audit is a key stage in developing the Strategy as it represents the systematic collection of data, analysis and review that provides a robust understanding of open space assets, their accessibility, quantity and quality on which detailed consultations with stakeholders can be progressed.

The following datasets were used for the preparation of the Strategy mapping:

- 347 open space audit sites (parks, amenity open spaces, green corridors)
- Play area locations (point data)
- Allotment locations (point data)
- Scotland Greenspace Map (Greenspace Scotland)
- Local Plan designations
- Information on the Forest Habitat Network and Integrated Habitat Network

## 2.6 Progress Since 2009 - Open Space Improvements

The Open Space Audit identified priority action projects from across the East Lothian area, based on a combination of the site assessment scoring process and a broader understanding of the 'bigger' picture. Since 2011, over 40 upgrading projects have been successfully implemented, bringing change and improvement to the quality, accessibility and function of important local parks, woodlands and open spaces. Projects have included the provision of children's play areas, park upgrades, drainage improvements and planting projects.

The Open Space Audit 2009 included the audit of 303 open space sites. 44 of the open spaces audited in 2009 were revisited and the quality scores revised in 2016, to reflect facilities upgraded since the last audit. These enhancements and major upgrades have resulted in an overall improvement in the quality of these open space sites and changes in the site classifications, in some cases. The mapping has been updated to reflect these changes, as some amenity open spaces have been reclassified as local parks, for example. In some areas, the completion of new housing developments has provided new publicly accessible open space that has been added to the open space maps.

### *Levenhall Links to Prestonpans: Area for Habitat Improvement*

An area of significant changes is the area of Levenhall Links, to the north of Musselburgh. The 2012 Strategy classified the entire area of the Links as a District Park. Further assessment has been undertaken and the open space divided in two. A significant area to the north of the site has been identified as an area for habitat improvement, as part of the Firth of Forth Special Protection Area (SPA). The Council will continue to manage this land to improve the availability of suitable habitat for the benefit of bird species. The area has been designated as a country park, but has not been included in the overall open space calculations for Musselburgh as the site is largely for semi-natural use and does not provide the facilities appropriate to a country park.



With regard to the open space function of the site, the area of sports pitches at the south eastern corner of the site, the BMX track to the west and connecting path corridor have been classified as the Levenhall Links Local Park (refer to the map).

## 2.7 Community Consultation

Best practice recommends that all key stakeholders are engaged in setting the framework for the Open Spaces Strategy and local communities are engaged early in developing strategies and action plans for local settlements.

The 2009 Audit included consultation with local communities and stakeholder groups through six facilitated workshops held in community centres at Prestonpans, Tranent, North Berwick, Musselburgh East, Haddington and Dunbar. The purpose of the workshops was to provide opportunities for local people to find out more about the study, input to the audit for their area and review the audit findings. The site comments were recorded and have formed part of the baseline information that has informed the Strategy.

A further stage of consultation on the draft Strategy was undertaken during the statutory consultation period in March 2012, when the draft Strategy and the Strategic Environmental Assessment were available to the public to comment on. 8 postal questionnaires and 13 online questionnaires were received, a total of 21 responses. 12 questionnaires were completed on behalf of an organisation and 9 were completed by individuals. The comments on the draft Strategy were considered by the Steering Group and changes made to the finalised Strategy report, mapping and appendices.

### **3.0 EAST LOTHIAN OPEN SPACES**

#### **3.1 History of East Lothian's Open Spaces**

East Lothian contains numerous settlements of small to medium size, several are historically important and contain areas of significant conservation merit, with buildings and layout dating back to the medieval period when East Lothian was an important administrative and commercial area of Scotland. Later settlements of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries developed as a result of agricultural improvements and/or industrial development (particularly coal mining).

The manner in which East Lothian's settlements have developed has determined, to a large extent, the distribution and nature of open spaces/ parkland. The historic core of certain settlements (such as Dirleton and Haddington) reflect medieval urban patterns and retain open spaces which formerly served as market places, for livestock gathering, drying greens and for a range of community gatherings. The expansion of existing settlements and the development of new settlements during the eighteenth and especially nineteenth centuries, resulted from urban planning which incorporated parks as integral parts of development. These were generally formal in nature tailored to accommodate more passive forms of recreation, events and social interaction, in coastal settlements, formal parkland was sometimes developed along the shoreline as seafront promenades as at Musselburgh, Cockenzie and Port Seaton. These became important places for visitors as well as community activity.

Coastal recreation has long been a popular activity in East Lothian with the majority of the beaches, dune areas and rocky coastline being managed by the Council and protected as public open space e.g. Gullane Bents, Yellowcraig and John Muir Country Park. Golf is thought to date from the sixteenth century and early games are chronicled on the links areas of East Lothian. Nowadays, significant areas have been developed as private and public golf courses, the most prestigious occupying the coastal 'links' e.g. courses at North Berwick and Gullane.

In the latter part of the nineteenth century, early twentieth century, increased demands (and time) for sport and leisure saw the development of areas dedicated to sports both separate and associated to more formal parklands. School grounds also contained sizeable areas of recreational open space.

In the mid twentieth century, the development of significant urban parks was rare and new open space provision was generally in the form of small parks within housing areas, amenity open space (including sports areas) and the establishment of formerly unmanaged areas as parkland or green corridors. An important exception is the establishment of the John Muir Country Park, East Lothian's only Country Park, which is an important resource for environmental education and rural recreation.

Public open spaces are principally managed and maintained by East Lothian Council's Landscape and Countryside Division. Open space within private housing developments, housing associations developments and associated with historic



buildings/ ancient monuments have separate management/  
maintenance arrangements.

### 3.2 Type and Number of Open Spaces

The Open Space Audit 2009 included the audit of 303 open space sites. A further 44 open spaces were audited in 2016. A number of the open spaces audited in 2009 were revisited and the quality scores revised, to reflect facilities upgrades since the last audit. A GIS database was prepared, which forms the basis of the Open Space Strategy analysis along with other open space databases. A number of sites (134 sites) were included in the audit, despite being between 0.1 hectares and 0.4 hectares in size. They were considered strategically important due to their function (e.g. as playspace) and location in the heart of a residential area, for example.

Each open space was assigned a type, referenced to a modified PAN 65 typology agreed with East Lothian Council (refer to Appendix 3 for further details). PAN 65: Planning and Open Space recommends that Local Authorities should adopt a typology of greenspace using the typology set out in PAN 65, to allow data to be collected and compared at a regional and national level. PAN 65 defines open space as *“any vegetated land or structure, water or geological feature in an urban area and civic space consisting of squares, market places and other paved or hard landscaped areas with a civic function.”* Each site was assigned a 'primary purpose' according to PAN 65 and a 'secondary purpose' which reflects the multi-functional nature of open spaces.

The focus of the Open Space Audit was all ELC owned and managed open space. However, best practice recommends that all “publicly accessible open space” should be considered in the open space provision and therefore the privately owned open space, built as part of new housing development and managed privately, has been included in the study. These spaces have also been included in the open space mapping and the open space calculations as access is not limited to residents. This approach will better reflect the open space supply in the wider settlement area, as existing parks must cater with increased population numbers and therefore increased use / management implications.

The total amount of open space included in the Open Space Audit (2009 + 2016) is **1,453.11 hectares**, which is divided between the following types of open space:

**Table 1: Type of Open Space**

Type of Open Space		Amount
Public Parks	Country Parks	192.32ha
	Town Parks*	53.03ha
	Local Parks*	102.33ha

Private Grounds	17.31ha
Amenity Greenspace*	121.68ha
Playspace*	3.73ha
Sports Areas	61.54ha
Green Corridors*	10.63ha
Semi-natural Greenspace*	392.83ha
Functional Greenspace	485.40ha
Civic Space	12.72ha
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,453.11ha</b>

\* Including privately owned open spaces (refer to Appendix 3 for further information)

The East Lothian Open Space Strategy focuses on the 350 parks, open spaces and sports pitches in the East Lothian Council urban and urban fringe areas that were included in the Audit and the Sports Pitch Strategy. The broad study area covers all of the East Lothian Council area, in particular the six geographic cluster areas of Musselburgh, Tranent, Prestonpans, Haddington, North Berwick and Dunbar. The Strategy focuses primarily on the following core areas of open space provision as detailed within Scottish Government's PAN 65 typology, together with locally agreed sub-categories.

The following table sets out the East Lothian Open Space Typology:

**Table 2: East Lothian Open Space Typology**

PAN 65 Category	Sub-category	Description
<b>Public Parks and Gardens</b>	<b>Country Park</b>	Relatively small areas of countryside near to towns that are managed for public enjoyment. They are established in accordance with Section 48 of the Countryside (Scotland) Act 1967. This category includes those parks that have been formally designated as "Country Parks" and those sites that are considered to provide facilities appropriate to a "country park", but are not yet designated.
	<b>Town Park*</b>	These parks are often larger areas of urban or formal parks of neighbourhood importance, usually in a central location and designed and managed as a public park. They can provide some or all of the following: active and passive recreation opportunities, social and community purposes, such as sports activities, walking, cycling, children's play, jogging and limited events.
	<b>Local Park*</b>	These parks are often small areas of open space, often providing opportunities for children's play, seating etc. and possibly limited conservation areas or informal sport. They are often well used parks with a distinct local catchment area, within walking distance of the immediate residential population.
<b>Private Gardens or Grounds</b>	-	Areas of land normally enclosed and associated with a house or institution and reserved for private use.

<b>Amenity Greenspace</b>	<b>Residential* Business &amp; Commercial Institutional Residential with Equipped Play*</b>	Landscaped areas providing visual amenity or separating different buildings or land uses for environmental, visual or safety reasons i.e. road verges or greenspace in business parks, and used for a variety of informal or social activities such as sunbathing, picnics or kickabouts. Including areas of residential amenity greenspace with small areas of equipped play.
<b>Play Space for Children &amp; Teenagers</b>	<b>Equipped Playspaces*</b>	Areas providing safe and accessible opportunities for children's play, usually linked to housing areas.
<b>Sports Areas</b>	<b>Playing Fields Bowling Greens Tennis Courts</b>	Large and generally flat areas of grassland or specially designed surfaces, used primarily for designated sports i.e. playing fields, tennis courts and bowling greens.
<b>Green Corridors</b>	<b>River Valley Greenspace Core Path Corridors*</b>	Routes including canals, river corridors and old railway lines, linking different areas within a town or city as part of a designated and managed network and used for walking, cycling or horse riding, or linking towns and cities to their surrounding countryside or country parks. These may link green spaces.
<b>Natural/ Seminatural Greenspaces</b>	<b>Regional Park Coastal / Beach Woodlands* Bings / Vacant &amp; Derelict Land</b>	Areas of undeveloped or previously developed land with residual natural habitats or which have been planted or colonised by vegetation and wildlife, including woodland and wetland areas.
<b>Allotments &amp; Community Growing Spaces</b>	-	Areas of land for growing fruit, vegetables and other plants, either in individual allotments or as a community activity.
<b>Civic Space</b>	<b>Harbours Town Squares</b>	Squares, streets and waterfront promenades, predominantly of hard landscaping that provide a focus for pedestrian activity and make connections for people and for wildlife, where trees and planting are included.
<b>Burial Grounds</b>	<b>Cemeteries and Churchyards</b>	Cemeteries and churchyards with public access.
<b>Other Functional Greenspaces</b>	<b>Institutional/ School Grounds Golf Courses</b>	Greenspaces associated with institutions such as schools and hospitals. This category also includes golf courses.

\* Including privately owned open spaces (refer to Appendix 3 for further information)

The majority of these sites are managed by East Lothian Council and are distributed throughout the major settlements as set out in the following table:

**Table 3: Open Space Summary Figures**

Settlement	No. of Sites	Amount of Open Space (ha)	Settlement	No. of Sites	Amount of Open Space (ha)
Aberlady	10	85.58	Longniddry	13	53.12
Athelstaneford	3	1.51	Macmerry	9	6.75

Cockenzie & Port Seton	17	14.41	Musselburgh East	18	125.71
Dirleton	11	20.38	Musselburgh West	27	158.16
Drem	1	0.15	New Winton	3	8.87
Dunbar	29	226.47	North Berwick	29	191.70
East Linton	12	19.30	Oldhamstocks	1	0.30
East Saltoun	3	6.08	Ormiston	5	5.78
Elphinstone	4	1.81	Pencaitland	11	37.14
Garvald	2	0.84	Prestonpans	33	81.80
Gifford	6	101.23	Stenton	2	0.67
Gullane	8	134.19	Tranent	35	30.11
Haddington	40	112.77	Wallyford	9	13.16
Humbie	3	5.91	Whitecraig	2	3.69
Innerwick	1	0.46			

The larger settlements with the greater amount of open space included in the audit are Dunbar, Gifford, Gullane, Haddington, Musselburgh and Prestonpans.

## 4.0 VISION, ASPIRATIONS AND KEY OBJECTIVES FOR OPEN SPACE

### 4.1 East Lothian Vision Statement

East Lothian is a wonderful county for enjoying the natural environment, both within its towns and villages and in the wider countryside and coastline. Attractive parks, open spaces and play facilities are a key component of East Lothian's Green Networks, providing places to play, enjoy sport and informal recreation. The local path network provides a variety of opportunities to explore the scenic coastline, attractive villages set in rolling countryside and the foothills of the Lammermuir hills.

The natural environment and the attractiveness of towns and villages are major factors in the quality of life appreciated by residents and visitors, underpinning the health and well-being of communities and supporting the local economy. Protecting and enhancing that environment is a key priority for the East Lothian Partnership and this has to be balanced with the need to improve economic growth and increase the business base. (Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2023)

Over the coming decades, the county is facing great change in its population and economy. Projections anticipate that by 2035 East Lothian's population is set to increase by 33%, the highest percentage rate of growth in Scotland. East Lothian Partnership has to plan for the impact this growth in population will have on communities and the services they need, including the provision of high quality connected parks and open spaces.

The creation of successful, well-designed sustainable places is an objective of the East Lothian Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement (2013-2023), and is key to delivering the Partnership's vision to ensure that East Lothian ***"has quality, attractive greenspace that is valued and enhances the wellbeing of our communities"***. This vision underpins the Open Space Strategy. Our long term vision is that...

"East Lothian has a network of well designed, multi-functional, connected and accessible open spaces with a rich diversity of wildlife and habitats that are an invaluable asset for communities and visitors. Our open spaces play a critical role in the life of a community, encouraging healthy living by providing opportunities for sport, children's play, relaxation, education and local events, close to where people live. These important natural spaces contribute significantly to East Lothian's quality of place, supports biodiversity, flood and coastal management, whilst supporting the local economy. The contribution to the wider green network will provide high quality active travel and path routes to and between open spaces and the countryside around towns.

Realising this vision requires a framework of policy, funding and management approaches to continue to provide exciting, diverse, high quality open spaces, which meet the needs of local communities and the wildlife it supports. The Strategy emphasises the need to make more of existing resources, as opposed to adding to overall levels of supply and to ensure that the full potential of open spaces is realised, moving towards a more integrated and inclusive approach to their management."

## 4.2 Aspirations for Open Space in East Lothian

The East Lothian Partnership is committed to providing a high quality environment, improving the wellbeing and quality of life of our communities and promoting a sustainable lifestyle, and will work with, encourage and support communities to become actively engaged with their local environment.

The Open Space Strategy will help deliver the targets / outcomes set out in the Single Outcome Agreement, including the following:

- **Communities in East Lothian will be able to adapt to climate change and reduced finite natural resources**, as more:
  - People walk, cycle and use public and community transport more often
  - Fewer journeys are made by car
- **People will live healthier, more active and independent lives**, indicated by:
  - Health is improving and the gaps in health inequalities are closing
  - People are more physically active
- **Open spaces will provide a valued resource**, which will:
  - Enhance the wellbeing of our communities
  - Encourage personal learning and development
- **East Lothian has high quality natural environments**, with:
  - A healthy, connected natural environment that is protected and enhanced
  - Quality, attractive greenspace that is valued

The Council's ambition is that everyone living in East Lothian should have:

- Access on a regional basis to country parks, regional sports facilities (Centre for Sporting Excellence) and high quality beaches
- Local access to attractive, good quality parks in their town and neighbourhood (Town and Local Parks)
- Local access to good quality Sports Pitches
- Local access to good quality Play Areas
- Local connections to the Green Network, providing access to the countryside along a well designed network of accessible path routes

## 4.3 Strategy Objectives

The Strategy has identified 8 strategic objectives, set out below and in no particular order, which reflect the key policy areas to be addressed over the lifetime of the Strategy in relation to the provision and management of open space:

**Healthier communities:** strengthening the accessibility to multi-functional open space and sports facilities to promote health and wellbeing and encourage more physical activity and promote Active Travel

**Green networks:** enhancing the green network capacity and connectivity, offering a high quality natural environment for people, wildlife and biodiversity, with access to the countryside via the core path network

**Sustainable growth and regeneration:** improving the profile, image and quality of place to improve its competitiveness as a location to visit, live and invest through the creation of high quality environments that attract economic development

**Quality open spaces:** providing a high quality network of welcoming, diverse, attractive, accessible and connected open spaces, providing opportunities for sport, children's play, physical activity, relaxation, education and local events close to where people live

**Natural heritage:** protecting and enhancing places where biodiversity, diverse habitats and wildlife can flourish, through sensitive management of public access

**Climate change:** creating an environment that is more in balance, helping to moderate climate change and enabling flood and coastal management

**Community Development:** encouraging involvement in the design and management of open space through greater engagement and interaction with local communities

**Management:** managing East Lothian's open spaces and sports facilities in a cost effective manner, involving the prioritised allocation of resources and community involvement

A key component of the Strategy is to positively address the challenges posed by environmental sustainability through recommendations and actions addressing the long term sustainable management of open space.





## **5.0 OPEN SPACE STANDARDS**

### **5.1 Objective and Context**

East Lothian Council is keen to establish open space standards as the next step in the integrating the Open Space Audit and Strategy into the development and community planning processes. This reflects Scottish Planning Policy Guidance and should deliver a wider range of benefits to the Council that will include:

- Securing a consistent and transparent approach to open space provision within the development planning process;
- Allowing development planners to better evaluate local needs and to identify whether developer contributions to open space provision should focus on quality, accessibility or quantity and whether this is provided on-site or off-site;
- Supporting the development sector by ensuring that guidance is clear on open space requirements when developing plans, development frameworks and masterplans and major applications;
- Bringing greater clarity to the development management process relative to planning gains/ developer contributions; and
- Bringing greater clarity to inter-departmental working on the priorities for open space (typology/ quality/ quantity/ accessibility) within settlements and the connections to other policies (Sports Strategy/ Core path/ LBAP-Biodiversity/ Urban Design/ Active Travel).

Setting standards allows a better understanding of the current status of open space assets across a Local Authority area. As noted in Greenspace Quality – A Guide to Assessment, open space standards are intended to provide a tool to support better quality open spaces and to:

- Provide a structure basis for assessing quality of sites against a consistent methodology;
- Enable open space quality of sites to be assessed in relation to one another to enable detailed analysis of inequalities;
- Enable an overview of open space quality to be considered across settlement, Local Authority area and wider regional areas;
- Allow priorities to be reviewed, alongside other initiatives and strategies for open space improvements, through planning, design or management; and
- Provide for ongoing monitoring and review.

Open space standards will allow appropriate connections to be made to Community Planning and the Single Outcome Agreement and may be framed within Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG), if appropriate.

## 5.2 Defining an East Lothian Open Space Standard

The East Lothian Open Space Standard sets standards for quantity, quality and accessibility across a range of PAN 65 typologies that will ensure the standard offers clarity of application and can be monitored and evaluated over the life of the Open Space Strategy and LDP. It is intended to be a progressive standard, with improvements to open spaces undertaken over time and standards reviewed on a regular basis.

A number of recommendations have been drawn from the research and benchmarking with other authority standards and national standards and these include:

- Need to keep the standard simple so that the standard can offer a wide applicability across settlements (urban and rural/ large and small)
- Need to recognise that certain open space types (functional spaces e.g. some types of sports pitches/ cemeteries) are demand driven and do not require/ little value is secured in defining more prescriptive standards
- Need to create a standard for the three key aspects of open space assets, namely: quality, quantity and accessibility
- Need to recognise that an important role of the standard is addressing the planning gain/ deficit created by new build development (housing/ leisure/ employment based development) exerting new demand on open space provision
- Value exists in developing a progressive approach to standards that allows standards to be updated and revisited at each Open Space Strategy review. This will help to ensure standards are realistic and deliverable.

Setting Open Space standards requires a differing approach to each of the three key qualities of open space that ensures open space is fit for purpose and meets the needs of communities. These are quality, quantity and accessibility and each requires a differing approach in setting standards

## 5.3 Open Space Hierarchy

An appreciation of the hierarchy of open spaces can help councils to understand the different functions they perform and distinguish between spaces of strategic, local and neighbourhood importance. Some types of open space, for example athletics tracks and country parks serve the council wide area. Other types of open spaces have catchments that serve a neighbourhood (cluster) or a local area, for example town parks and play areas.

The table below sets out the East Lothian Open Space Hierarchy.

**Table 4: Open Space Hierarchy**

Hierarchy	Core Assets	Standards
<b>STRATEGIC</b> (ELC wide)	Green Networks/ Core Paths/ Seminatural greenspace/ Green Corridors etc.  Access to the Countryside <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Country Parks (designated and other)</li> <li>Regional Semi-natural Space</li> </ul> Strategic Sports Facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Athletics Track</li> </ul>	Policy & Aspirational = 300m accessibility  = 10km accessibility = 10km accessibility  = 36km accessibility
<b>NEIGHBOURHOOD</b> (Cluster wide)	Parks Hierarchy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town Park</li> <li>Local Park</li> </ul> Sports Pitches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full Size Sports Pitch</li> <li>Small Size Sports Pitch</li> </ul>	= 1.2km accessibility = 400m accessibility  = 1.2km accessibility = 400m accessibility
<b>LOCAL</b> (Settlement/ community level)	Playspace <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NEAP</li> <li>LEAP</li> <li>LAP</li> </ul> Amenity Greenspace	= 800m accessibility = 400m accessibility = 240m accessibility

#### 5.4 East Lothian Open Space Standards

PAN 65, which provides supplementary guidance for SPP, sets out how local authorities should prepare open space strategies and audits and advocates a 'standards based approach' for the assessment of open space provision and need. PAN 65 suggests that standards should contain three elements:

- **Quantity** – an amount of space per house unit or head of population
- **Quality** – a benchmark against which quality can be measured
- **Accessibility** – an amount of particular types of open space within a specified distance i.e. a distance threshold

PAN 65 states that different types of open space require to be considered separately. This can be thought of most simply as 'supply-led', 'demand-led' and 'standards based' approaches.

Spaces most suited to a supply-led approach are urban parks and gardens, civic spaces, woodlands and other natural greenspaces. This should assess the existing size and distribution of spaces against their current and future role and allow for the

formulation of a strategy that protects and enhances these spaces, extending and linking them where feasible.

A demand-led approach is suited to those spaces for which a quantifiable demand can be identified, for example, sports facilities and functional spaces such as cemeteries and allotments. This should allow the local authority to consult with relevant user groups or carry out necessary survey work in order to establish the demand for facilities.

#### **5.4.1 Quantity: Is there enough open space and is it equitably distributed?**

Quantity is a consideration in ensuring appropriate provision of open space albeit that it has perhaps been over-emphasised historically relative to the importance of good accessibility and quality.

Establishing a quantifiable amount of open space provision can provide a useful guideline on provision within individual settlement areas and is important in establishing a broad equity across settlements and local neighbourhoods. Where open space quantity exceeds quantity thresholds the quality and accessibility issues take greater importance and this is of particular importance relative to planning gains /developer contributions and open space investment programmes.

Assessment of how provision is allocated across the open space typologies is often based on the amount of space per house unit or per head of population. National standards for minimum quantities of open space do not currently exist. Quantity standards are referenced to and benchmarked against Fields in Trust – Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play extended to allow for general amenity space. The open space quantity standard is as follows:

East Lothian Council sets a quantity standard for open space that requires all settlements to seek to secure:

60m<sup>2</sup> of Open Space and Play Provision per household (incl. public parks, amenity greenspace, playspace)

The quantity standard requires:

- All new open space to address or contribute within the settlement to the quantity standards whether this be by on-site or off-site provision
- Identification of all settlements that fall below the defined quantity standard and address in the LDP the mechanisms to achieve the quantity standard
- Establishment of mechanisms to consult with local stakeholders/ community on local needs and issues impacting on open space quantity
- Quantity of sports pitch provision should be referenced to the Sports Pitch Strategy

#### **5.4.2 Quality: Is open space 'fit for purpose'?**

Quality is a key component of open space. Open spaces need to be “fit for purpose” and serve local communities by providing a level of service and functional provision to meet informal leisure and recreational needs. There is a commitment to increasing multi-functionality of spaces to maximise their contribution to quality of place and the benefits that they provide to local communities. Increasingly, there is also a commitment to incorporate green infrastructure functions, such as water management, green networks, active travel routes into new and existing open spaces. These aspirations are also included in Scottish Planning Policy.

Quality is important in terms of the offering the following:

- Linked green networks of open space, providing routes to work, school and other community facilities
- Well designed, attractive and managed spaces of all types and sizes
- Providing a range of habitats for biodiversity, that can host or act as functional stepping stones/ wildlife corridors for wildlife
- Places that provide opportunities to participate in formal sports, informal recreation (including walking, cycling, play and growing food), promoting health and wellbeing
- Places which are inclusive and serve local needs

The quality assessment part of the audit process is probably the most complex area to secure consistent evaluation. Setting quality criteria to assess the standard of an open space is made more difficult by the diversity of spaces (character, scale, function) and the difficulties involved in establishing a common set of criteria against which to evaluate quality. This problem can be addressed by recognising that **quality criteria are not absolute measures but rather provide an informed, common sense approach on which a consistent judgment of the quality of a space can be determined.**

Quality analysis can review the levels of quality achieved within a settlement area or neighbourhood (e.g. a village); within differing types of open space (e.g. parks); within specific qualitative areas (e.g. biodiversity) or on an individual and comparative site analysis. The indicators are based on the recommendations included in the “Greenspace Quality: A Guide to Assessment, Planning and Strategic Development” (2008). The following table sets out the scoring criteria for each of the indicators and identifier the indicators that have been applied for each category of open space.

**Table 5: Scoring criteria for each of the quality indicators**

Access & Community	Attractiveness / Place Appeal	Biodiversity	Functionality	Community Benefits
Well located & close to community	Attractive and offers a positive image	Contribute +ve biodiversity/water/air quality	Offers a range functions / flexibility of use	Safe and welcoming
Meets DDA requirements/ Disabled Needs	Provides an attractive setting	Large enough to sustain wildlife populations	Diverse play / sport/ recreational opportunity	Good levels of natural surveillance

Provides Quality Paths Fit-for-Purpose	Quality materials/ equipment/ furniture	Offer diversity of habitats	Offers good places for Social Interaction	Low levels/Absence of anti-social behaviour
Connects to other transport nodes	Attractive planting/landscape elements	Part of wider landscape structure	High quality facilities meeting user needs	Appropriate lighting levels
Allows movement in & between places	Welcoming boundaries/ entrances	Connects to wider green Networks	Appropriate facilities for location/ size/use	Sense of local identity & place
Has accessible entrances in right places	Facilities in clean/safe/usable condition	Balance habitat protection & access	Facilities well sited for all ages	Provide routes to wider community facilities
Offers connected path network and signage	Low levels of litter & adequate bins	Resource efficient (grass cutting/peat compost/)	Adaptable to changing needs / use	Contains distinctive/ memorable places
	Well maintained			Community involvement in management

Each site is given a score between 1 and 5 (low to high) for each of the assessment indicators, which are then sub totaled for each theme. All of the criteria are relevant for the larger multifunctional sites. However, there are some types of sites (eg. amenity greenspace) where some criteria (eg. balance habitat protection & access) are not considered relevant due to the size and type of the site. A “not applicable” symbol is entered into the database against the non-relevant criteria. Then each of the site scores are totaled and a percentage score generated based on the number of criteria assessed. In this way, a particular site is not marked down because it does not possess a feature that is not relevant to the quality of the space.

The scores for each indicator are totaled an overall percentage score given. The total percentage scores have been separated into five bands. This banding provides a useful starting point to review the quality of the overall open space resource.

**Table 6: Fitness for purpose quality scoring**

<b>Band A</b>	<b>Band B</b>	<b>Band C</b>	<b>Band D</b>	<b>Band E</b>
Score of 75% or more	Score of 65 - 74%	Score of 55 - 64%	Score of 45 - 54%	Score of less than 45%
<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Failing</b>
<i>Fit for purpose</i>			<i>Not fit for purpose</i>	

At this stage, it should be noted that, as with any database, there are limitations regarding the use and function of the dataset. The open spaces in the East Lothian area include open spaces of all types and sizes, with a diverse range of functions and greenspace elements. Therefore, the study recommends that the total value score should not be viewed in isolation of the other parts of the audit, but rather seen as an indicator to highlight issues and patterns.

The aim of a quality threshold approach is to ensure the Strategy targets sites of poorest quality and provide an identifiable measure of progress as audits/ quality reassessments are undertaken. The standard will also enable the identification of sites

where investment in open spaces is essential to maintain open spaces that are fit for purpose.

East Lothian Council sets a **quality standard** for open space that seeks to secure all communities and settlements have access to high quality open space. All outdoor open space will score “Fair”, “good” or “excellent” quality (band A, B or C). Any sites in either band D or E are not considered to be fit for purpose.

The quality standards is intended to be a progressive standard, with minimum standards with an ambition to continuously improve the quality of open space. Improvements will be prioritised according to the communities’ aspirations and delivered through Area Partnerships.

The quality standard requires:

- All town and local parks provided in new developments should be considered to achieve a minimum quality score of 70% and amenity green space should achieve a minimum score of 60%, which will be assessed at design and post implementation stages by an independent appraiser
- Identification of all openspaces below the defined quality threshold
- Establishment of mechanisms to consult with local stakeholders/ community on local needs and issues impacting on open space quality
- Partner/ developer/ stakeholder and community support to improve quality in the identified spaces as a priority
- Ensuring that all open space below the quality threshold shall be addressed and improved and brought up to standard within 5 years

The aim of a quality threshold approach would be to ensure the Strategy targets sites of poorest quality and provide an identifiable measure of progress as audits/quality re-assessments are undertaken. The standard will also enable the identification of sites where investment in open spaces is essential to maintain open spaces that are fit for purpose.

#### **5.4.3 Accessibility: Is open space accessible to communities?**

Access is a key component of open space. Open spaces need to serve local communities and deliver locally accessible open space providing a local resource that addresses daily needs, supports access by walking, cycling and public transport, supports unsupervised use with safe accessibility and promotes informal recreation and exercise (dog walking, health walking or general passive use, etc).

It requires assessment using distance thresholds (straight line distances or walk distances isochrones)) for particular types of open space. Distance thresholds are a useful planning tool, especially when used in association with a GIS mapping system. It is possible to measure the number of households within a distance threshold comparison of sites, neighbourhoods and community settlements. Distance

thresholds set the maximum distance that typical users can reasonably be expected to travel to each type of provision.

The method for identifying effective catchment areas often involves projecting a straight line catchment radii from the boundary of an open space. This is the easiest and quickest way to plot approximate catchment areas to identify areas without ready access to particular facilities. The open space accessibility standard is as follows:

East Lothian Council sets an **accessibility standard** for open space that seeks to secure all communities and settlements have access to:

- Country Park (incl. non-designated country parks) within 10km
- A Town Park within 1.2km
- Local Park within 400m
- Regional Athletics facility within 36km
- Full Size Sports Pitch within 1.2km
- Green networks (semi-natural greenspaces, green corridors, other green space, countryside) within 300m
- Either a NEAP\* or a LEAP\* within 600m and 400m respectively

\*Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play and Local Equipped Area for Play

The accessibility standard requires:

- All new open space to address or contribute to improved access and safe connectivity within the settlement whether this be by on-site or off-site provision
- Identification of all settlements where open space provision falls below the defined accessibility standard and address in the LDP the mechanisms to address improvements or compensate for restricted accessibility
- Establishment of mechanisms to consult with local stakeholders/ community on local needs and issues impacting on open space accessibility.

#### 5.4.4 East Lothian Standards Table

Whilst bespoke to the needs of East Lothian and its policy framework, the standards were identified by benchmarking relative to other standards, Local Authorities and current open space guidance. A number of Scottish Local Authorities have developed open space standards and the East Lothian standards sit within a broad range of the best practice standards.

The table below sets out the East Lothian standards:



**Table 7: East Lothian Open Space Standards**

PAN 65 Typology	Strategic Level	Demand-led Provision	Standard Assessment		
			Quantity	Quality	Accessibility
<b>Green Networks</b>	Strategic Network	-	Included in the Policy & Aspirational Framework		Green Networks = 300m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Public Parks and Gardens</b>	Neighbourhood/ Community Facilities	-	Open Space and Play Provision = 60m <sup>2</sup> per household (incl. public parks, amenity greenspace, playspace) <sup>3</sup>	Quality Bands A or B (minimum score of 65%)	Regional Park = 25km Country Park* = 10km Town Park = 1.2km Local Park = 400m *Including non-designated country parks
<b>Private Gardens or Grounds</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Amenity Greenspace</b>	Local / Community Facilities	-	(See Public Parks)	Quality Bands A, B or C (minimum score of 55%)	-
<b>Playspace</b> for children and teenagers Including amenity residential with equipped play	Local / Community Facilities	-	-	Play areas are inspected annually for quality and condition in a separate audit	Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play = 800m Local Equipped Area for Play = 400m Local Area for Play = 240m
<b>Sports Areas</b> Hockey, Rugby, Shinty, football, cricket, bowls, athletics, tennis	Neighbourhood/ Community Facilities	□ See Appendix 2	-	-	Regional Athletics <sup>4</sup> = 36km Full Size Sports Pitches <sup>5</sup> = 1.2km Small Size Sports Pitches = 400m
<b>Green Corridors</b>	Local / Community Facilities	-	-	-	(See Green Networks)
<b>Natural/ Semi-natural Greenspaces</b>	Local / Community Facilities	-	-	-	(See Green Networks)

<sup>2</sup> CSGN Goal "To ensure that every home in central Scotland is within 300m of an attractive, safe and well-maintained green space or accessible countryside".

<sup>3</sup> ELC Local Plan Guidance for Open Space and Play Provision = 60m<sup>2</sup> per household

<sup>4</sup> Fields in Trust Standards (based on drive time of 45 minutes in rural areas, average drive rate of 48km/hour)

<sup>5</sup> Fields in Trust Standards

<b>Allotments/ Community Growing Spaces</b>	Neighbourhood/ Community Facilities	☐ See Section 6.7	-	-	-
<b>Civic Space/ Public Realm</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Burial Grounds</b>	-	☐	-	-	-
<b>Other Functional Greenspace</b>	-	☐	-	-	-



## 6.0 APPLICATION OF STANDARDS

### 6.1 Introduction

The open space standards set out in chapter 5 have been applied to the East Lothian open spaces and provision of open spaces and sports pitch analysed as follows:

- Analysis by type – refer to chapter 5
- Analysis by cluster – refer to appendix 1
- Sports Pitch Summary Tables – refer to appendix 2

### 6.2 Green Networks

The Green Network seeks to integrate biodiversity, landscaping, active travel, flood mitigation, open space and climate change adaptation and other relevant interests. It will be made up of green spaces (parks, public spaces, woodland spaces etc) and blue spaces (rivers, streams wetlands and SUDS etc). Although the Green Network will not compensate for the loss of flood plains, it can provide some mitigation for flooding and some adaptation for climate change. It aims to maintain and improve quality of place, including in relation to the setting and identity of settlements, and address environmental inequalities, promote active travel and enhance health and well being. The development of the Green Network over time will help improve the quality of life in the area and connections for people and biodiversity.

East Lothian's Green Network extends within and between settlements and into the countryside and along the coast. Existing green network assets include protected natural heritage sites, active travel routes, core paths, beaches, parks and woodlands. The Council intends to adopt a Green Network Strategy as supplementary planning guidance to this plan. Once adopted the Green Network Strategy will identify, describe and illustrate where and how to deliver new or improved green infrastructure, including as part of new development. The Council will have regard to its Green Network Strategy when assessing planning applications.

*“As a general principle, town and countryside need to be places where people live active and healthy lives, more in touch with their environment, whatever their age or ability. Wildlife must also thrive and we must all reduce our personal contribution to greenhouse gas emissions.”<sup>6</sup>*

#### *Definition*

Green Corridors include canals, river corridors and old railway lines, linking different areas within a town or city as part of a designated and managed network and used for walking, cycling or horse riding, or linking towns and cities to their surrounding countryside or country parks. These may link green spaces together. The area of Green Corridors included in the Open Space Audit was 10.63 hectares.

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<sup>6</sup> ELC Green Network Strategy (2016)

Natural / Semi-natural Greenspaces include areas of undeveloped or previously developed land with greenspaces, residual natural habitats or which have been planted or colonised by vegetation and wildlife, including woodland and wetland areas. The area of Natural/ Semi-Natural Greenspace included in the Open Space Audit was 392.83 hectares.

**East Lothian Standard**

Green Networks		
Quantity	Quality	Accessibility
-	-	Semi-natural greenspaces, green corridors, other green space, countryside = 300m

*Accessibility*

The most comprehensive data held for Green Networks is that of the Characterisation Database. The following categories of open space were mapped to establish the accessibility of green networks: Public Parks and Gardens (SNH category 6.1), Playspace (6.4), Playing Fields (6.51), Golf Courses (6.52), Green Access Routes (6.61), Riparian Routes (6.62), Woodland (6.71), Open Semi-natural (6.72), Open Water (6.73), Churchyard (6.82), Cemetery (6.83) and Civic Space (6.9). Sites below 0.03ha in size were filtered out to remove small insignificant areas of greenspace. Figures 2a to 2f illustrate a 300m zone of access to the Semi-natural greenspaces, green corridors, other green spaces and the countryside according to the Central Scotland Green Network goal: *“To ensure that every home in central Scotland is within 300m of an attractive, safe and well-maintained green space or accessible countryside.”*

The Council will ensure that all new developments contribute to the provision of Green Networks, through the use of Section 75 agreements. For sites allocated for development by the LDP the Council has adopted Development Briefs that identify Green Network measures that must be delivered or provided for as part site development. Where new development is permitted that would adversely affect any existing element of the Green Network, alternative provision must be made. There may also be opportunities to introduce temporary greening of sites to contribute to the green network prior to development.

**6.3 Public Parks and Gardens**

*Definition*

Areas of land normally enclosed, designed, constructed, managed and maintained as a public park or garden. The total land area included in the Open Space Audit covered 1,453.52 hectares of open space including 192.32 hectares of Country Parks, 53.03 hectares of Town Parks and 102.33 hectares of Local Parks.

**East Lothian Standard**

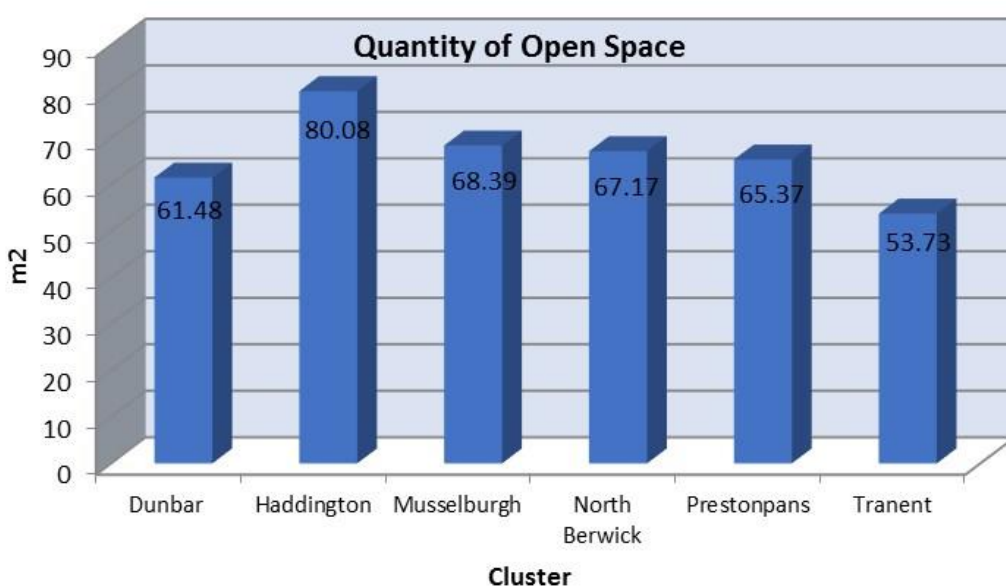
<b>Public Parks and Gardens</b>
---------------------------------

Quantity	Quality	Accessibility
Open Space and Play Provision = 60m <sup>2</sup> per household (including public parks, amenity greenspace, playspace)	Quality Bands A or B (minimum score of 65%)	Regional Park = 25km Country Park* = 10km Town Park = 1.2km Local Park = 400m *Including non-designated country parks

Note: ELC Local Plan Guidance for Open Space and Play Provision = 60m<sup>2</sup> per household

**Quantity**

The application of the East Lothian quantity standard for Public Parks concludes that Haddington, Musselburgh, North Berwick and Prestonpans Clusters meet the standard.



The Tranent cluster falls short with 53.73m<sup>2</sup> of open space per household. All other clusters meet the standard for quantity of open space.

**Table 8: Quantity of Open Space**

Cluster	Households (2011 census)	Public Parks* Quantity	
		Total	m <sup>2</sup> per household
<b>Dunbar</b>	Dunbar 3485, East Linton 781, West Barns 263	278,438m <sup>2</sup>	<b>61.48m<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Haddington</b>	Haddington 3978, Gifford 349	346,517m <sup>2</sup>	<b>80.08m<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Musselburgh</b>	Musselburgh 10171 (incl. Wallyford), Whitecraig 523	731,330m <sup>2</sup>	<b>68.39m<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>North Berwick</b>	North Berwick 2947, Gullane 1186, Aberlady 479	309,780m <sup>2</sup>	<b>67.17m<sup>2</sup></b>

<b>Prestonpans</b>	Prestonpans 4027, Longniddry 1068, Cockenzie 2372	488,142m <sup>2</sup>	<b>65.37m<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Tranent</b>	Tranent 4788, Elphinstone 249, Macmerry 599, Ormiston 920, Pencaitland 593	374,488m <sup>2</sup>	<b>53.73m<sup>2</sup></b>

\*Including “amenity residential space with equipped play” and “equipped playspace”

### Quality

In terms of quality of Public Parks and Gardens the Dunbar, Haddington, North Berwick, Musselburgh and Prestonpans Clusters meet the East Lothian Standard, with the majority of parks scoring over 65%. The settlements of Aberlady, Prestonpans, Elphinstone, Ormiston and Tranent each have one site that does not meet the quality standard. Three of these sites are located within the Tranent cluster. However, as these parks are located in 3 different settlements we have concluded that each settlement reasonably meets the quality standard.

**Table 9: Quality of Parks and Gardens**

Cluster	Parks not meeting Quality Standard	Public Parks Quality	
		No. that meet std	% Meeting the Standard
<b>Dunbar</b>	-	8 out of 8	<b>100%</b>
<b>Haddington</b>	-	10 out of 10	<b>100%</b>
<b>Musselburgh</b>	-	11 out of 11	<b>100%</b>
<b>North Berwick</b>	Aberlady (AB10)	9 out of 10	<b>90%</b>
<b>Prestonpans</b>	Prestonpans (PR16)	12 out of 13	<b>92%</b>
<b>Tranent</b>	Elphinstone (EP04) Ormiston (OR06) Tranent (TR02)	7 out of 10	<b>70%</b>

The quality scores for all of the parks included in the audit ranged from 39% to 93%, with the majority of sites scoring in the 60's and 70's. There are 57 out of 62 high quality parks that meet the standard (scoring above 65%).



The table below sets out the range of features that might be provided by each of the parks in the hierarchy and set a minimum aspirational standard. Open spaces vary enormously in terms of their size, history, use, location and often meet very specific local needs. Therefore, some of the features listed below (eg. lighting or car parks) might not be appropriate for individual parks and open spaces. Where appropriate to the core function of each site, the following characteristics are recommended for the various types of parks:

**Table 10: Parks and Gardens Quality Parameters**

Sub-Category	Aspirational Minimum Quality Standard	Examples
Country Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Countryside Ranger Services</li> <li>• Unique facilities/ attractions/ visitor centre/ events</li> <li>• Offer diverse recreational use</li> <li>• Offer diversity of habitat/ landscape</li> <li>• Offer signage/ interpretation</li> <li>• Provision of paths/ access and/ or bridle paths</li> <li>• Public transport connections</li> <li>• Toilets, car park, café provision</li> <li>• Appropriate high quality maintenance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Muir Country Park</li> <li>• Gullane Bents</li> <li>• Longniddry Bents</li> <li>• Yellowcraig</li> <li>• Levenhall Links</li> </ul>



<p><b>Town Park</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>••••• Provide diverse recreational use</li> <li>•• Provide equipped Play Facilities (NEAP)</li> <li>• Provide seating/ litter bins</li> <li>Provide paths/ access</li> <li>Community event space</li> <li>Receives regular maintenance</li> <li>Formal landscape features</li> <li>Car Park Provision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lewisvale Park</li> <li>• Cemetery Park</li> <li>• King George V Park</li> <li>• Polson Park</li> <li>• Macmerry Park</li> <li>• Longniddry Park</li> <li>• Neilson Park</li> <li>• Lauderdale Park</li> <li>• The Lodge Grounds</li> </ul>
<p><b>Local Park</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>••• Provide for limited local recreation use</li> <li>• Provide equipped Play Facilities (LEAP)</li> <li>Provide paths/ access</li> <li>Receives regular maintenance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whitehill Avenue</li> <li>• Fisherrow Links</li> <li>• Haugh Park</li> <li>• Whitecraig Park</li> <li>• St Ninians Park</li> <li>• Wallyford Park</li> <li>• Cuthill Park</li> <li>• Coronation Gardens</li> <li>• Boat Shore Park</li> <li>• Goolwa Park</li> <li>• Memorial Park</li> <li>• Gifford Park</li> <li>• Goose Green</li> <li>• John Mcintosh Gardens</li> </ul>

The Council will ensure that all new developments contribute to the provision of parks, through the use of Section 75 agreements. A “Developer Contribution Protocol” will be prepared, providing guidance on how developer contributions can be secured, the types of new development this applies to and the number of houses / units that will trigger the requirement. This guidance will also provide details of how developer contributions would be spent.

*Accessibility*

Figures 5a to 5f illustrate the application of the accessibility standards for the Public Parks and Gardens in the settlements of East Lothian. All the major settlements of East Lothian are located within 10km of a Country Park (including the country parks of the East Lothian Council designation), apart from Gifford and Humbie, which is located within the catchment of Vogrie Country Park in Midlothian.

In terms of provision of Town Parks East Lothian is well provided for in the larger settlements, with all residents living within 1.2km of a park. The combination of Town and Local Parks ensure that most residential areas in East Lothian’s towns and villages

settlements live within the catchment of a park. The residential areas outwith these catchments include: the western extremities of Haddington, east and western extremities of Gullane, west of North Berwick and the southern fringes of Dunbar.

### Summary

The table below summarises the findings of the standards review for parks and gardens. A closer look reveals that some Clusters meet the standard in part. For example, only Haddington fails the accessibility standard in the Haddington Cluster, whereas other settlements meet the standard.

**Table 11: Accessibility of Parks and Gardens**

Cluster	Does the Cluster meet the standard?		
	Quantity	Quality	Accessibility
Dunbar	Yes	Yes	Yes
Haddington	Yes	Yes	No (Haddington)
Musselburgh	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Berwick	Yes	Yes	No (N. Berwick, Gullane)
Prestonpans	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tranent	No	Yes	Yes

Scottish Planning guidance recommends that open space standards should contain three elements, quantity, quality and accessibility. The application of these standards to East Lothian settlements has concluded that some clusters, namely the Musselburgh and Prestonpans Clusters, have a good supply of high quality parks, within easy reach of residents living within its settlements therefore meeting all three standards.

Other clusters, for example, North Berwick and Tranent, meet two out of the three standards. The Tranent cluster falls short of the quantity standard (60m<sup>2</sup> of open space per household) by a relatively small margin (53.73m<sup>2</sup>). However, the town meets the quality and the accessibility standard. Quantity of open space provided in new developments should be a priority, along with ensuring they are in the right place and accessible. Future resources and new developments should concentrate on providing new parks in the Tranent cluster to ensure that there is sufficient open space for new populations.

Appendix 1 contains a more detailed cluster assessment, highlighting the differences in provision in each of the towns within a cluster and giving a more accurate picture of provision. Further detail on the application of the standards is provided, along with recommendations for addressing the gaps in provision.

## 6.4 Amenity Greenspace

### Definition

Landscaped areas providing visual amenity or separating different buildings or land uses for environmental, visual or safety reasons and used for a variety of informal or social activities such as sunbathing, picnics or kickabouts. The total land area included in the Open Space Audit covered 1,453.52 hectares of open space including 121.92 hectares of Amenity Greenspace.

### East Lothian Standard

Amenity Greenspace		
Quantity	Quality	Accessibility
-	Quality Bands A, B or C (minimum score of 55%)	-

### Quality

In terms of quality of Amenity Greenspace, the Dunbar and North Berwick Clusters meet the East Lothian Standard with regard to the average quality standard. However, clusters like Musselburgh demonstrate the wide range of quality that exists within the parks, with scores ranging from 39 to 92%.

**Table 12: Quality of Amenity Greenspace**

Cluster	Areas not meeting Quality Standard	Amenity Greenspace Quality	
		No. that meet std	% Meeting the Standard
<b>Dunbar</b>	East Linton (EL09)	18 out of 19	<b>95%</b>
<b>Haddington</b>	Haddington (HA01, HA06)	26 out of 28	<b>93%</b>
<b>Musselburgh</b>	Musselburgh East (ME01, ME02, ME05, ME10, ME12) Musselburgh West (MW21, MW26) Wallyford (WA03, WA05, WA08) Whitecraig (WH01)	13 out of 24	<b>54%</b>
<b>North Berwick</b>	N. Berwick (NB27, NB20) Gullane (GU08)	22 out of 23	<b>96%</b>
<b>Prestonpans</b>	Prestonpans (PR28, PR08, PR25, PR11) Longniddry (LO03, LO01)	22 out of 28	<b>79%</b>
<b>Tranent</b>	Tranent (TR11, TR18, TR20, TR28, TR29) Pencaitland (PE01, PE06) Macmerry (MA08)	34 out of 42	<b>81%</b>

### *Quantity and Accessibility*

The East Lothian standard does not include a quantity and accessibility standard for amenity greenspace. The amount and distribution of amenity greenspace is dependant on the type of land use, the period during which residential areas were built and the nature of the built form. Accessibility to parks and gardens and other types of open space is considered to be of greater importance.

## **6.5 Sports Areas**

The Council continues to maintain and develop facilities for sport, ensuring an appropriate distribution of sports pitches across East Lothian to meet local need. The Council's Open Space and Sports Pitch Strategy (2012) assesses the supply of recreational facilities and open space against existing and anticipated demand. This has informed the Council's site-specific development requirements for such facilities (e.g. sports pitches and changing facilities). The Pitch Strategy Action Plan tables have been updated as part of the Open Space Strategy Refresh (refer to Appendix 2), a summary of which is included in the Sports Area Summary table below.

### *Definition*

Large and generally flat areas of grassland or specially designed surfaces, used primarily for designated sports (including playing fields, tennis courts and bowling greens) and which are generally bookable. The total land area included in the Open Space Audit (2009) covered 1,453.52 hectares of open space including 61.54 hectares of Sports Areas (including tennis courts, bowling greens and playing fields).

### *East Lothian Standard*

The East Lothian standard does not include a quantity and quality standard for Sports Areas. The Sports Pitch Strategy (SPS) undertook an assessment of the provision of sports pitches and anticipated future demand using a demand-led assessment approach. This included consultation with relevant user groups and survey work in order to establish the demand for facilities. The SPS included a detailed quality assessment of the pitches but the East Lothian Standard does not include quality standards for sports areas. The Open Space Strategy process has included an update of the SPS Action Plan.

The Sports Pitch Summary Tables will be updated every 5 years, with the next iteration covering the period 2016 - 2021. The review is based on a robust demandled model, which will assess the requirements for sports provision based on the anticipated housing allocations and locations identified in the emerging Local Development Plan. The review will identify where new sports pitches are required or upgrading of existing pitches/ associated facilities is required as part of the development. The sports facilities requirements will need to form part of the Main Issues Report of the LDP, approved through the Local Plan process.

**East Lothian Standard**

Sports Areas		
Quantity	Quality	Accessibility
-	-	Regional Athletics = 36km Large size sports pitches = 1.2km Small size sports pitches = 400m

Note: based on the Fields in Trust Standards (Athletics provision is based on drive time of 45 minutes in rural areas, average drive rate of 48km/hour)

*Quality*

In recent years, East Lothian Council has been and will continue working towards the rationalisation of the current pitch provision to create multi-pitch sites associated with a number of different sports to help reduce maintenance costs, whilst increasing the quality of the sports facilities. In some cases this has resulted in an increase of the useability of the existing pitches, therefore increasing the season available for a particular sport. The provision of a number of 3G artificial pitches aims to extend and improve the playability of sports facilities.

Provision of high quality facilities is essential in encouraging people to participate in sports. Poor quality facilities not only impacts on the quality of play but also has an impact on the potential playing capacity of a pitch. The Council will ensure that pitch provision in the Council area is sufficient to meet the needs of local residents now and in the future by:

- Ensuring that all **playing pitches are afforded protection** within the emerging Local Development Plans, unless it can be demonstrated that the pitch is surplus to requirement and that a future need can be met on an alternative site to an equal or higher standard.
- **Meeting existing deficiencies** through the re-designation of existing pitches, the creation of new facilities where appropriate and by improving pitch quality.
- Focusing activities and resources on **multi-pitch sites**, where appropriate. However, the provision of single pitches for informal football use should be maintained in the outlying smaller settlements.
- Ensuring that all **new developments** contribute to the provision of outdoor sports facilities to meet the needs of residents, through the use of Section 75 agreements. Guidance for Open Space and play provision show that 160 – 499 dwellings require the provision of sport and play facilities and between 400 and 500 upwards will require the provision of formal sports facilities e.g. 1 full size pitch and associated changing facilities, where this fits with the findings of the Open Space Strategy. Grass sports pitches where possible will be situated within the consolidated 60m<sup>2</sup> per household to maximise use of the resource. Where anticipated demand can be met by existing sports facilities a contribution will still be required for qualitative improvements to existing facilities. A “Developer Contribution Protocol” will be prepared, providing guidance on how developer contributions can be secured, the types of new development this applies to and

the number of houses / units that will trigger the requirement. This guidance will also provide details of how developer contributions would be spent.

#### *Accessibility*

An accessibility standard has been applied to the Regional Athletics Facility delivered in 2012 at Meadowmill Sports Centre and the provision of full size sports pitches in the major towns and villages of East Lothian.

Figures 5a to 5f illustrate the application of the accessibility standards for the Sports Areas in the settlements of East Lothian. All the settlements of East Lothian are located within 36km of the Regional All Weather Athletics Facility at Meadowmill Sports Centre. With the largest number of outdoor football, rugby and hockey pitches in East Lothian, Meadowmill is home to a number of sporting clubs and often plays host to regional and national sporting events throughout the year.

All the major settlements have good provision of football pitches, with almost all residential areas being within 1.2km of an operational full size sports pitch or pitch cluster. The only settlement that does not meet the standard is North Berwick, with the western extremities of the town not falling within a sports pitch catchment. However, overall provision within the town is sufficient at strategically located sites to suit the town's needs.

#### *Future Pitch Provision*

Where housing development sites are proposed, and it is likely that they will expand over a period of years, open space provision needs to be considered within a wider context to ensure connectivity with future phase provision and facilitate expansion within a single footprint where possible. The Council has set maximum catchments for facilities, including 1.2km for sports pitches. Guidance for Open Space and play provision show that 160 – 499 dwellings require the provision of sport and play facilities and between 400 and 500 upwards will require the provision of formal sports facilities e.g. 1 full size pitch and associated changing facilities. Grass sports pitches where possible will be situated within the consolidated 60m<sup>2</sup> per household to maximise use of the resource.

New pitches are already planned as part of the large-scale development areas in the Council area. Developments identified in the Local Development Plan include:

- **Blindwells New Settlement:** Approximately 130 hectares of land is proposed at Blindwells, near Tranent, for the development of a new settlement comprising land capable of accommodating 1600 houses, commercial, social, educational and community facilities, open space, employment and associated infrastructure. 3 full size community sports pitches, 3 full size tennis courts and 6 team changing is the sports requirement.
- **Hallhill South West, Dunbar:** Approximately 20 hectares of land at Hallhill South West is proposed for 500 houses. Sports pitch facilities required.
- **Letham Mains, Haddington:** Approximately 43 hectares of land is proposed for a mixed use development of 750 houses, social and community facilities and associated infrastructure. The Development Framework will include provision of

a new full sized sports pitch for public use, with two team changing accommodation to be incorporated within the new school building.

- **Mains Farm, North Berwick:** Approximately 38 hectares of land is proposed at Mains Farm, North Berwick for a mixed use development of approximately 400 houses, community facilities, open space, employment and associated infrastructure. One full sized sports pitch required including two team changing facilities.
- **Land to the south east and south west of Wallyford:** Approximately 85 hectares of land is proposed at Wallyford for a mixed use development of 1000 houses, social, educational and community facilities, open space, and associated infrastructure. The Development Framework will include one new full size grass sports pitch (optimum size 120 by 70 yards) and one new 3G synthetic pitch with 4 team changing facilities. Also a floodlit multi-use games area. Plus contributions to Wallyford park to improve changing pavilion.

Appendix 2 contains the summary tables for each of the Clusters, which is summarised below.

**Table 13: Sports Areas Summary**

<b>Cluster</b>	<b>Current Demand</b>	<b>Future Demand</b> (including committed new development)
<b>Dunbar</b>	Current demand met for football, cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis and bowls.	Future demand met for cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis and bowls. Consideration should be given for floodlights at the tennis courts at Winterfield and East Linton. Consider more formal use of Winterfield and purchase of land west of Hallhill /Dunbar PS 1No. 2G synthetic pitch on site at Dunbar Grammar School. Extension of sports pitches at Hallhill linked to Local Development Plan housing growth.
<b>Haddington</b>	Current demand met for football, cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis and bowls.	Extension of sports pitches in cluster linked to LDP housing growth at Letham Mains housing development site. Future demand met for cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis and bowls
<b>Musselburgh</b>	Current demand met for football, cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis and bowls.	Extension of sports pitches in cluster linked to LDP housing growth at Wallyford, Craighall, Old Craighall East and Newton Farm housing development sites. Future demand met for cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis, shinty and bowls.
<b>North Berwick</b>	Current demand met for football, cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis and bowls.	Extension of sports pitches in cluster linked to LDP housing growth at Mains Farm housing development site. Future demand met for cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis and bowls
<b>Prestonpans</b>	Current demand met for football, cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis and bowls.	Future demand met for football, cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis, shinty and bowls Strategic reserve of additional land west of Meadowmill can be formalised when required Extension of sports pitches in cluster linked to LDP housing growth at Longniddry housing developments.



<b>Tranent</b>	Current demand met for football, cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis and bowls.	Future demand met for rugby, hockey and bowls. Resurfacing of 2No. small sided 2G pitches at Forrester Park required. Extension of sports pitches in cluster linked to LDP housing growth at Windygoul South housing development site.
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## 6.6 Playspace

The Council continues to maintain and develop facilities for play, ensuring an appropriate distribution of play areas across East Lothian to meet local need. The East Lothian standard does not include a quality standard for playspace as the majority of play areas were not assessed individually during the Open Space Audit as they often form part of larger open spaces. East Lothian Council conduct annual independent inspections of play areas for quality and condition as part of their ongoing management of the resource. The inspectors are registered with the Register of Play Inspectors (RPI).

### *Definition*

Areas providing safe and accessible opportunities for and teenagers children's play, usually linked to housing areas. The total land area included in the Open Space Audit (2009) covered 1,453.52 hectares of open space including 3.73 hectares of Playspace.

### **East Lothian Standard**

<b>Playspace</b>		
<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Quality</b>	<b>Accessibility</b>
-	-	Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play = 800m Local Equipped Area for Play = 400m Local Area for Play = 240m

### *Quality*

East Lothian Council will continue to deliver local playspaces that are fit for purpose, meet local needs, in locations close to where people live. The Fields in Trust provide a series of recommendations for play area design, which have informed the East Lothian quality statement. Provision of high quality facilities is essential to encouraging people to visit open spaces. The Council will ensure that playspace provision in the Council area is sufficient to meet the needs of local residents now and in the future. Play areas should be:

- Sited in open, welcoming locations, separated from motorised vehicles, fitted with a range of high quality play equipment and seating, with appropriate safety surfacing and fencing
- Be well designed, attractive and safe for children, including those with special needs
- Provide a high quality play experience, catering for a mix of age groups and abilities
- Have good levels of natural surveillance from roads/ footpaths but far enough away from houses to reduce the likelihood of noise and nuisance
- Accessible along a surfaced path and connected to the wider open space and path network

The Council will ensure that all new developments contribute to the provision of playspaces, through the use of Section 75 agreements. A “Developer Contribution Protocol” will be prepared, providing guidance on how developer contributions can be secured, the types of new development this applies to and the number of houses / units that will trigger the requirement. This guidance will also provide details of how developer contributions would be spent.

### *Accessibility*

The Fields in Trust (FIT) “Six Acre Standard” set out the parameters for a hierarchy of play areas, as follows:

- **Local Area for Play (LAP)** is a small area of open space for young children (mainly 4-6 year olds) for informal play. It should contain features that enable children to identify the space as their own domain, for example hopscotch, a footprint trail, mushroom style seating or animal rockers. The activity zone should be reasonably flat, have a grass surface and minimum area of 100m<sup>2</sup>. There should be seating for carers and appropriate landscaping/ buffer zones.
- **Local equipped Area for Play (LEAP)** is a play area equipped for children of early school age (mainly 4-8 year olds). The activity zone should have a minimum area of 400m<sup>2</sup>, with grass playing surface and at least five types of play equipment with appropriate safety surfacing. There should be seating for carers.
- **Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP)** is a play area equipped for 8-14 year olds, which should include a grass kickabout area, a hard surfaced area for ball games or wheeled activities, 8 types of play equipment appropriate for children in this age group and seating, including a youth shelter. The activity zone should have a minimum area of 1,000m<sup>2</sup>.

Buffer zones are necessary around LEAPs and NEAPs to reduce potential disturbance to nearby residential areas. Distances of 20 metres and 30 metres respectively between the edge of the activity zone and the boundary of the nearest property are recommended. These buffer zones could include footpaths and planted areas.

Figures 7a to f illustrate the application of the accessibility standards for the playspace in the settlements of East Lothian. As mentioned previously, the East Lothian Standard is intended to be a progressive standard. The Council will endeavour to meet the FIT accessibility standard as resources and available sites become available.

## **6.7 Allotments and Community Growing Spaces**

### *Definition*

Areas of land for growing fruit, vegetables and other community growing plants, either in individual allotments or as a community spaces activity. The total land area included in the Open Space Audit (2009) covered 1,453.52 hectares of open space including 1.03 hectares of allotments/ community growing spaces.

Allotments can provide a number of wider benefits to the community as well as the primary use of growing fruit and vegetables. These benefits include bringing people together from different backgrounds, improving physical and mental health,

environmental benefits and providing a source of recreation. The enactment of the Community Empowerment Bill results in the Council having a statutory duty to provide allotment ground according to demand. The Council will facilitate the creation of new allotments, will maintain, and report on and address the needs of waiting lists. The Council will be required to ensure that no individual will sit on a waiting list for more than 5 years without offer of a fit for purpose plot.

#### *Demand Led Assessment*

The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners suggest a national standard of 20 allotments per 1,000 households. Overall demand in East Lothian is currently lower than this and is highest in the main towns. The area currently has 152 allotment plots with a further 36 planned (188). There are around 300 people on the waiting list. This means that for every one hundred households there is currently demand for around one allotment plot in East Lothian.

East Lothian is predominantly rural in character, with the pressure for land for garden space being less intense than other more urban local authority areas and therefore a demand led assessment is considered more appropriate. 92% of the people on the allotment waiting list live in the main towns of East Lothian (Haddington, Tranent, Musselburgh, Dunbar, Prestonpans, North Berwick) and a further 4% live in the smaller settlements close-by (Wallyford, Gullane, Longniddry, Macmerry etc.). The availability of garden space for growing vegetables and plants probably explains the demand for allotment space being concentrated in the larger urban settlements.

With growth in households predicted over the period of the LDP the demand for allotment space will be fluid and the Council will require to maintain waiting lists in order to accurately determine demand at any given time. The Council's allotment strategy will seek to prioritise provision of allotment space for each cluster area within each cluster area as deemed necessary. In the event cluster provision is not possible the Council will provide allotment space at local authority level.

## 7.0 ACTION PLAN

### 7.1 Action Plan Tables

The Open Space Strategy will be implemented through the Action Plan which provides detailed objectives and associated tasks. The Strategy is intended to provide the Council's Open Space Managers with a "tool" to improve the management structures and practices, ensuring that the Council has a clear strategic direction to its open space investment and asset management. The Action Plan identifies tasks to be achieved and the organisations / lead partners who will be responsible for taking the actions forward. The Plan has been created to be undertaken over a 10 year period but will require updating as changes occur.

Timescales: short (1 – 2 years), medium (3 – 5 years), long (6+ years).

Ref.	Action	Delivery	Timescale (short, med, long)	Priority (High, Med, Low)
<b><i>Establish Effective Partnership Working</i></b>				
1.	<b><i>Working with Communities</i></b> Working in partnership with the 6 Area Partnerships to deliver open space quality improvements to the existing open space resource in the Cluster areas. Achieve effective community involvement through consultation, encouraging a sense of public 'ownership' and stewardship, through involvement in the design and management of major open space developments, ongoing improvements and specific open space issues.	ELC \ Area Partnerships \ Friends Groups	Ongoing	High
2.	<b><i>Community Involvement</i></b> Encourage and support the formation of local volunteer groups, such as "friends of" or "in bloom" groups to support the enhancement of specific open space.	ELC/ Community Councils / Residents Associations / local groups	Medium	Medium

3.	<b>Promotion and Marketing</b> Advertise and promote Green Flag, Seaside Award and other awards or events on ELC website and other community newsletters. Identify a “Best Practice” project for each cluster area on an annual basis to promote open space activities / achievements of ELC staff / community groups etc.	ELC – L&C	Ongoing	Medium
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Ref.	Action	Delivery	Timescale (short, med, long)	Priority (High, Med, Low)
<b>Enhance Green Network Capacity and Connectivity</b>				
4.	<b>Green Networks</b> All residents should have access to networks of semi-natural greenspace/ green networks on their doorstep, providing access to the countryside. Ensure that open spaces are “joined up” in coordinated green networks that reconnect existing open spaces, provide wildlife corridors and strengthen local identity.	ELC – L&C\ Planners - landscape	Medium	Medium
5.	<b>Access Networks</b> Integrate settlement open space network with ELC Core Path network, active travel network and wider path network, in line with the Outdoor Access Strategy and Active Travel Improvement Plan. Ensure that open space development optimises links with ELC Core Path, active travel and wider path network through Access Officer input into the open space planning process. Ensure connectivity of parks and open spaces (recognising their role as ‘destinations’ for the wider communities) with local active and sustainable transport modes, including buses, to reduce reliance on the car to access parks and greenspaces.	ELC – L&C \ Sustainable Transport Officers Group	Medium	High
6.	<b>Access to the Countryside</b> Ensure that open spaces on the urban fringe maximise access to the countryside, providing links to the rural path network, Strategic Path Routes (eg. John Muir Way), seafront access, promenades and beaches.	ELC - Landscape & Countryside \ Planners	Medium	Low
<b>Sustainable Growth and Regeneration</b>				

7.	<b>Developer Contributions</b> Establish effective dialogue with housing developers to achieve delivery of high quality design open space masterplans, funded through new developments and 'ring-fencing' for the delivery of open space projects. Working with the principles of planning policy.	ELC – L&C/	Short	High
8.	<b>Open Space Requirements for New Developments</b> Review the appropriate thresholds for the provision of the various types of open space and sports pitches required as part of the on-site open space provision for a new development. Ensure that the ELC open space standards are met and implemented for all types of development.	ELC – L&C	Short	High

Ref.	Action	Delivery	Timescale (short, med, long)	Priority (High, Med, Low)
9.	<b>Off-site Developer Contributions</b> Consider financial arrangements for developer contributions for provision of off-site open space and connectivity to these, where the size of the development falls below the threshold or there is adequate existing provision to accommodate residents in the new development.	ELC – L&C	Short	High
10.	<b>New Development</b> Require all strategic housing land releases to contribute to opportunities for open space and green network enhancement.	ELC – L&C	Ongoing	High
<b>High Quality Network of Open Spaces</b>				
11.	<b>Quality Open Space</b> All amenity open space should be brought up to the 60% quality standard through a rolling programme of quality upgrades. All parks should be brought up to the 70% quality standard through a rolling programme of quality upgrades, as resources and project coordination allow.	ELC – L&C	Ongoing	High

12.	<b>Play Space</b> Provision of high quality play space and associated facilities, providing safe play opportunities for children and young people of all ages. Ensure that all play areas operated and maintained by the Council are in good condition, safe and litter free.	ELC – L&C	Ongoing	High
13.	<b>Allotments</b> Ensure that allotment sites in East Lothian are of a sufficient quantity and quality to meet the needs and aspirations of local residents.	ELC – L&C	Medium	Medium
14	<b>Signage Provision</b> Provide, where appropriate, directional, interpretive and informational signage within and leading to public open spaces, for residents and visitors to increase awareness and involvement. Carry out an audit of existing signage and interpretation and make recommendations for future provision. Develop corporate style for future projects.	ELC – L&C	Medium	Medium

Ref.	Action	Delivery	Timescale (short, med, long)	Priority (High, Med, Low)
<b>Healthier Communities</b>				
15.	<b>Healthy Lifestyles</b> Link the Open Space Strategy to the Healthy Lifestyles agenda and promote open spaces as places to relax, exercise and play. Deliver an annual programme to encourage 'healthy living'. Support the development of Community Gardening / Growing projects. Explore links to the schools projects, Community Plan events, Leisure Strategy, 'Paths to health' etc.	ELC \ SCL PA	Medium	Medium
16.	<b>Community Events &amp; Education Programme</b> Continue to support the use of greenspaces by local groups and organisations for holding appropriate local events and activities. Develop a dialogue between community groups and ELC Officers, Ranger Service, Sport & Leisure to support and encourage community initiatives and events, where appropriate.	ELC – SCL	Ongoing	Medium



<b>Protect and Enhance Natural Heritage</b>				
17.	<b>Tree and Woodland Management Plans</b> Enhance the nature conservation and habitat value of the resource. Review woodlands within towns and prepare management plans for the future management of the woodland resource.	ELC – L&C	Medium	Medium
18.	<b>Natural Heritage</b> Protect the status of historic parks, Ancient Woodland , Local Nature Reserves, Local Biodiversity Sites, SSSIs and SPAs, and enhance the natural resource. Implement the recommendations of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) when setting management objectives for historic parks, wildlife sites, LNR and other sites. Consultation between Countryside Team and Biodiversity Officer to ensure that any open space improvements adhere to the LBAP to safeguard target priority species and their habitats.	ELC- L&C	Ongoing	High
19.	<b>Biodiversity</b> Increase the amount of amenity greenspace managed for biodiversity. Select sites that could have a proportion of open space managed for biodiversity. Links to LBAP priority habitats.	ELC – L&C	Medium	Medium
20.	<b>Vacant or Derelict Sites</b> Encourage the local community to identify vacant or derelict sites that they could tidy up to the benefit of the appearance of the local area, biodiversity and potentially community growing projects.	ELC – L&C	Medium	Medium
Ref.	Action	Delivery	Timescale (short, med, long)	Priority (High, Med, Low)
<b>Effective Management of Open Space</b>				
21.	<b>Open Space Audit</b> Review and update the baseline Open Space \ Sports Pitch Audit information and the Open Space Strategy on a five yearly cycle. Monitor and reassess existing sites for improvements to achieve standards.	ELC - SCL	Medium	High

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22.	<b><i>Maintenance of Open Spaces</i></b> Review maintenance regimes and standards with a view to keeping open spaces maintained to a good standard, with quick response to problems to ensure that the problems do not worsen. Strategies to tackle vandalism are required in some settlements to deal with anti-social issues in open spaces.	ELC – L&C	Short	High
23.	<b><i>Monitoring Change</i></b> Ensure regular updating of the Open Space Audit database, adding new sites / recording improvements, carefully detailed on a change log.	ELC – L&C	Short	High

## **8.0 NEXT STEPS**

### **8.1 Delivery**

The Open Space Strategy is intended to provide the Council's Open Space managers with a "tool" to improve the management structures and practices, ensuring that the Council has a clear strategic direction to its open space investment and asset management.

The Open Space Strategy aligns with the Council Plan and has the ability to make a positive contribution to Growing our Communities. Working with and alongside our communities, particularly through the Area Partnership model to prioritise open space improvements in cluster areas, will be a key delivery mechanism for the Open Space Strategy.

The Council is committed through the Council Plan to working alongside and building capacity and resilience across our Communities and the involvement in and use of our open spaces can play an important role in that.

Recent works and improvements in delivery of open space projects in partnership with Area Partnerships provide confidence in this empowering approach for communities.

As Area Partnerships will be a key partnership vehicle for prioritising and delivery, it will not be exclusive. There are a range of Friends Groups that will enhance the delivery of the principles contained within the Open Space Strategy. These groups too will play a valuable role in future improvements to enhance the quality of environment for all across East Lothian.

### **8.2 Monitoring and Evaluation**

Best practice recommends that a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework should be set up to establish a formal and measurable process to record outputs and outcomes. It is vital that the Open Space Strategy becomes a part of the day-to-day management of the Council's open space resource.

The monitoring process should address the following issues:

- Open Space Audit
- Future stakeholder and community engagement
- Capital and funding programme
- Open space quality improvements
- User satisfaction

Changes to the open space resource and updating of the Open Space Audit database will be monitored and recorded through the Change Log, adding new sites / recording improvements. A log of new and consented open space sites will be maintained (with accompanying mapping), that will inform the Open Space Strategy reviews.

The evaluation will inform the Open Space Strategy and Action Plan updates.

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### **8.3 GIS Mapping and Database Design**

An important element in planning for the Audit was to understand the need for information and securing all necessary agreements on how data was being managed, co-ordinated and accessed, together with appropriate protocols for GIS mapping and data capture. Care was taken in ensuring that change records were established for the database ensuring that any changes were properly logged and reported and to ensure consistent results along the process of data gathering and quality assessing.

It is important to note that the Audit is a dynamic piece of work and the sites included in the study should be considered to be stage 1 of an ongoing process. The information recorded in the GIS and Excel database should be reviewed on an annual basis and added to, as environmental work is undertaken to ensure that the information remains current.

### **8.4 Summary Progress**

An annual action plan and a summary progress statement will be prepared on an annual basis by the Open Space Steering Group to achieve the following:

- Annual Action Plan identifying the tasks required for implementation of the Strategy, in conjunction with Service Plans
  - Summary Progress Statement to summarise progress made on the Action Plan and undertake an evaluation of success
  - A “Best Practice” open space project will be identified for each cluster area on an annual basis, to encourage greater involvement / interest in local greenspaces and recognise the achievements of local groups eg. Amisfield Preservation Trust. This publicity will encourage further initiatives and will help to consolidate and expand success.
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