



Policy, Finance and Development Committee	Tuesday, 09 September 2025	Matter for Information and Decision
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Report Title: **Green Spaces Strategy (2025 - 2035)**

Report Author(s): **David Gill (Legal Consultant)**

Purpose of Report:	To seek Members approval to consult on the Green Spaces Strategy (2025 - 2035).
Report Summary:	The report introduces the Green Spaces Strategy (2025 - 2035) which in turn will inform the management of the Parks and Opens Spaces within the Borough.
Recommendation(s):	That the Green Space Strategy (at Appendix 1) is approved for a 6-week public consultation.
Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):	Ben Wilson (Head of Neighbourhood Services) ben.wilson@oadby-wigston.gov.uk 0116) 257 2711 David Gill (Legal Consultant) david.gill@oadby-wigston.gov.uk (0116) 257 2626
Strategic Objectives:	Our Communities (SO2) Our Council (SO1) Our Environment (SO4) Our Partners (SO5)
Vision and Values:	Customer & Community Focused (V1) Collaborative & Creative (V3) Proud of Everything We Do (V2) "Our Borough - The Place To Be" (Vision)
Report Implications:-	
Legal:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Financial:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Corporate Risk Management:	Reputation Damage (CR4) Effective Utilisation of Assets / Buildings (CR5) Organisational / Transformational Change (CR8)
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications arising from this report. Initial EA Screening (See Appendices)
Human Rights:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Statutory Officers' Comments:-	

Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Consultees:	None.
Background Papers:	None.
Appendices:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Green Spaces Strategy (2025 - 2035) 2. Equality Impact Assessment

1. Background

- 2.1 Parks and open spaces are fundamental to the health, well-being, and quality of life of any urban community. In Oadby and Wigston, these green spaces act as vital havens amid a rapidly urbanising landscape, offering residents and visitors opportunities for recreation, relaxation, and connection with nature.
- 2.2 From well-maintained local parks to tranquil nature reserves and green corridors, Oadby and Wigston is home to a diverse range of open spaces that support both environmental sustainability and the social fabric of the community.
- 2.3 Several services play a role in the functioning of Oadby and Wigston's parks or have a stake in how they are used, including corporate assets (grounds maintenance), planning policy, community engagement, health and wellbeing, community safety, climate change.

2. Why a change is needed

- 2.1 As Oadby and Wigston continues to develop, the demand for accessible, high-quality outdoor spaces becomes increasingly critical.
- 2.2 The Green Spaces Strategy for Oadby and Wigston is a comprehensive plan aimed at protecting, enhancing, and expanding these valuable green spaces to meet the evolving needs of a growing population.
- 2.3 This strategy:
 - Outline's the approach for managing, protecting and developing green spaces which gives consideration to the Council's resources, management and maintenance responsibilities and the contributions from community and interest groups.
 - Highlights a set of principles which will guide future maintenance, investment, community engagement decisions and actions regarding our green spaces.
 - Agree a set of priorities which focus effort, resources and decision making, ensuring that our green spaces remain high quality spaces for everyone to enjoy.
 - Help secure additional investment and external funding towards enhancing infrastructure, faculties and opportunities for the benefit of the community.
- 2.4 The successful delivery of the strategy's objectives will rely on several key factors:

- The active support and contribution of our partners and stakeholders in delivering high-quality work.
- Securing consistent and sufficient funding throughout the strategy's lifespan.
- Establishing a clear and effective monitoring framework, with defined milestones and achievements to assess progress.
- Ensuring the strategy is widely communicated and promoted in a variety of formats to foster ongoing stakeholder engagement.

3. Environmental Implications

- 3.1 The strategy also supports the Council's Climate Action plan and climate change mitigation by focusing on enhancing green spaces, which play a vital role in reducing carbon emissions. Well-maintained parks and open spaces act as carbon sinks, absorbing CO2 and improving air quality.
- 3.2 Additionally, increasing the biodiversity and the number of trees and plants in these areas can help counterbalance the environmental impact of urbanisation.
- 3.3 The strategy also encourages sustainable practices such as using environmentally friendly materials in park designs, reducing waste, and promoting green infrastructure and sustainable drainage systems.