

Appendix 1. Strategic Context

For this strategy to focus on the future effectively, it is important to recognise the key influencing documents and evidence base which frame the provision, protection, and development of our green spaces. It is also equally important for people to understand the current context in which our green spaces are managed and maintained as this will play a part in decision making and the delivery of future projects.

Corporate Plan (2023-2027)

The Corporate Plan sets out Staffordshire Moorlands District Council's commitments in the delivery of services and community leadership to the residents and businesses of Staffordshire Moorlands for the next four years.

The Green Spaces Strategy makes a positive contribution to the four main aims of the plan highlighted below:

Aim 1: To help create a safer and healthier environment for all communities to live and work.

Aim 2: Effective use of resources and provide value for money.

Aim 3: To help create a strong economy by supporting further regeneration of towns and villages.

Aim 4: To protect and improve the environment.

Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan (2020 - 2033)

Local plans are documents which provide a framework for delivering development over a set period, including ensuring that councils deliver sustainable housing development. They should, as far as possible, reflect the aspirations of local communities and should strive to contribute towards their wider social, economic, and environmental objectives.

The Staffordshire Moorlands local plan was adopted in 2020 and sets out the Council's vision and strategy for the district until 2033. The local plan identifies the main priorities which the council will focus its resources on.

The four aims below are taken from the Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan and the aspirations of this Green Spaces Strategy contribute towards a number of them;

Aim 1: Creating distinctive, sustainable, self-supporting settlements.

Aim 2: Meeting the needs of our communities.

Aim 3: Encourage a strong, prosperous, and diverse economy.

Aim 4: Maintaining a quality environment and special places.

Staffordshire Moorlands Open Space Study (2017)

The Staffordshire Moorlands open space study provides an evidence base that is used to help protect parks and open spaces, inform the future provision of parks and open spaces, and helps to secure improvements to parks and open spaces. Using the evidence base contained in the study, the Council can secure investment from housing developments via section 106 agreements which is then used to provide new or enhance existing facilities locally.

Move More Staffordshire Moorlands Strategy 2023 – 2033

A partner strategy, adopted by the Council, written by a wide range of partners across the Staffordshire Moorlands from a wide range of perspectives including integrated health care, voluntary and community organisations, young people's services, education, wellbeing, sport, transport, housing, community safety and planning to name a few. The Move More strategy is fully supported by the Council. The core value of the strategy is *"Together, our aim is everyone across the Staffordshire Moorlands to move more every day and to provide greater support to those that need it most."*

Friendly, accessible and well managed green spaces which provide opportunities for all levels of physical activity play a vital part in the success of this strategy.

Our aspiration is for our green spaces to be places which contain a range of facilities, where there will be opportunities for people to be inspired to move more and realise the physical and mental benefits this is proven to bring about.

We will work in collaboration with local communities to identify their needs, having a positive open and helpful approach to delivering the Green Spaces Strategy. Working in partnership with residents, community groups, local ward councillors, recognising the value of this approach and supporting it.

We will develop robust management plans for some of our green spaces that build on the existing offering contained within those parks and green spaces. Facilities such as skate parks, pump tracks, tennis courts and multi-use games areas will be maintained to a safe standard. We will work with communities to enhance facilities, develop new facilities where appropriate and encourage activities within the parks and green spaces which attract people of all ages to be more active.

Play and Outdoor Sports Facilities.

Council play areas and outdoor sports facilities are important assets that help children, young people and adults keep active, build confidence, improve physical literacy and social skills. We aspire to ensure that all facilities are fun, accessible and free, helping to make parks an inviting destination for recreation and family time.

It is important these facilities are provided, maintained and developed effectively and to ensure this happens, the open space study includes a quality assessment of all children's play provision across the District that the council is responsible for. This evidence base is used to identify where future provisional improvements are required and will support the business case for investment.

Existing council play facilities are maintained and repaired by the Council's service provider Alliance Environmental Services (AES). The Council leads in developing new play areas or the replacement of

existing facilities. Projects to improve or develop play and outdoor sports facilities are included within park management plans and are specific to the needs locally.

Staffordshire Moorlands Tree Strategy (2016)

The Staffordshire Moorlands Tree Strategy sets out how the Council will manage trees, both on its own land and private trees protected by legislation. The policy outlines the Council's approach to tree management and is supported by detailed Good Practise Guides. These guides detail how tree works decisions are made and implemented and summarises how we manage risk and undertake inspection of trees.

In situations where works to trees within our parks are required, or when projects are developed which propose to add new trees to our parks, the Council's Arboriculture Officer will be consulted with their recommendations implemented accordingly.

Climate Change

In 2019 the Council declared a climate change emergency and is committed to become carbon neutral in its internal operations on the service it delivers, by 2030. The environmental impacts of all planning and decision making relating to the delivery of this strategy will be considered, so that our parks and green spaces contribute towards the council's targets for zero carbon emissions.

Staffordshire Moorlands “Plan for Nature” (2022 -2030)

Developed in conjunction with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, the Plan for Nature sets out to protect and restore priority species, restore natural processes and deliver nature based solutions to mitigate climate change. We will work alongside numerous stakeholders including the Trust to try and achieve these objectives.

Staffordshire Moorlands Green Infrastructure Strategy (2018)

To develop a network of green corridors and green spaces in the Staffordshire Moorlands that:

Support access to green travel, promote health and wellbeing, develop ecological networks, improve flood water management, unlock economic development potential and value ecosystem services.

Sport England: Uniting the Movement. (2021- 2031)

10 year strategy to transform lives and communities through sports and physical activity. Recognising the disruption caused by the coronavirus pandemic and how we need to collectively reimagine how we keep movement and sporting activities central to the lives of everyone. Supporting initiatives such as “Join the Movement” which is about simple, fun and free ways to get active outdoors such as in our parks and green spaces.