

Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2020-2025



Background

- Havering has a great collection of parks and open spaces with a good mix of varying landscapes from large country parks to ornamental gardens.
- Havering is responsible for 100 parks and open spaces, 26 allotments and a network of Public Rights of Way
- Residents rate the quality of the green spaces in Havering very highly as from the 2018 MORI survey Parks and Open Spaces received the highest satisfaction rating of all Council services at 91%
- We want our parks and open spaces to continue to be of a high standard and to provide a broad variety of features and facilities that enrich lives of our residents and visitor's. In order to achieve this, we must continually improve and innovate, maximising the resources available and seeking external investment where possible.
- By implementing this strategy, the council will ensure that these key assets are enhanced and continue to make Havering a great place to live and work.

Purpose of the Strategy

‘Provide focus and added value to the efforts of everyone involved in the planning and provision of parks and open spaces, linked to a very clear view of what will be achieved by 2025’.

Set against the Havering Plan and the themes and outcomes within that the Parks & Open Spaces Strategy provides a framework for action to continue to provide and manage accessible, safe, clean, attractive, and welcoming parks and open spaces for everyone. It will:

- Provide a strategic framework for the provision and management of Parks and Open Spaces in Havering for the next five years
- Establish a clear sense of direction and provide a focus for resource allocation and action on the ground
- Maximise support for, and advocate the benefits of, Parks and Open Spaces within and outside the council
- Encourage and develop further community and stakeholder involvement and partnership
- Contribute to the relevant themes and outcomes in the Havering Plan and linking with other local and national plans and strategies.

This will be used to guide future provision, planning, management and development of these most valuable assets.

Benefits of the Strategy

Havering has a great portfolio of parks and open spaces and greenspaces are integral to the cultural life of the borough.

The council recognises that a clear vision is needed to deliver a whole range of benefits for people who live and work in the borough. These benefits include:

- to set out the Council's strategic direction for developing and managing its parks and open spaces based on the 3-tier hierarchy
- to provide a sense of direction to all stakeholders so that they understand their role and are able to effectively work in partnership with the Council
- enhancing the physical and mental health of residents
- making Havering a better place to live, work, learn and play
- protecting and enhancing the borough's cultural and natural heritage.
- understanding the role that parks and similar open spaces play in the wider community
- enabling resources to be effectively used so that the Council can meet the considerable challenges that face the parks and open spaces during a period of financial constraint
- securing and guiding an ongoing programme of capital investment to ensure continuous improvement throughout the portfolio

Contents of the Strategy

The value of parks

- Economical
- Social
- Environmental

Links to other Plans

- Havering Plan
- Parks Management Plan
- Nature Conservation and Biodiversity Strategy
- Health & Wellbeing Service Plan
- Asset Management Plan
- Public Health Plan
- Cultural Strategy
- Air Quality Action Plan
- Local Plan

Contents of the Strategy

Parks in Havering (including allotments & Public Rights of Way)

Service Provision

- Existing services
- Linked services
- Strategic management

Policies

- Tree pruning
- Events
- Commemorative schemes

Marketing and Communication

- Parks Brochure
- Social Media
- Website
- Signage and Interpretation
- Events and Activities
- Communications
- Resident Surveys

Contents of the Strategy

Community Engagement

- Members
- Friends Groups
- Other stakeholders
- Consultation

Funding

- Capital Programme
- External Funding
- Revenue Expenditure and Commercialisation
- Section 106 and CIL

Action Plan

Next Steps

A draft strategy has been produced and is available in Appendix 1. Once Members have approved the draft strategy this will go to public consultation, targeting Friends Groups and other key stakeholders for their feedback. Any necessary amendments will be made and a final draft produced for Cabinet to approve in December.

