

GREENSPACE STRATEGY “GREENSPACES BETTER PLACES” 2013-2016

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Executive Summary

Why a greenspace strategy?

A network of greenspaces that are well designed, high quality, safe and accessible are integral to making neighbourhoods places where people want to live, work, visit and invest. Greenspaces include but are not limited to parks, play spaces, civic spaces, landscaped and communal areas, allotments, cemeteries, paths, rivers, ponds, and woodlands. It is estimated that greenspace in England is used by over 33 million people with approximately 10 per cent of the population visiting daily, a third visiting several times a week and more than half visiting at least weekly.

Each neighbourhood managed by Stockport Homes contains areas of greenspaces, which are diverse in their types, quality, types of management, maintenance and ownership. They provide multiple benefits, including environments which support climate change, wildlife and biodiversity and also opportunities for learning, employment, healthier lifestyles as well as enhancing community cohesion and assisting in addressing social and health inequalities.

There are challenges in the management and improvement of greenspaces. Poor quality greenspaces that do not fit the needs of local people, are inappropriately managed, and neglected or unkempt have a detrimental impact on a neighbourhoods, the image and reputation of an area and customer satisfaction. The current economic and political climate will impact on the priorities and resources available to managers of greenspaces and continuing investment to maintain and improve spaces that meet the needs of communities. These issues represent significant challenges in ensuring that all greenspace is managed appropriately, fit for purpose and value for money. On-going consultation with customers, stakeholders and partners will take place and the data collected on the use, needs, and opportunities for greenspaces will be used to ensure greenspace is managed and maintained and that resources are targeted effectively.

The Strategy will provide the framework to work in a co-ordinated and strategic manner with all those that have an interest in greenspace and, through effective joint working, will raise the profile of greenspaces and will maximise the social, economic, wellbeing and environmental benefits of greenspace to individuals and neighbourhoods.

Stockport Homes Strategic Greenspace Objectives

In order to tackle the challenges identified and the issues identified through consultation with customers, stakeholders and staff, the Greenspace Strategy has been structured around five strategic objectives to:

- Develop a network of high quality greenspaces in partnership with customers and key stakeholders to support delivery of Stockport Homes' key strategies and action plans.
- Encourage customers to use greenspaces and actively participate in consultation, events and activities.
- Market and raise awareness of the benefits of greenspace to support social, economic, health and well-being and environmental benefits

- Work with customers and stakeholders to identify and secure opportunities and maximise resources, ensure value for money and seek efficiencies in the maintenance and improvement of greenspaces
- Raise the profile of Stockport Homes greenspaces by developing a range of partnerships, including seeking opportunities to provide service to others and deliver innovative greenspace management and improvements

How will the Greenspace Strategy be delivered and monitored?

The three year Strategy will be delivered and monitored through an annual action plan and key performance indicators. An annual report will be presented to Stockport Homes Management Team and the Service Excellence sub group of the Board, in addition to regular updates to customers and stakeholders through newsletters, social media, Hubs and the Customer Champions Network.

1.0 WHY A GREENSPACE STRATEGY

- 1.1 Stockport Homes is responsible for managing a variety of greenspace, including landscaped areas, play spaces, grassed areas, garages, allotments, grazing land, communal spaces, paths, trees and woodlands. Significant investment has and will continue to be made in housing stock and facilities to ensure the long term sustainability of communities. Similarly there is a need to enhance and maintain greenspaces that are integral to these communities and provide multiple social, economic, environmental and well being benefits.
- 1.2 Stockport Homes' greenspaces are just part of a mosaic of spaces, that are managed and maintained by a range of stakeholders and each of these spaces directly and indirectly impact on customers and neighbourhoods. The Strategy will establish the future strategic direction for the organisation in maximising benefits of greenspaces, to deliver improvements to the lives and well-being of customers and to the long term sustainability of neighbourhoods.
- 1.3 The Strategy links to wider national and local strategies, including Stockport Strategy 2020, the Council Plan 2009-2012 and the Stockport Homes Asset Management and Development Strategy. It also reflects wider economic and political challenges, including priorities for investment, competition for resources and localism.
- 1.4 The strategy presents the framework to meet the needs identified by customers, staff and stakeholders to maximise the benefits of greenspace. A strategic and innovative approach, working collaboratively with existing and new partners in managing greenspaces will ensure that Stockport Homes will be in a position to develop and deliver greenspaces that continue to meet the needs of customers. This includes a programme of investment and increased involvement and engagement of customers and partners in greenspace activity.

2.0 NATIONAL CONTEXT

- 2.1 Historically reference to greenspace was limited in social housing strategy and policy. However, the importance of good quality green space in delivering multiple benefits is now recognised in national and regional policy and through projects and activities being delivered by housing providers. These benefits are highlighted in the national Housing Strategy for England¹ and the recent Natural Environment White Paper² and on-going planning reforms.
- 2.2 Communities are defined by the place they live and the physical characteristics of that place. Greenspaces are amongst the most noticeable of physical features, and contribute to social inclusion by bringing communities together, creating a sense of place and providing focal points for customers to come together and interact. They

¹ Communities and Local Government "Laying the Foundations A Housing Strategy for England" (June 2011)

² H M Government "The Natural Choice Securing the Vale of Nature" (July 2012)

are freely available for all members of the community to use for quiet relaxation, walking the dog, using play grounds or meeting friends.

- 2.3 A survey by Ipsos MORI found that 90% of adults identified greenspaces, parks and playgrounds as important in making somewhere a good place to live or work³. The image and attractiveness of a neighbourhood is strongly influenced by people's perception of greenspace. Research undertaken by the Commission for Architecture and Built Environment (CABE) consistently demonstrates a strong correlation between satisfaction with local greenspaces and satisfaction with the neighbourhoods where people live.⁴
- 2.4 The quality of people's surroundings including greenspace can influence their behaviour and use of greenspace. It is estimated that less than one percent of people on social housing estates take advantage of the green space around them because of concerns about safety, lack of access or poor quality greenspace.⁵ In 2011 funding to address vandalism, graffiti, litter cost within the UK £863 million and anti-social behaviour was estimated to have cost services and organisations £9.8 million. Increasing the sense of community by a small margin could generate savings of more than £350 million in cost of tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.⁶
- 2.5 Greenspaces provide valuable natural spaces to all forms of wildlife. The ecological value of greenspaces varies according to its type and the way it is managed and maintained. Biodiversity is the variety of life on earth, the myriad of species of plants, animals and the range of habitats where they live. Urban greenspaces provide valuable and diverse habitats, due to the range of spaces provided, from grasslands, parks, gardens and allotments to rivers, ponds and woodlands.⁷
- 2.6 Greenspaces contribute to climate change, helping to reduce air and noise pollution by providing tree cover in neighbourhoods helps to absorb carbon dioxide, and provide oxygen by filtering out harmful particles and reduce the heat island effect. Research shows that an increase in the current area of green infrastructure in Greater Manchester of just 10 percent in areas with little or no green cover could result in a cooling of up to 2.5°⁸. Greenspaces can help to alleviate urban flooding, by providing areas for the creation of sustainable drainage systems

³ IPOS Survey 2011

⁴ CABE and National Housing Federation: "Decent Homes need Decent Spaces : an action plan to improve local open spaces in social housing" 2010)

⁵ Greenlinks (2010) "Blue Sky, Green Space: understanding the importance of retaining good quality parks and green spaces and the contribution they make to improving people lives"

⁶ Carnegie Trust (2012) "Pride in Place Tackling Incivilities"

⁷ CABE (2010) Community Green "Using local greenspaces to tackle inequality and improve health"

⁸ DEFRA (2011) "The UK National Ecosystems Assessment"

and space for water run off, which has been exacerbated in urban areas with the installation of hard landscaping and paving of driveways.⁹

- 2.7 Greenspaces provide opportunities for healthier living and improved wellbeing for residents and communities, by assisting in tackling issues such as inactivity, obesity and mental health. This includes helping to reduce the effects of pollution and related risks of mortality, allergic responses and acute asthma attacks in children, which ultimately helps reduce impact on local health services.¹⁰ For example, the annual cost of obesity to the National Health Service (NHS) is £5 billion and this is predicted to increase to £10 billion by 2050. Research suggests that when people have good access to greenspaces they are 24 per cent more likely to be physically active and 40 percent less likely to become obese. If everyone had access to greenspace, the costs to the NHS on obesity could be reduced by up to £2 billion.¹¹
- 2.8 Exposure to greenspace can have a calming and restorative effect and help to improve mental wellbeing. Investing in greenspaces can help set people on healthy life pathways such as participating in health walking or attending a community growing scheme. Moving one percent of people with mental health issues onto these pathways would save £1.44 billion a year. A National Trust survey stated that 80 percent of happiest people in the UK said they had a strong connection with the natural world compared with less than 40 percent of the unhappiest.¹²
- 2.9 Greenspaces provide opportunities for communities to “grow their own”, in allotments, spaces within communal areas or individual gardens. Such spaces are recognised as catalyst for healthier living not only because they are a resource for growing healthy food, but also by reducing “food miles”, saving money and providing opportunities to address issues of isolation and increase social interaction¹³
- 2.10 There are economic benefits to greenspace in that the quality of greenspace affects decisions made both by residents about where they want to live, and also by businesses on where they chose to locate. Greenspace can provide employment, training and volunteering opportunities both through direct employment of staff and contractors in the management of greenspace and indirectly through associated services providing products to improve greenspace.
- 2.11 A survey by Timebank (the national volunteering charity) revealed that 73 percent of employers would employ a candidate with volunteering experience.

⁹ Gill, S.E., Handley, J.F., Ennos, A.R. and Pauleit, S. (2007). Adapting cities for climate change: the role of green infrastructure. *Built Environment* 33 (1), 115–133

¹⁰ Jules N Pretty, Jo Barton, Ian Colbeck, Rachel Hine, Susana Mourato, George MacKerron and Carly Wood DEFRA (2011) “National Ecosystems Assessment Technical Report Chapter 23 Health Values from Ecosystems “

¹¹ Neighbourhoods Gren (2011) “Greener Neighbourhoods A good practice guide in managing greenspace”

¹² National Trust (2011) “People and Nature”

¹³ Public Health Agency Northern Ireland (2008) “Allotment Strategy”

Once engaged with greenspace volunteers often go on to participate more widely in community activities. Cadbury research found that 74% of volunteers get involved in more community activities and for every £1 invested it was estimated that £3.39 of social value was created.¹⁴ It is estimated that economic value of volunteering is worth around £120 million per annum.¹⁵

- 2.12 It is estimated that social landlords invest £41.5 m annually in greenspace and, in some areas, manage equivalent areas of greenspace to those of local authorities.
- 2.13 To raise the profile and highlight the need to invest in enhancing greenspace and to recognise the work undertaken by housing providers and residents in helping to do this, a range of accreditation and awards are available. This includes Keep Britain Tidy Green Flag and Green Pennant Awards and the Royal Horticultural Society In Bloom awards.

3.0 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The Greenspace Strategy has been structured around five strategic objectives:
- Develop a network of high quality greenspaces in partnership with customers and key stakeholders to support delivery of Stockport Homes' key strategies and action plans.
 - Encourage customers to use greenspaces and actively participate in consultation, events and activities
 - Market and raise awareness of the benefits of greenspace in supporting social, economic, health and well-being and environmental benefits
 - Work with customers and stakeholders to identify and secure opportunities and maximise resources, ensure value for money and seek efficiencies in the maintenance and improvement of greenspaces
 - Raise the profile of Stockport Homes greenspaces by developing a range of partnerships, including seeking opportunities to provide service to others and deliver innovative greenspace management and improvements

4.0 CONSULTATION

- 4.1 As part of Stockport Homes commitment to involving staff, customers and key partners and stakeholders in shaping its' future direction, consultation on the Greenspace Strategy was carried out as part of its development. In addition benchmarking with other public sector and housing organisations and web based research was carried out in order to identify good practice.

¹⁴ Ecorys (2012) "Final Social Impact Evaluation of the Cadbury Spots v Stripes Community Programme"

¹⁵ Greenlinks (2011) "Blue Sky Green Space : understanding the importance of retaining good quality parks and greenspace and the contribution they make to improving people's lives"

- Assessment of the diversity of standards and approaches in the management and maintenance of greenspace across the borough by different land owners
- Priorities and issues for customers and partners.
- Current use, demand and perceptions of greenspace
- Areas for improvement in the management and maintenance of greenspaces.

- 4.2 Consultation with customers was carried out in a variety of ways as part of developing the strategy; this included the annual Grounds Maintenance questionnaire, workshops delivered as part of Customer Hubs, Customer Champions Network, Greenspace Inspectors, a working sub group of customers and staff. The consultation identified a range of issues, priorities and areas for improvement in the future management, improvement and maintenance of green spaces across the Borough.
- 4.3 This included opportunities to create new and improve existing greenspaces and facilities to meet local priorities, including new landscaping, tree planting, play provision, sports facilities, increase opportunities to deliver events and activities, a range of healthy eating projects, training and volunteering opportunities for customers.
- 4.5 In addition a range of operational and partnership issues were identified as areas of improvement; this included the need to work in partnership with other landowners to assess the differences in grounds maintenance standards being delivered across neighbourhoods to ensure that greenspace are fit for purpose, opportunities to provide to customers and partners and the need to review management and maintenance of greenspace not currently part of the core grounds maintenance contract.
- 4.4 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for the Greenspace Strategy to ensure the Strategy will support the equality of opportunity for all to be involved in the consultation, engagement and delivery of greenspace projects and activities.

5.0 LOCAL STRATEGIC CONTEXT

- 5.1 The Strategy has been developed to support the overarching vision of the Stockport Partnership, set out in the Stockport Community Strategy 2020, to work in partnership with residents, community groups and businesses to implement projects which will deliver a safer, stronger and healthier Stockport.
- 5.2 In doing this the Strategy supports a wide range of associated Stockport Council Strategies including People, Place and Support, Better Life Chances Strategy and the associated Neighbourhood Management Area Action Plans in Brinnington, Central, Adswold, Bridgehall and Offerton. It also supports;
- Stockport Joint Health and Well Being Strategy (2012-15)
 - Stockport Children and Young Peoples Physical Activity Strategy (2010-13)
 - Stockport Child Poverty Strategy 2011-14
 - Stockport Affordable Warmth Strategy 2004
 - Homelessness Strategy 2011
 - Housing Strategy 2010-15

- Play and Free Time Strategy 2011
- Walking Strategy 2009-2014
- Joint Weight and Obesity Strategy 2011
- Stockport MBC Tree Policy 2013
- Stockport Local Development Framework
- Stockport Action Plan for Nature

5.3 The Strategy also clearly links to the Stockport Homes organisational vision “*To deliver the best to customers by being a great place to work*” and mission “*transforming lives*”. The strategy links to Stockport aims

- *Exceed customer expectations and always do the right thing*
- *Support customers in all aspects of their lives through effective partnership working*
- *Create greener places to live and work and continually minimise our impact on the environment*
- *Develop our thriving, safe and sustainable neighbourhoods, maximising our contribution to meeting housing need*
- *Involve customers, staff and the Board in decision making and create opportunities for them to fulfil their potential*
- *Grow by making the best use of our resources and diversifying into businesses that complement what we already do*

5.4 In particular to;

- *Expand our thriving, safe and sustainable neighbourhoods, maximising our contribution to meeting housing need.*
- *Involve customers and staff in decision making and create opportunities for them to fulfil their potential.*
- *Grow by making the best use of our resources and diversifying into new businesses that compliment what we already do.*

5.5 The Strategy also clearly links to a range of Stockport Homes strategies, actions plans and policies in particular;

- Stockport Homes 30 year Business Plan
- Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2013 – 16
- Asset Management and Development Strategy
- Climate Change Strategy 2010-2015
- Customer Involvement Strategy 2012-15
- Financial inclusion and working communities strategy 2012-2015
- Income Management Strategy 2009-2014
- New Build Development Strategy 2009-2012
- Neighbourhood Action Plans 2013-2014
- Service Improvement Plan 2012-2015
- Stockport Homes Delivery Plan 2010-2013
- Youth Engagement Strategy 2012-15
- Value for Money Strategy 2012-2015

5.6 In addition to considering the above strategies and action plans in developing the strategy, and activity over the next three years, customer and neighbourhood profile information including results from the 2011 Census will be used. In particular 2011 headline information from the Census has highlighted an ageing population in particular in the 65+ population increasing by 8.3% between 2001 and 2011. This reinforces the expectation that health and social care services are likely to experience increased demand in the future and that there will be opportunities for greenspace to help support customers. For example, alternative health and well-being activities in greenspace or support to customers to manage their own gardens. It is also anticipated that this will be a continuing trend, with the increasing number of 50-64 year olds and opportunities to use their skills and time in greenspace activity, for example volunteering. In addition the increase in birth rates are reflected in the increasing numbers of 0-4 year olds recorded in the Census was including Brinnington & Central, this will help to inform future plans and provision in play space and facilities.¹⁶

6.0 MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF STOCKPORT HOMES GREESPACES

- 6.1 Stockport Homes manages a variety of greenspaces, including formal and informal spaces, communal gardens, individual gardens, trees, woodlands, garages, play areas, grazing land, allotments and miscellaneous spaces. Seventy five hectares of greenspace are managed in partnership with Glendale Services, through a prescribed specification. The remaining greenspaces are managed on an ad hoc basis by way of leases and licences and also through tenancy agreements with customers.
- 6.2 The current grounds maintenance service has been delivered by Glendale Services since 2007, in partnership with Stockport Homes and customers. The contract includes the management and maintenance of grass, hedges, shrub, rose and flower beds, weed and hard surface treatment on greenspace identified within the contract. The frequency of visits differs across sites dependent on location and activities on the site, but the overall principle of the contract is to ensure that all sites are clean, tidy, and well maintained. A robust set of process and systems are in place to ensure that the contract is effective, efficient and value for money.
- 6.3 Over the period of the contract to date this has led improvements in performance in respect of customer satisfaction, value for money and the standard of service provided. Effective management of the contract has allowed efficiencies to be made year on year which have been used to enhance the overall quality of the greenspace, by investing in improvements to greenspaces across the borough, for example replacement of old shrub planting beds.
- 6.4 The grounds maintenance contract with Glendale was renegotiated in 2012 and has been renewed until 2017, after which the ambition is to bring the service in-house.
- 6.5 In addition to the grounds maintenance contract, Stockport Homes manages and maintains over 10,000 trees on greenspace land. A programme of surveys and planned maintenance programme including replacement planting where appropriate is

¹⁶ Office for National Statistics (2012)

in place to ensure that trees remain safe and healthy and contribute to the wider sustainability of neighbourhoods.

- 6.6 An annual survey of customers receiving the grounds maintenance service is undertaken; the satisfaction levels have incrementally risen since 2007 from 43.2% to 72.3 percent in 2012. A survey of Stockport Homes customers in 2012 identified that 69 percent of customers visit their local greenspace daily or weekly. Customers visit their local greenspace for a variety of reasons, including; enjoying the space, enjoying the views, taking exercise, watching wildlife, meeting friends and using play areas ¹²
- 6.7 Stockport Homes will enable and empower community participation, promote community ownership and support the national policy towards the 'Big Society' and the Localism Act 2011. Acting as broker and catalyst for communities to improve greenspaces, by supporting and motivating individuals and groups to engage and lead in future provision and investment in greenspaces.
- 6.8 A network of customers known as "Green Inspectors" help to monitor and review processes and policies relating to greenspace, including the management of the grounds maintenance contract. The quality of the neighbourhoods, including the greenspace is regularly monitored through estate walkabouts. Customers attending provide invaluable information, helping to identify issues of litter and graffiti or raise concerns about quality of the grounds maintenance service being provided. The green inspectors have helped to inform changes in the grounds maintenance specification, to meet customer needs. This has included a review of the Assisted Garden Scheme, provided through the grounds maintenance contract to customers who are elderly or disabled and require support to maintain their garden.
- 6.9 Stockport Homes, in partnership with customers, community groups and key stakeholders, has delivered a range of greenspaces improvements, activities and events, through neighbourhood investment funding, such as the Estate Improvement Budget and Stockport Homes Community Fund. These funds provide the platform for customers to engage and participate in delivering physical and social projects in their local neighbourhood. This includes a programme of improvements to play and sports facilities with Stockport Borough Council and Stockport Greenspace Forum. In addition, support is provided to deliver environmental improvements, including support to improve customer's gardens and managing sites not part of the existing greenspace contract, in partnership with Manchester Groundwork Trust and Greater Manchester Probation Service
- 6.10 Stockport Homes customers have benefitted from funding from external grants to improve greenspaces, including the provision and improvement of play spaces, creation of new sports facilities including new multi-use games areas. Funding has been secured in partnership with community groups and Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council, from funders including the Big Lottery, Sport England, Marks and Spencer, and Greater Manchester Airport. There are further opportunities through funders including the Heritage Lottery Fund, Natural England, Forestry Commission and businesses including Asda and Tesco and also from charities and foundations to secure funding to support greenspace improvements and activity.

- 6.11 Whilst Stockport Homes and customers have delivered a range of projects to improve greenspaces, there are multiple benefits to further enhancing and improving greenspaces to support the wider social, environmental, economic and wellbeing of individuals and neighbourhoods. The Strategy has been shaped through engagement with customers, staff and stakeholders. In addition to continued benchmarking with other public sector and housing organisations.

7.0 GREENSPACE STRATEGY ACTION PLAN 2013-16

- 7.1 A detailed three year action plan has been developed around the five strategic objectives, which will be updated on annual basis and is attached at appendix one. The following summaries how Stockport Homes will ensure that it works with customers and stakeholders, under each of the Greenspace Strategy objectives to maximise the greenspace benefits
- 7.2 Objective One - To develop a network of high quality greenspaces in partnership with customers and key stakeholders to support delivery of Stockport Homes key strategies and action plans.

Stockport Homes will;

- Deliver a high quality and innovative grounds maintenance service in partnership with Glendale.
- Deliver a programme of improvements in greenspace through neighbourhood investment programmes.
- Develop a programme of improvements to enhance biodiversity
- Undertake a review and develop a programme of improvements on all non-contract greenspace , including grazing land, garden tenancies underused or vacant to ensure maintain and managed appropriately and where appropriate identify sites to be transferred to other users or to Stockport Council.
- Review the tree policy
- Develop and implement a hedge policy.
- Develop and implement an invasive weeds policy.
- Support the delivery of greenspace improvements as part of Neighbourhood Management Board action plans, regeneration plans and projects in Brinnington, Central Stockport, Offerton, Adswood and Bridgehall.
- Ensure all new build delivered by Stockport Homes is designed to meet needs of customers and design and delivered to a high quality
- Develop and implement a Garden Policy

- 7.3 Objective Two – To encourage customers to use greenspaces and actively participate in consultation, events and activities

Stockport Homes will

- Deliver of a programme of events and activities on greenspace areas

- Work in collaboration with partners and customers to maintain play spaces in neighbourhoods and identify a programme of improvements to existing play areas and opportunities for new play areas across the borough.
- Implement garden tool hire schemes to meet the needs of customers
- Support improvements to existing outdoor sports facilities and identify opportunities to create new facilities.
- Support delivery of a programme of play development sessions.
- Support and promote Stockport Sports Trust sports activity in greenspace areas
- Work with schools and other educational establishments to support delivery of greenspace improvements

7.4 Objective Three - Market and raise awareness of the benefits of greenspace in supporting social, economic, health and well-being and environmental benefits Stockport Homes will;

- Ensure that benefits of greenspace are recognised in new and future Stockport Homes strategies and action plans.
- Support the use and development of green links, using existing and new footpaths, cycleways and bridleways across the borough.
- Develop and implement a programme of “Dig IT” projects to encourage customers to develop community growing schemes.
- Encourage customers to volunteer for greenspace activity through the Community Champions Network, media and newsletters.
- Develop and implement a programme of formal and informal training sessions to increase skills and knowledge amongst customers around greenspace
- Develop guidance and toolkits for customers on management, improvement and use of individual, communal gardens.
- Deliver an annual marketing plan, using a variety of media including Staff Insight, Stockport at Home, intranet and internet and social media to raise awareness of greenspace.

7.5 Objective 4 - To work with customers and stakeholders to identify and secure opportunities and maximise resources to maintain and improve greenspaces

Stockport Homes will;

- Work with stakeholders to identify projects and external funding resources to deliver greenspace improvements.
- Use and promote the Estate Improvement Budget and Stockport Homes Community Fund to deliver physical improvements and activities in greenspace areas
- Work with Stockport MBC to explore potential innovative management approaches to greenspace, including investigating the scope to ‘swap’ areas of green space management
- Develop links with Stockport Greenspace Forum and Nature Forum to support improvement and future management of greenspace.

- Explore potential to work with schools to deliver greenspace services and improvements
- Work with other housing providers to deliver greenspace improvements
- Explore potential to use greenspaces to support future Fuel Poverty initiatives including tree planting.
- Ensure all future investment programmes reflect need to protect and improve greenspaces .

7.6 Objective 5: Raise the profile of Stockport Homes greenspaces by developing a range of partnerships, including opportunities to provide services to others and to deliver innovative greenspace management and improvements
Stockport Homes will;

- Work with partners to deliver greenspace activity to support training and employment and the financial inclusion agenda.
- Work with community groups, Friends of Greenspace and Stockport Homes Community Champions Network to support bids for greenspace activity and improvements
- Work with stakeholders to carry out bespoke ecological studies.
- Develop links with Stockport Greenspace Forum and Stockport Nature Network.
- Support H3 to develop and implement a gardening service
- Review and improve the Annual Garden Competition
- Develop and support customers to bid for national awards, such as In Bloom and Green Flag
- Support development of NW Neighbourhood Green network
- Investigate potential to deliver greenspace services to schools other Registered Housing Providers
- Work with private landowners to improve the greenspace

8.0 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND MONITORING

8.1 The Strategy will be delivered through Greenspace Strategy Action Plan which will be reviewed annually. The action plan will be monitored and reviewed through Stockport Homes Greenspace Working Group who will be responsible for measuring the impact of the Strategy through a set of performance measures outlined below.

Key Performance Measures	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Customer satisfaction with grounds maintenance service	84%	85%	86%
Number of garden competition entries	50	75	100
External funding secured for greenspace project and activities	25,000	50,000	75,000
Number of awards or	1	2	3

accreditations received relating to greenspace projects and activities			
Number of formal and informal training events and activities	5	10	15