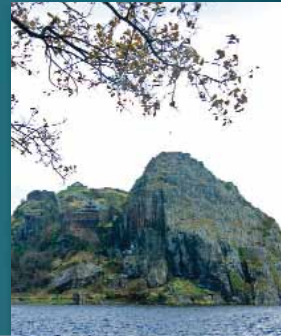


Open Space Strategy

2011



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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document is the Open Space Strategy for West Dunbartonshire excluding that area within the National Park. It has been developed and driven by the results of research and analysis of open space provision across the Council area. This information is set out in the Open Space Assessment Report, which highlights key issues emerging from detailed assessment of the quality and distribution of provision and the findings of extensive consultation with local user groups and residents.
- 1.2 This strategy responds to Scottish planning policy and advice on open space analysis and assessment. It will inform the Council and other key stakeholders in making decisions in relation to the provision and improvement of open space within West Dunbartonshire over the ten-year period from 2011-2021.
- 1.3 The study objectives and actions reflect the key areas to be addressed over the lifetime of the Strategy. The Study objectives were:
- Recommended local standards of provision (quality, quantity and accessibility).
 - Justifiable and defensible identification of any deficiencies in provision and options for dealing with them now and in the future.
 - Recommended priorities and action plan for improving provision across the Council area to meet local needs that are identified in the course of the study.
 - A clear framework for practical action, where necessary, to protect and improve existing open spaces and to increase the provision of such facilities, where it is shown that there is a potential deficit.
 - A robust evidence base to enable development of planning policies and other local development documents.
- 1.4 At the time of commission, the preferred guidance for preparation of open space strategies was Planning Advice Note 65: Planning and Open Space. KKP used its experience and pre developed tools for assessing open space in West Dunbartonshire, originating from the England equivalent Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG17): Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation. Since our commission, a final version of Greenspace Scotland guidance 'Greenspace Quality: A guide to assessment, planning and strategic development' has been published. Although the principles remain the same in terms of identifying local needs, the audit criteria utilised takes account of more in depth biodiversity issues not covered in this study.

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2. BACKGROUND

Government guidance

2.1 *National Planning Framework 2 (NPF2)*

2.1.1 Approved by the Scottish Government in December 2008, NPF2 aims to guide the spatial development of Scotland to 2030. It sets strategic development priorities, drawing on the key issues and drivers of change, in order to support the promotion of sustainable economic growth for the Country. Two of the key aims set out for Scotland, relevant to this strategy, are to:

- Promote a greener Scotland by contributing to the achievement of climate change targets and protecting and enhancing the quality of the natural and built environments.
- Help build safer, stronger and healthier communities, by promoting improved opportunities and a better quality of life.

2.1.2 The Framework recognises the important role planning has to play in improving the environment. It can help to strengthen green infrastructure and enhance urban and rural biodiversity. The environment is cited as being one of Scotland's chief assets. NPF2 sees an opportunity to build on initiatives including the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Green networks to create a Central Scotland Green Network capable of delivering a step change in the quality of the environment, making the Edinburgh-Glasgow corridor a more attractive place to live and do business.

2.1.3 In relation to West Dunbartonshire, the Strathleven corridor, which links the Clyde with Loch Lomond, is identified as offering substantial opportunities for regeneration, economic development and environmental improvement. The Clyde Waterfront, which runs from Glasgow Green to the Erskine Bridge, is a regeneration focus with development opportunities at the north side of the river in Clydebank and improved links between the City Centre and waterfront communities at Clydebank. The Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park is also seen to provide tourism and leisure economies to areas such as West Dunbartonshire.

2.2 *Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) (Feb 2010)*

2.2.1 The SPP links access to good quality open space and opportunities for sport as contributing to a healthier Scotland. Networks of linked, good quality open space are seen as important for amenity and their role in nature conservation, biodiversity, recreation and physical activity. Planning authorities are expected to support, protect and enhance open space and opportunities for sport and recreation. The SPP makes reference to access rights, the need to consider access issues and protect core and other important routes. Green networks which provide for physical activity and provide opportunities for increased access are expected to be safeguarded through the development plan.

2.2.3 Planning authorities are expected to take a strategic and long term view to managing open space and assess current and future needs and protect all open spaces which can help to meet them. Authorities should undertake an audit of all open spaces and using such information should prepare an open space strategy.

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This should set out a vision for new and improved open space and address any deficiencies identified. Open spaces that are identified as valued and functional, or which are capable of being brought into functional use to meet an identified need should be protected by the development plan. Local development plans or supplementary guidance should set out the requirements for the provision of open space for new development.

- 2.2.4 Playing fields are considered important for sport and should be provided in sufficient quantity, quality and accessibility to satisfy current and future community demand. The SPP indicates sports pitches should not be redeveloped and sets out the criteria for the consideration of proposed development on playing fields. Reference is made to the need to consult SportsScotland when planning proposals for the redevelopment of sport pitches occurs.

2.3 ***Planning Advice Note 65: Planning and Open Space***

- 2.3.1 Planning Advice Notes (PANs) provide advice on good practice and other relevant information. Planning Advice Note (PAN) 65 supports the SPP and aims to raise the profile of open space as a planning issue. It highlights the role of the planning system in protecting areas that are valued and in ensuring provision of appropriate quality in, or within easy reach of, new development. Effective links between the planning, design and management of open space is promoted to ensure the creation of successful places.

- 2.3.2 PAN 65 sets out a typology of open space identifying 11 broad types, covering both 'greenspace' and, to a lesser extent, civic space, and recommends that all local authorities should prepare an open space strategy. The PAN suggests a method of undertaking an open space strategy with a vision and an agreed strategic framework outlining the aspirations for open space in terms of its distribution, quality and functions. Advice on open space audits and assessing current and future requirements is given. Types of open space are considered as suitable for different approaches for assessing current and future needs: 'supply-led', 'demand-led' and 'standards-led'. The strategy statement is seen as bringing together the audit and assessment in a coherent vision with clear policies and set of priorities for action. The need for surveys to establish the types of open spaces needed and wanted in an area is outlined.

- 2.3.3 The links with development planning are outlined, as is the need to safeguard important open spaces from development and the circumstances when new open spaces will be required as part of new developments. Issues related to development management and the design, management and maintenance of open spaces are also covered.

2.4 ***Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Joint Structure Plan (GCVJSP) 2006***

- 2.4.1 The GCVJSP sets out the strategic planning policies covering West Dunbartonshire. It promotes the creation of a Green Network to enhance the quality of urban areas, to help integrate town and country and reinforce the positive role of the Green Belt. The GCVJSP supports the provision of facilities for sport and recreation in areas of deficiency through Strategic Policy 6(e). It indicates existing facilities need to be safeguarded, upgraded or supplemented if

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the quality of life in the area is to be enhanced. An indication is given of deficiencies in provision and recognition is given to the need promote additional recreation provision in National and Regional Park areas and provide opportunities for informal recreation around towns.

2.4.2 *Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan – Proposed Plan June 2011*

The GCVSDP is at Proposed Plan stage and is therefore still subject to ministerial approval. Once approved it will supersede the above GCVJSP. The Plan recognises that the development of a multi-functional green network will contribute to the economic competitiveness and quality of life of the city-region. The SDP illustrates the key green network spatial priorities which reflect the locations where environmental, social, access and regeneration elements are integrated and provide the opportunity to extend networks to maximise the return on available resources. The priority areas identified within West Dunbartonshire are Dumbarton East/Old Kilpatrick, Clydebank and Whitecreek.

2.5 *West Dunbartonshire Corporate Plan 2011/15*

2.5.1 The Plan sets the direction for the Council during the period of 2011 – 2015, guiding the work of council service's and employees. It establishes the vision for West Dunbartonshire and its partners as being:

“Improve prosperity and inclusion for all citizens, deliver better and more efficient services, and improve West Dunbartonshire as a place to live, work and visit.”

2.5.2 Six key themes are identified in order to deliver this vision; they are:

- Regeneration and the local economy
- Health and well-being
- Safe and strong communities
- Sustainable environments
- Education and lifelong learning
- An improving council

2.5.3 Under the six themes a number of performance indicators (PI) relating to open space are identified. The table below highlights those PI within the Corporate Plan most relevant to this Strategy.

Performance Indicator	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
	Value	Value	Target	Target	Target	Target
Percentage increase in hectares of amenity grassland habitat for biodiversity	1%	2.5%	3.5%	5%	6%	7%
Percentage increase of hectares of woodland habitat	5%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Percentage of core paths that are deemed fit for purpose	37%	44%	50%	55%	60%	65%
Proportion of protected nature sites in favourable condition	79%	74%	95%	95%	95%	100%

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2.6 West Dunbartonshire Local Plan (2010)

2.6.1 The Local Plan for West Dunbartonshire provides the local planning framework for the Council area, with the exception of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park. As a planning framework, it sets out what type and where future development is appropriate and outlines which areas should be protected. It is the first single plan to have been produced for the Council area.

2.6.2 A series of objectives are set out within the Local Plan that incorporate those in the West Dunbartonshire Corporate Plan as well as those found within other documents such as the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Joint Structure Plan. The Objectives of the West Dunbartonshire Local Plan are:

- To identify sustainable locations for key strategic developments.
- To enable sustainable economic and environmental regeneration.
- To ensure that sufficient land is available in appropriate locations to meet development requirements.
- To conserve environmental resources.
- To identify future areas of land use change.
- To promote and support improvements in environmental quality.
- To ensure sustainable and integrated transport and infrastructure provision.

Some of the relevant key policies set out within the Local Plan are highlighted below.

2.6.3 Policy R1 Retention of Open Space states there is a presumption against development which adversely affects the use, character or amenity of areas of functional open space. It highlights that development will be considered against the existing or potential future use, quality, function and value. It will also be considered against the current sufficiency of provision of the facility type in the local area.

2.6.4 Policy R2 Open Space Provision sets the Council's standards for provision of open space within new development. The Council's aim is for 2.4 ha per 1000 population, of which 1.6 ha is for outdoor sport and 0.8 ha for children's play space/amenity space.

2.6.5 Policy R3 Enhancement of Open Space and Sports Facilities indicates the Council will identify opportunities to improve or extend sports, recreation and open space provision within the urban area when resources allow. The Council will endeavour to establish recreation facilities in areas identified as currently being without accessible provision.

2.6.6 Other important policies within the document include:

- Key Policy GN1 Green Network which indicates the commitment to promoting, protecting and improving the Green Network and offering linkages to adjacent authorities;

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- Policy E 3A Local Nature Conservation Sites which seeks to maintain and enhance the environmental resources by the protection of habitats, species and natural features;
- and E 3B Local Nature Reserves which seeks to identify, designate and actively manage areas of considerable nature conservation interest as Local Nature Reserves.

2.7 West Dunbartonshire Sports Strategy 2009 and Sports Pitch Strategy 2009

2.7.1 The Sports Strategy aims to bring together the local and national agendas for sport in order to provide an outline for sport and physical activity in West Dunbartonshire. Five key aims are set out within the Strategy. They are to:

- Promote health and well-being through a range of sport and physical activity.
- develop effective partnerships across all relevant sectors.
- support equality and diversity in sport.
- ensure effective pathways for developing the sporting potential of all.
- ensure a network of high quality accessible facilities to meet the needs of the community.

2.7.2 The Sports Pitch Strategy focuses on football, hockey, rugby, athletics and small-sided games. It recognises the importance of the national document “Reaching Higher; Building on the success of Sport 21” and takes into account the guidelines provided by national planning policies, including SPP11 as well as the Council documents and policies. SportsScotland are statutory consultees on all developments involving sports pitches and have a long-term aim of improving the quality of pitch provision.

The Sports Pitch Strategy aims to:

- assess the adequacy of current sports pitch provision to meet long term needs of all outdoor sports in West Dunbartonshire
- identify the key strategic issues which contribute to any quantitative or qualitative shortfalls in provision
- provide a strategic framework for local sports pitch provision during the five-year period 2009 - 2013.
- recognise trends in national and local sports participation
- consider requirements for school use, sports development use, formal match play and club training
- provide recommendations for future provision of sports pitches in West Dunbartonshire.

2.7.3 Based on the feedback from consultation, the results of the quality audit and the running of the sports pitch supply and demand model a number of recommendations have been made. The recommendations revolve around:

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- the public use of school facilities including new PPP provision
- maintenance to improve drainage and convert blaes pitches to grass
- alternative management and maintenance systems
- protection of the current grass pitches.

2.7.4 The Sports Strategy sets the context for the Sports Pitch Strategy which in turn provides and analysis of the supply and demand for sport pitches. For effective dovetailing they should be read in conjunction with this strategy.

2.8 Draft Dunbartonshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)

2.8.1 The LBAP provides an overview on biodiversity in the area as well as identifying sources of funding to implement the work. It also describes the landscapes and four main groups which the work will focus on, these being urban, rural, woodland and wetland (including coastal).

2.8.2 Identified within the plan are the key social, environmental and economic benefits of good quality greenspace. It highlights the ability of greenspaces in offering opportunities for recreation, sport and play, social interaction, healthy lifestyles, and in providing visually attractive areas. In addition, green open spaces allow for interaction with nature on a regular basis. The threat of urban growth and modern practices (greenbelt development, exotic species, etc) are also recognised. In addition, so are the importance of the planning process and local developer's willingness to adopt more sustainable methods of development.

2.9 Study process

2.9.1 The study process for this study comprises three stages and conforms to PAN 65:

- An audit of existing open space provision.
- An assessment of current and future requirements.
- A strategy statement with a clear set of priorities and actions.

2.9.2 This study covers the following PAN 65 recommended typologies:

PAN 65	Primary purpose
Public parks and gardens	Areas of land normally enclosed, designed, constructed, managed and maintained as a public park or garden. These may be owned or managed by community groups.
Amenity greenspace	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.
Playspace for children and teenagers	Areas providing safe and accessible opportunities for children's play usually linked to housing areas.

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PAN 65	Primary purpose
Green corridors	Routes including canals, river corridors and old railways, 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.
Natural/semi – natural greenspaces	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.
Allotments and community growing spaces	Areas of land for growing fruit, vegetables and other plants, either in individual allotments or as a community activity.
Burial grounds	Includes churchyards and cemeteries.
Civic spaces	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.
Other functional greenspaces	May be one or more types as required by local circumstances or priorities.

2.10 Assessment and Audit

- 2.10.1 A full explanation of the methodology used in the audit and assessment is included in the West Dunbartonshire Open Space Assessment and Audit Final Report August 2011. In summary, however, the audit comprised two stages: an audit of existing open space provision and a local need assessment to identify current and future needs.
- 2.10.2 WDC originally identified 251 open spaces of at least 0.2Ha. Sites have been identified through consultation with WDC officers, community councils and other external land owners e.g. Forestry Commission (FC). From this, education sites with restricted access for community use were removed as they were not deemed to currently meet community need. In order to take account of sports pitches on open spaces and to avoid double counting provision, WDC approved that a number of sites (such as sports pitches and school sites) be removed from the open space audit following suggestions from consultants. KKP also identified additional play areas to be included within the audit. Therefore, in total, 241 open spaces were identified and audited. All information relating to open spaces across West Dunbartonshire (with the exception of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, which is not included in the study area) is collated in the project open space database (supplied as an electronic file).
- 2.10.3 Assessments were carried out to evaluate the quality and value of sites. The criteria used were tailored from Green Flag to reflect the individual characteristics of different open spaces and a scoring system (i.e. different maximum scores) was applied to each typology to provide a more meaningful evaluation.
- 2.10.4 KKP assessed both quality and value during site visits. They are fundamentally different and can be unrelated. For example, a high quality space may be located where it is inaccessible and, thus, be of little value; while, if a rundown (poor quality) space is the only one in an area, it may be immensely valuable. (There may be situations where no open space exists and there would be a need for it to

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be created.) Therefore, quality and value are also treated separately in terms of scoring. Each type of open space assessed received separate quality and value scores. Please refer to the Open Space Audit Report for a full break down of sites and scores.

2.10.5 The next stage revolved around extensive consultation with over 50 stakeholders, including key individuals, interest and community groups, WDC officers, and agencies working in and around West Dunbartonshire. Qualitative in-depth interviews were conducted either face-to-face or by telephone with a list of consultees provided by WDC and those noted by KKP during consultation.

2.10.6 The key findings of the stakeholder consultation covered issues around the following:

- Attitudes towards open spaces in terms of quality of provision.
- Opinions towards open spaces in terms of the amount of provision.
- Time taken/distance travelled to open spaces.
- Attitudes towards open spaces in terms of how accessible provision is.
- Future provision and what it should look like.

2.10.7 Local needs have been assessed via:

- Community consultation (face-to-face or telephone interviews and focus groups) with key officers, agencies and stakeholders.
- Market research.

2.11 Study area

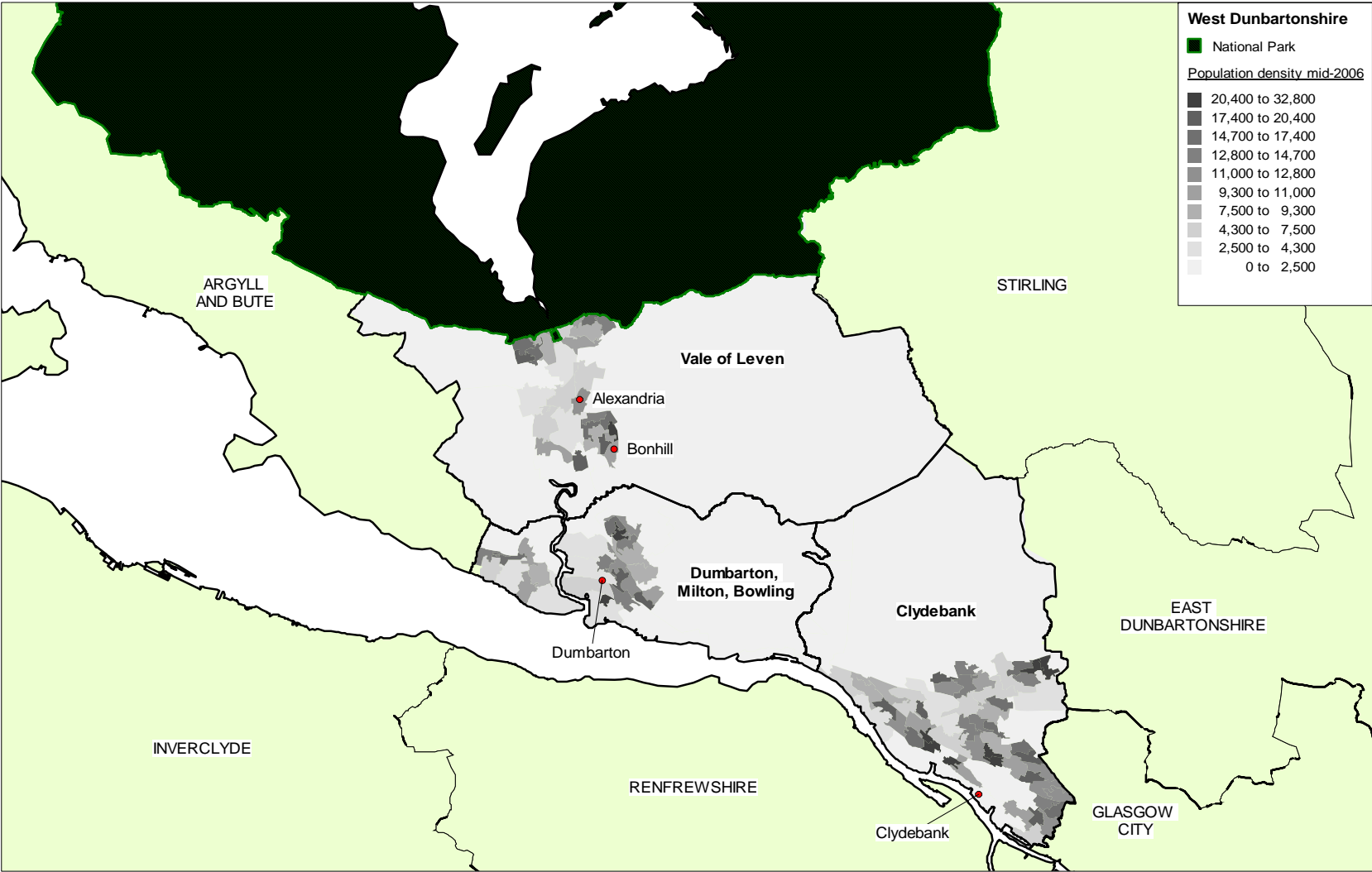
2.11.1 West Dunbartonshire is divided into three analysis areas (shown overleaf):

- Vale of Leven (not including the area which falls into the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, hatched green on the map).
- Dumbarton (including Milton and Bowling).
- Clydebank.

2.11.2 These allow a more localised assessment of provision and examination of open space/facility surplus and deficiencies at a local level. Use of analysis areas also allows local circumstances and issues to be taken into account.

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Figure 1: West Dunbartonshire analysis areas with population density



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2.12 Study limitations

2.12.1 Certain limitations apply to the findings and recommendations contained within the open space assessment and strategy. These relate primarily to baseline information such as the quantitative audit, mapping and datasets that should be updated, completed or extended. They are identified as follows:

- Audit does not cover all Local Nature Conservation Site (LNCS) Review sites.
- Site selection was based on local plan policy areas.
- Audit does not include school sites and sports pitches.
- No assessment of links to open space sites outwith WDC.
- The use of straight line accessibility distances.
- The quality criteria used to assess provision is not taken from Greenspace Scotland guidance but is based on Green Flag Award criteria. This has resulted in less focus on biodiversity issues.
- The typologies of some sites may require revision due to significant secondary uses and other issues.
- Audit and Strategy does not cover the Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park and therefore does not cover Balloch Castle Country Park.
- The audit and strategy only deals with sites of 0.2Ha or greater.
- Lochs, ponds, rivers and the canal are not included in the audit and strategy.

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3 STRATEGIC VISION, AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Vision

West Dunbartonshire will have attractive and sustainable open spaces with enhanced facilities, appearance and accessibility thereby promoting physical and mental well-being.

3.1.1 The Vision supports three of the WDC Corporate Plan Themes: sustainable environments, health and well being, and safe and strong communities; and contributes to the other two: regeneration of the local economy and education and lifelong learning.

3.2 The Strategic Objectives for Open Space provision are:

- To provide a range of attractive and accessible open spaces to be enjoyed by residents and visitors. To protect valuable open spaces that meet community needs and increase an awareness of the wildlife and environmental value offered.
- To promote the use of open spaces to improve the health and wellbeing of residents in West Dunbartonshire by providing a network of high quality, accessible provision that encourages residents to make healthy choices.
- To utilise open spaces to promote and celebrate community cohesion, equality and diversity through provision of a range of inclusive activities that engage residents and enable them to feel proud of and safe in their local area.

3.3 The Aims for the Strategy are:

- To provide a range of attractive, accessible and valued open spaces to be enjoyed by all thereby contributing to the Corporate Themes.
- To identify valuable open spaces that meet community needs.
- To indicate what improvements could be made to improve sites currently not meeting community needs.
- To set out a rationale and recommendations for policy, alternative uses, potential funding and management decisions.
- To indicate standards for future provision including developer contributions.
- To set out an Action Plan for the future improvement and management of open spaces.

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4. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR OPEN SPACE IMPROVEMENTS

4.1 This section sets out objectives for the development of open space provision in West Dunbartonshire. They are designed to address the issues raised in the Open Space Audit and Assessment Report and as identified during consultation, site visits and audit analysis/mapping.

4.2 *Key issues*

- A significant proportion (30%) of residents across West Dunbartonshire have not visited any open space in the 12 months prior to the survey. The most common reason for this is due to a lack of interest.
- One of the greatest barriers for potential users of open space in West Dunbartonshire is a lack of awareness of provision. In particular this relates to a lack of knowledge of where provision exists and the benefits that open spaces can provide in relation to health and education.
- Walking is the main form of transport used to access open spaces by those consulted across West Dunbartonshire. Although the bus service is considered to be good throughout the area and the price is not prohibitive it could be better utilised/promoted to access open spaces. In addition, there is a significant decrease in the level of service in the evenings, after 6pm which is said to affect after school usage of open spaces.
- The quality of open spaces in West Dunbartonshire is generally adequate. However, the main quality issues relate to dog fouling and litter/broken glass, particularly in parks, amenity greenspace and children's play areas.
- Users report that park wardens do not have a strong enough presence, particularly in the Clydebank area, suggesting that this impacts on the quality of provision and safety perceptions.
- Several sites in West Dunbartonshire suffer from the illegal use of off road motorcycles and quad bikes, which users believe impacts negatively on the quality of provision.
- All open space types are considered important and valuable to local residents throughout West Dunbartonshire.
- The exclusion of sports pitches and school sites in the assessment of open space provision in West Dunbartonshire. A number of school sites have garden areas but these are for curricular use and are not generally open to the public. However, they do provide an important learning resource for pupils.
- The exclusion of sites within the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park and other authorities from the Strategy.

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4.3 Objectives

- To ensure that the West Dunbartonshire Sports Pitch Strategy is, where possible, integrated with the Open Space Strategy.
- To maximise access to open spaces in order to serve all communities/settlements and users.
- To increase the access to school sites as open space resource, particularly in areas of deficiency.
- To ensure that open spaces in West Dunbartonshire are of a sufficient quality, quantity and distribution to meet the needs and aspirations of local residents.
- To increase awareness and promote the contribution that open spaces make to residents health, well being and as an educational resource.
- To protect and enhance the natural and cultural heritage resources offered by open spaces in West Dunbartonshire.
- To promote the availability of public transport in accessing open spaces from the less accessible areas of West Dunbartonshire and from areas of deficiency.
- To ensure that the appropriate infrastructure is available at sites in order to ensure their maximum usage.
- To maximise the range of functions on existing open spaces.
- To engage and involve local communities in the design and management of both existing and new open spaces.
- To develop a strategic approach towards improving the quality of open spaces and to support applications for external funding and attract inward investment for both existing and new provision.
- To protect valuable open spaces from inappropriate development.
- To raise the awareness of West Dunbartonshire's open spaces with visitors, at a local and regional level through improved marketing and promotion initiatives.
- To prioritise key open spaces for investment and determine the level of investment required.
- To link West Dunbartonshire provision to accessible open spaces in other authorities.
- To establish the proportion of households with an accessible greenspace of at least 2ha in size within 300m and work to achieve target of 100%.

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4.4 Parks and gardens

4.4.1 *Key issues*

- Just over two fifths of sites fall below the quality threshold and have been identified as low quality. Sites in Clydebank were assessed as lower quality than elsewhere. The majority of sites scored highly for overall maintenance and cleanliness and scored low on provision of facilities such as seating and litterbins.
- Parks and gardens are one of the highest scoring typologies in terms of value, reflecting the importance of this typology and the range of benefits offered including structural, landscape, social inclusion and health. Parks can also be of high value to residents that do not have access to a garden. 42% of street survey respondents do not have access to a garden, and use parks/public gardens.
- Site visits indicate that with a quality score of 75% Dalmuir Park would have a good chance of success in the field based part of the Green Flag Award.
- A number of residents stated that they travel to neighbouring authorities, including Glasgow and East Dunbartonshire to access more varied and “safer” provision, such as Lennox Park, Milngavie.
- Provision is mapped with 0.75 mile walk time radial catchments, reflecting that the majority of users would accept a walk of up to 15 minutes to access good quality provision. On this basis, the only analysis area to have significant gaps covering settlement areas is the Clydebank area: Old Kilpatrick/western Clydebank and south-eastern Clydebank.
- Although not designated as a park, should The Saltings, Old Kilpatrick contribute to meeting the needs of residents for parks and gardens provision as well as provision for wildlife?

4.4.2 *Objectives*

- To improve the quality of parks and gardens. All Burgh and District parks falling below 60% quality threshold (reflecting the Green Flag pass mark) to be considered for improvement to meet the quality threshold.
- To retain all parks and gardens provision and provide protection to these sites from development within planning policy.
- To develop and manage existing open spaces in Clydebank to further meet local needs and identified gaps in accessibility of parks provision.
- To adopt a strategic management tool or hierarchy of provision in order to prioritise investment and improve quality.
- To increase the functionality of Burgh parks by increasing the availability of activities/facilities to users.
- To sensitively increase accessibility to and functionality of The Saltings and other open spaces in the Old Kilpatrick area to contribute to meeting deficiencies as well as provision for wildlife.

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4.5 Amenity greenspace

4.5.1 Key issues

- Amenity greenspaces are regularly well used across West Dunbartonshire with a significant proportion (80%) of street survey respondents having visited such provision in the last year.
- Provision is mapped with 0.5 mile walk time radial catchments. This reflects the localised nature of provision and that the majority of users would accept a walk of up to 10 minutes to access good quality provision. On this basis, there are no accessibility gaps in provision.
- Residents consider the provision of amenity greenspaces to be adequate in terms of quantity. However, quality of provision was considered to be an issue, with no respondents from Dumbarton rating the quality as good or very good.
- In the site audit, open spaces in Clydebank were assessed as lower quality than elsewhere. Whilst the majority of sites scored high for overall maintenance and cleanliness the sites scored low on provision of facilities such as seating and litterbins.
- Consultation identifies that residents consider amenity greenspaces to be particularly valuable for the visual environs of housing estates and residential areas. Site assessments also recognise this: almost one third (30%) scoring for structure and landscape benefit.
- Increase biodiversity value of amenity greenspace sites.

4.5.2 Objectives

- To ensure that new housing developments provide sufficient allowances for amenity greenspaces.
- To improve the quality of highly valued sites falling below the 40% quality score.
- To create more functional and visually attractive amenity greenspaces through, for example, provision of seating and/or landscaping.
- To encourage community involvement and ownership of amenity greenspace.
- To support local communities to facilitate events and activities on sites by providing the appropriate infrastructure to enable this.
- To increase the management of amenity greenspace for biodiversity.

4.6 Provision for children and young people

4.6.1 *Key issues*

- Provision is mapped with 0.75 mile walk time radial catchments, reflecting that the majority of users would accept a walk of up to 15 minutes to access good quality provision. On this basis, there are no accessibility gaps in provision. However, consultation indicates that residents consider there to be deficiencies in provision.
- Consultation revealed that there is generally considered to be a good provision of static play equipment for the under fives but there is a need for areas where children can “play creatively”.
- Half of the play area sites fall below the 40% quality threshold.
- Value scores for play areas across West Dunbartonshire are generally high, with the mean score for all analysis areas being above the threshold of 20%. This is supported by consultation, which suggests that residents place a high value upon play facilities.
- Anti social behaviour is an issue at Braeside Play Area and Goldenhill Park Play Area and is attributed to a lack of provision for teenagers.
- It was highlighted that not enough information is available to young people regarding leisure activities, including youth groups and sports clubs. The survey also highlighted that the costs and access to leisure facilities is an issue, as each area has different accessibility and costing.

4.6.2 *Objectives*

- To increase the number of play areas in areas of demand identified through consultation with users.
- To create more areas where children can “play creatively” and make better use of the natural environment in providing play opportunities.
- To improve the quality and value of provision for children and young people throughout West Dunbartonshire.
- To increase facilities and activities available to young people, ensuring accessibility and costing are taken into account.
- To increase the awareness of facilities and activities available to young people.
- To adopt a strategic management tool or hierarchy of provision in order to prioritise investment and improve quality.

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4.7 Open space corridors

4.7.1 *Key issues*

- Although West Dunbartonshire is fortunate in having a range of existing paths, including the national cycle path (NCN7 & NCN754) from Glasgow to Loch Lomond, 40% of users rate availability as inadequate.
- User consultation highlights paths for horse riding to be inadequate. However, there have not been any recent formal complaints or requests for increased provision (2009).
- In general, provision is assessed as being of adequate quality. However, all sites in Vale of Leven are classified as low quality.
- A number of Core Paths reportedly suffer from misuse by motorised vehicles, which is said to inhibit use and reduce quality.
- All provision scores as high value and the open space corridor network is considered to be a very valuable asset to residents and visitors to the area.

4.7.2 *Objectives*

- To improve access to all provision taking into account disability access as a priority.
- To ascertain if demand exists to extend the network of paths suitable for horse riding.
- To improve promotion of the Core Paths Network and access to the surrounding countryside.
- To increase quality and upgrade provision where required and appropriate.
- To work towards reducing illegal use of open space corridors.
- To retain all open space corridors and provide protection to these sites from development within planning policy.
- To engage users and landowners in consultation regarding access routes and for the improvement and extension of natural corridors.

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4.8 Natural and semi natural greenspace

4.8.1 Key issues

- Access to, and the linked awareness of provision are key issues for this type of provision in West Dunbartonshire and affects usage levels. Only a small proportion (11%) of street survey respondents have visited a nature area in the previous twelve months. Usage is highest in Vale of Leven (20%) compared to usage in Clydebank (7%) and Dumbarton (8%).
- Provision is mapped with 0.75 mile walk time radial catchments. This reflects the localised nature of provision and that the majority of users would accept a walk of up to 15 minutes to access good quality provision. On this basis, a small number of areas lacking access to natural and semi-natural greenspace have been identified:
 - Dalmuir
 - Parkhall
 - Drumry
 - Kirktonhill
 - Brucehill
 - Dennystown
 - South Silverton
 - Balloch
 - Jamestown
- Further reflecting the shortfalls, just over two fifths (43%) regard availability to be inadequate. Over half (54%) of respondents from Dumbarton think there is not enough provision, in comparison to only 35% in Vale of Leven and 41% in Clydebank. No specific deficiencies were identified through the consultation.
- Almost two thirds (63%) of sites fall below the quality threshold. Quality scores range from 19% for Dillichip Loan and Dalquhurn to 47% for Lusset Glen, Old Kilpatrick, which is also identified in consultation as being poor quality and in need of investment.

4.8.2 Objectives

- To raise awareness of accessible natural and semi-natural open space and its value to communities in terms of wildlife habitats and education benefits.
- To seek new provision in order to meet the current and future deficiencies identified.
- To designate more existing sites as local nature reserve status in order to increase availability of provision.
- To increase the opportunities for informal play and provide walking and horse riding routes linking key settlements.
- To promote the countryside as a valuable open space resource for a variety of users.

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- To improve the quality of valued, publicly accessible, natural and semi natural sites to at least meet the 40% quality threshold.
- To increase amount of woodland habitat.

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4.9 Allotments

4.9.1 *Key issues*

- With a 15 minute walk time catchment applied, the catchment mapping highlights significant deficiencies in provision across West Dunbartonshire. In particular, there is no allotment provision within the Vale of Leven analysis area and further reflecting this, residents from Vale of Leven and Clydebank are on the waiting lists for two sites in Dumbarton.
- Accessibility shortfalls exist in Dumbarton (Castlehill, Brucehill and Kirktonhill) and Clydebank (Faifley, Duntocher, Parkhill and Mountblow).
- There is an identified need for additional allotment space to be provided. This is particularly expressed through high waiting list figures. This is most significant at two sites (Castle Green, KKP 240 and Round Riding, KKP 151) where current capacity cannot meet the waiting list demand.
- Identified during consultation with users, is a lack of secure storage facilities at allotment sites owned and maintained by WDC. This can impact upon quality as a result of vandalism.
- There is no strategic direction and management of allotments across West Dunbartonshire.

4.9.2 *Objectives*

- To provide a Council-wide allotment strategy to guide the strategic management of provision.
- To provide new provision to meet current and future deficiencies, including development of existing open space to meet current shortfalls.
- To provide new provision in areas where there is currently no provision.
- To raise awareness of provision and its value (in terms of wider social and health benefits).
- To investigate ways of increasing the capacity of existing sites to meeting waiting list demand.
- To work with users to increase the security of sites.

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4.10 Cemeteries

4.10.1 *Key issues*

- Provision is mapped with a 20-minute drive time, reflecting that the majority of users will travel by transport to access a cemetery. On this basis, there are no gaps in access to provision. More than half (57%) of street survey respondents also consider the level of provision to be about right.
- Site assessments identify that all cemeteries and churchyards have cultural/heritage value. However, half of the provision is identified as low value thought to relate to a lack of natural features in current provision. Users tend to expect provision to be landscaped in a particular way. A significant proportion of the overall usage of open spaces in West Dunbartonshire can be accounted for by residents visiting cemeteries to pay respects or for attending a funeral. There is a limited use of cemeteries as an amenity resource for walking and historical interest. Cemetery provision could help to meet deficiencies identified in other typologies such as parks and natural and semi natural greenspace.
- Only one site, Old Kilpatrick Parish Church, is classified as low quality. Community consultation identifies that the internal paths at the site are becoming overgrown with brambles, and as a result there is a lack of ownership and the site is used by irresponsible dog walkers. There are also concerns regarding damage to headstones caused by Greenspace equipment, all of which impact negatively on the quality of the site.

4.10.2 *Objectives*

- New provision to be driven by the need for additional burial space across West Dunbartonshire.
- To engage with cemetery users on the benefits that natural features can bring to provision.
- To ensure that provision remains accessible and is promoted as an open space resource for local residents.
- To improve the quality of provision identified as low quality.

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4.11 Civic space

4.11.1 *Key issues*

- The only civic space to be identified in the audit is Three Queen's Square in Clydebank. No civic spaces above the 0.2ha site threshold have been identified in Dumbarton or Vale of Leven. However, the street survey indicates a small proportion of residents from these areas access civic space provision (4% Dumbarton, 15% Vale of Leven). This is probably because many potential civic spaces or sites that are perceived by residents to be civic space predominately act as public highways rather than primarily use as a civic space, or they are below the 0.2Ha threshold.

4.11.2 *Objectives*

- To increase the availability and accessibility of existing land to act as civic space provision.
- To improve both the quality and functionality of provision.
- To encourage greater use of civic space throughout West Dunbartonshire.

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5 ACTION PLANS

5.1 The Action Plan seeks to set out a series of actions to achieve the Vision and Objectives of the Strategy. A use of the action plan is also to identify facility needs, which can then be used to inform negotiations to secure developer contributions.

5.1.1 Given that the majority of open spaces in West Dunbartonshire are owned and managed by WDC, implementation of the action plans will primarily be the responsibility of the Council in partnership with local stakeholders and agencies. Actions must also be considered in the context of financial implications and the need for some proposals to meet planning considerations.

5.1.2 Responsibility for open spaces cuts across three sections within the Council's Housing, Environmental and Economic Development Department; Greenspace, Forward Planning and Regeneration. Each is responsible for the following:

Greenspace:

- Maintenance and patrolling of open spaces
- Allotments
- Cemeteries and Headstones
- Grass Cutting
- Parks
- Outdoor Recreation Facilities
- Play Areas
- Street Cleaning
- Trees, Hedges and Verges
- Environmental improvement projects
- Core Paths Plan
- Ranger Services
- Countryside Access

Forward Planning:

- Local Plan

Regeneration:

- Town centre regeneration

5.1.3 Development of open space is not only a matter for WDC. High quality, accessible provision and its impact on quality of life in the area has implications for other organisations such as the Health Board (health and wellbeing benefits); the Police (community safety benefits), and environmental bodies such as Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (biodiversity, flood prevention etc). To increase the likelihood of success, a wide range of partners should be involved in identifying the desired outcomes and in the resourcing and delivery of the actions identified.

5.1.4 Greenspace Scotland calls such partnerships 'Strategic Greenspace Partnerships' (SGPs) and is currently supporting their establishment. Often, these partnerships emerge from, or are linked to, Community Planning Partnerships and as such could be linked to the West Dunbartonshire Community Planning Partnership. This

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coordinating body would pull together all the partners and services that are involved in open space and in delivering the strategy. The SGP approach should be further investigated by the Council.

5.1.5 Other partners in the context of delivering the strategic actions are identified as follows:

- West Dunbartonshire Community Planning Partnership (DCPP).
- West Dunbartonshire Heritage Ltd. (WDH).
- Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network (GCV).
- West Dunbartonshire Environment Trust (WDET).
- Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).
- Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS).
- The Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society (SAGS).
- Dunbartonshire Biodiversity Partnership.

5.1.6 The action plan provided below is split into two sections. The first contains the strategic actions and links to WDC Corporate Plan in terms of its strategic direction, but emanates from the key issues and objectives outlined within the Strategy. The second section provides site by site qualitative actions. Both action plans are presented by typology.

5.1.7 Both action plans have been created to be undertaken over a ten-year timescale but will require updating as changes occur.

5.1.8 Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

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5.2 Strategic actions

Ref no.	Timescales	Recommended actions	Rationale/Objective	Lead body	Other partners
General					
1	M - L	Work to provide clear routes for pedestrians between key open space sites, which are well lit and safe. Ensure that access is possible for all, including those with mobility issues, as well as pushchairs.	To maximise access to open spaces in order to serve all communities/settlements and users.	WDC Greenspace	WDCPP, WDH, GCV
2	S	Develop a well promoted and varied open space events and activities program which will enthuse residents to utilise the resources.	To promote the contribution that open spaces make to residents health and well being and as an educational resource.	CRS, WDC Greenspace	DCPP, WDET Leisure & Facilities/WDC Greenspace
3	S – L	Work to improve the quality of provision through prioritised investment in high value, low quality sites. Work to improve low value, high quality sites through introducing more functionality and community involvement in sites.	To ensure that open spaces in West Dunbartonshire are of a sufficient quality, quantity and distribution to meet the needs and aspirations of local residents.	WDC Greenspace	WDET
4	M	Work to develop a marketing strategy for open spaces which focuses on increasing awareness and promoting the benefits of provision through for example, the Councils website, on-site signage and leaflets.	To increase awareness and promote the contribution that open spaces make to residents health, well being and as an educational resource.	WDC Greenspace	DCPP, WDH, GCV, WDET
5	S	Carry out a Study of the Quality Value Matrix/Site Improvement Table to establish sites for improvement/other actions, including study of impact on maintenance. Please refer to Appendix Two for to view the matrix.	To underpin a strategic approach towards improving the quality of open spaces and to support applications for external funding and attract inward investment for both existing and new provision.	WDC Greenspace	WDC Forward Planning
6	S	Develop links with the Sports Pitch Strategy and LBAP .	To ensure that the West Dunbartonshire Sports Pitch Strategy and Local Biodiversity Action Plan are, where possible, considered with the Open Space Strategy.	WDC Greenspace	WDC Forward Planning;

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Ref no.	Timescales	Recommended actions	Rationale/Objective	Lead body	Other partners
7	M	Undertake neighbourhood assessments, including neighbouring authorities leading to detailed actions.	To ensure that open spaces in West Dunbartonshire are of a sufficient quality, quantity and distribution to meet the needs and aspirations of local residents.	Greenspace	WDC Forward Planning
8	M – L	Carry out a study of links to sites out with WDC through assessment of other authorities open space strategies.	To link West Dunbartonshire's provision to accessible open spaces in other authorities.	Greenspace	WDC Forward Planning Neighbouring Authorities
9	S - L	Adopt a tiered approach to site management through the identification of sites based on strategic importance in the Council-wide context. Please refer to Appendix One for a recommended example hierarchy to develop.	To prioritise key open spaces for investment and determine the level of investment required.	WDC Greenspace	WDC Forward Planning
10	S	Undertake study to establish open space requirements and developer contributions informed by a study of areas of deficiency.	To ensure developer contributions target areas of deficiency.	WDC Forward Planning	GCV Green Network; WDC Greenspace
11	S	Undertake study of proportion of households with an accessible greenspace of at least 2ha within 300m of home and work towards 100% target.	To establish the proportion of households with an accessible greenspace of at least 2ha in size within 300m and work to achieve target of 100%.	WDC Forward Planning	WDC Greenspace
12	S	Investigate the Strategic Greenspace Partnership approach to delivering the Open Space Strategy. Undertake a review of existing mechanisms for co-ordinating open space provision and management within WDC and other organisations.	Involve partners in order to reach desired outcomes in relation to the provision and management of open space.	WDC Forward Planning	WDC Greenspace
Parks and gardens					
13	M - L	Burgh parks to provide the following facilities as minimum provision wherever possible: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NEAP (Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play) sized play area. Car parking. 	To increase the functionality of parks and gardens (by increasing the availability of activities/facilities) and to increase the distance users are willing to travel to access provision.	WDC Greenspace	WDET

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Ref no.	Timescales	Recommended actions	Rationale/Objective	Lead body	Other partners
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toilet provision. Nature area. Casual play opportunities. 			
14	S - M	Manage all Burgh parks to Green Flag Award standard/criteria where possible, within budgetary constraints.	All District and Burgh parks falling below 60% quality threshold (reflecting the Green Flag pass mark) to be increased to high quality in the short/medium term . where possible, within budgetary constraints	WDC Greenspace	Friends of groups
15	S – M	Investigate the potential to develop and manage existing open spaces in south-eastern Clydebank and the Old Kilpatrick area. Investigate the potential to increase the accessibility and functionality of The Saltings and other areas in Old Kilpatrick.	To further meet local needs and identified gaps in accessibility of parks provision whilst taking into account wildlife issues.	WDC Greenspace	DCPP, WDH, SNH, WDET
16	S - M	Work towards development of a Parks Strategy, as when funding and resources allow.	To direct the strategic management of parks and gardens provision and to drive the framework for improvements.	WDC Greenspace	
17	S - M	Encourage and support the formation of site-specific 'friends of' groups to support the development and enhancement of open spaces.	To improve the quality and functionality of parks and gardens provision.	WDC Greenspace	Community councils, Resident associations
Amenity greenspace					
18	M - L	Select suitable amenity greenspaces above two hectares in size to provide the following facilities as minimum provision where possible, within budgetary constraints: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Car parking. Casual play opportunities. Outdoor sports pitches. Paths. Seating. Landscaping. 	To widen the range of functions in existing greenspaces through, for example, provision of seating and/or landscaping. To support local communities to facilitate events and activities on sites by providing the appropriate infrastructure to enable this.	WDC Greenspace	WDET
19	S – L	Seek appropriate on-site provision negotiated with	To ensure that new housing	WDC	WDC

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Ref no.	Timescales	Recommended actions	Rationale/Objective	Lead body	Other partners
		a developer on an application by application basis in accordance with the recommended standards, having regard to the location and characteristics of the site.	developments provide sufficient allowances for amenity greenspaces, where appropriate.	Development Management	Greenspace
20	S - L	Undertake study and select sites where it is feasible to increase that proportion of amenity greenspace that is managed for biodiversity.	To increase the amount of amenity greenspace managed for biodiversity.	WDC Greenspace	
21	S - M	Encourage and support the formation of site-specific 'friends of' groups to support the development and enhancement of open spaces.	To encourage community involvement and ownership of amenity greenspace.	WDC Greenspace	Community councils, Resident associations
Provision for children and young people					
22	S - M	Provide equipped provision in Duntocher towards the north of the residential area and in Old Kilpatrick where budgets allow.	To increase the number of play areas in demand areas which have been identified through consultation with users.	WDC Greenspace	Community councils, Resident associations
23	S - L	New provision to meet minimum size standards of at least LEAP (Local Equipped Area for Play) size where budgets allow.	To increase the number of play areas in demand areas which have been identified through consultation with users.	WDC Greenspace	Community councils, Resident associations
24	M	Utilise semi-natural sites e.g. woodlands to develop and promote 'creative' and 'wild' play opportunities. Work alongside agencies and service providers, such as the Forestry Commission and the Rangers Service to educate children and young people about activities/opportunities for safe play.	To create more areas where children can "play creatively" and make better use of the natural environment in providing play opportunities.	WDC Greenspace	FC, SNH, WDET
25	S - L	Utilise developer contributions to address the quality of current stock and achieve better	To increase the number of play areas in demand areas which have been	WDC Development	WDC Greenspace

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		contributions to increase the scale of provision and underpin the continued maintenance of any new provision.	identified through consultation with users. To improve the quality of provision for children and young people.	Management	
26	M	Encourage and support the community in providing and improving play opportunities for children and young people.	To improve the quality of provision for children and young people.	WDC Greenspace	Community councils, Resident associations
27	L	Support and encourage enhancement, accessibility and inclusivity of play provision. Work towards providing inclusive play provision in all new and refurbished play areas.	To improve the value of provision for children and young people.	WDC Greenspace	Community councils, Resident associations
28	S	Provide regular communication with schools and sports clubs regarding the availability of facilities and activities for young people. Investigate new ways to engage with young people.	To increase the awareness of facilities and activities available to young people.	WDC Educational Services	WDC Greenspace,
Open space corridors					
29	S - M	Investigate methods of improving provision of site information e.g. route distances, destinations and difficulty. Develop a programme with enhanced signage and way marking, particularly in Dumbarton.	To improve access to all provision taking into account disability access as a priority.	WDC Greenspace	GCV, WDET
30	S - L	Develop a set of user friendly cycling and walking maps, targeting in particular deprived areas.	To improve promotion of the Core Paths network and access to the surrounding countryside.	WDC Greenspace	DCPP, WDH, GCV, WDET, WDC Tourism
31	M	Where appropriate investigate the use of adjustable "A" frame style gates on problem sites.	To work towards reducing illegal use of open space corridors in order to increase usage and quality of sites.	WDC Greenspace	Sustrans, WDC Greenspace, GCV, WDET
32	S - L	Work to improve the quality and quantity of natural green corridors	To increase quality and upgrade provision where required and appropriate.	WDC Greenspace	WDC Forward Planning
33	M	Undertake study of demand for horse riding routes.	To ascertain if demand exists to extend the current horse riding path network.	WDC Greenspace	WDC Forward Planning

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Natural and semi natural greenspace					
34	S - M	Increase the availability of site specific information on the WDC website. Engage a greater number of local schools regarding the benefits of provision.	To raise awareness of accessible natural and semi-natural open space and its value to communities in terms of wildlife habitats and education benefits.	WDC Greenspace	WDC Education Services, schools
35	S - M	Work to designate Brucehill Cliffs and Faifley Knowes as local nature reserves. Ensure development of a 'friends of group' and production of a management plan to ensure the sites are well used and valued by local residents.	To designate more existing sites as local nature reserve status in order to increase availability of provision.	WDC Greenspace	SNH
36	M - L	Improve provision of woodlands.	To increase amount of woodland habitat.	WDC Greenspace	Forestry Commission
37	S	Develop and maintain partnerships with external agencies and voluntary sector organisations involved in the management of sites.	To promote open spaces as a valuable open space resource for a variety of users.	WDC Greenspace	DCPP, SNH, WDET, WDH, FC
38	M	To identify an official site suitable for off-road vehicles such as motorbikes and quad bikes to help address unofficial use.	To work towards reducing illegal use of open space corridors in order to increase usage and quality of sites.	WDC Greenspace	FC
39	S - L	Improve the accessibility and widen the range of functions of the Saltings, Old Kilpatrick.	To contribute to meeting deficiencies in the Old Kilpatrick area.	WDC Greenspace	WDC Forward Planning
Allotments					
40	M - L	Provide two new sites of at least 0.66 hectares each in size, one in Dumbarton (Castlehill, Brucehill or Kirkonhill) and Clydebank (Faifley, Duntocher, Parkhill or Mountblow).	To provide new provision to meet current and future deficiencies, including development of existing open space to meet current shortfalls.	WDC Greenspace	SAGS
41	S	Provide one new site in Vale of Leven of at least 0.66 hectares.	To provide new provision in areas where there is currently no provision.	WDC Greenspace	SAGS
42	M	If and when provision increases and greater allotment usage can be accommodated, work in partnership with all providers to raise awareness	To raise awareness of provision and its value (in terms of wider social and health benefits).	WDC Greenspace	WDC Forward Planning, Community

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		of provision, including greater internet promotion of sites to individuals and community groups.			councils, schools
43	S – M	Investigate the potential for plot splitting or reducing the size of plots to help meet demand identified. Prioritise this at Castle Green, KKP 240 and Round Riding, KKP 151.	To investigate ways of increasing the capacity of existing sites to meeting waiting list demand.	WDC Greenspace	WDC Forward Planning, allotment associations
44	S	Consult with allotment users to confirm requirements for storage and investigate the implications of allowing individuals to store equipment, i.e. issues with sheds etc.	To work with users to increase the security of sites and to ensure where possible that site equipment is stored away.	WDC Greenspace	Allotment associations
45	S	Undertake a review of the effectiveness of self-management of provision by associations and encourage and support the formation of an allotment user forum to facilitate the sharing of management skills and best practice.	To provide a Council-wide allotment strategy to guide the strategic management of provision.	WDC Greenspace	WDC Forward Planning, SAGS
46	M	Carry out a study of allotment site needs and search for appropriate sites.	To ensure that open spaces in West Dunbartonshire are of a sufficient quality, quantity and distribution to meet the needs and aspirations of local residents.	WDC Greenspace	WDC Forward Planning
Cemeteries					
47	L	Ensure un-used land at Clydebank Cemetery is protected for future burial space. Ensure land recently purchased by WDC near to Dumbarton Cemetery is protected for future burial space.	New provision to be driven by the need for additional burial space across West Dunbartonshire.	WDC Forward Planning/Development Management	WDC Greenspace
48	S	Work to promote the use of cemeteries for informal recreation e.g. walking and exercise. Encourage greater use of cemeteries as an educational resource, both in terms of heritage and environmental value.	To ensure that provision remains accessible and is promoted as a recreation/open space resource for local residents.	WDC Greenspace	SNH, schools, WDC Education Services
49	S - M	Work to improve the quality of Old Kilpatrick Parish Church Cemetery.	To improve the quality of provision identified as low quality.	WDC Greenspace	WDC Forward Planning

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Civic spaces					
50	S	Better utilise town centre open spaces for community activities/events.	To improve both the quality and functionality of provision.	Leisure & Facilities	WDC Greenspace
51	M	Enhance provision through installation of seating and features of interest such as public art, water features etc.	To encourage greater use of civic space throughout West Dunbartonshire.	WDC Regeneration	WDC Greenspace
Inner Clyde SPA & SSSI Site					
52	M	The provision of information to promote the bird populations on the site to visitors and to encourage appropriate behaviour by visitors, particularly dog-walkers during the core months when the birds are present. Locations affected – The Saltings, Bowling Basin, Dumbarton Waterfront, Levensgrove Park and Brucehill Cliffs.	The birds are affected by human disturbance which requires to be minimised.	WDC Greenspace	Leisure & Facilities

5.3 *Site Assessment and Actions*

Assessment of Quality and Value

5.3.1 The assessment of quality and value of open spaces in West Dunbartonshire should be used by WDC to identify those open spaces which should be given the highest level of protection by the planning system, those which require enhancement in some way. Below are the recommendations for each high/low classification giving the possible combinations of quality and value for open spaces. Please refer to Appendix 2 for a full list of sites applied within the matrix.

High quality/low value

5.3.2 Wherever possible, the preferred policy approach to a space in this category should be to enhance its value in terms of its present primary purpose. If this is not possible, the next best policy approach is to consider whether it might be of high value if converted to some other primary purpose.

High quality/high value

5.3.3 Ideally, it should be an aspiration that all open spaces come into this category and the planning system should then seek to protect them.

Low quality/low value

5.3.4 Wherever possible, the policy approach to these spaces or facilities should be to enhance their quality provided it is possible also to enhance their value. If this is not possible, for whatever reason, the space or facility may be 'surplus to requirements' in terms of its present primary purpose and consideration should be given to changing the primary purpose to another listed in the table on pages 9 and 10.

Low quality/high value

5.3.5 The policy approach to these spaces should be to enhance their quality and therefore the planning system should seek to protect them.

5.3.6 The above approach provides a simple means of determining the most appropriate policy approach to each existing open space or facility. It also provides a basis for linking planning, design, management and maintenance.

5.3.7 Appendix 2 presents where each existing open space fits into the matrix. As a priority, WDC should focus on improving low quality sites of high value and any low value sites of high quality and investigate how these sites could be enhanced. The quality and value assessment has informed the site by site actions below.

Site by site actions

5.3.8 The site by site action plan does not identify all quality and value improvements to be made. Specific details on how this is best achieved can be found in the accompanying study database. Typical issues to address in order to increase quality include examples such as increasing the regularity of maintenance at the site, provision of litterbins and provision of benches. Typical issues to address in order to increase value include examples such as raising awareness of the site, increasing overall quality and increasing community engagement in the site. Prioritisation of improvements should be led through the annual maintenance planning programme.

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- 5.3.9 In general, consultation revealed an issue with dog fouling, fly tipping and litter throughout West Dunbartonshire. Therefore, it is recommended that WDC continue to implement and enforce the Litter Control Strategy and increase the communication around enforcement (such as on the spot fines and potential convictions). This will enable continued improvement of the open spaces through a reduction in litter/dog fouling.
- 5.3.10 The street survey found that a quarter of respondents feel there is a need for investment in provision and a cleanup in provision (21% and 20% respectively).
- 5.3.11 Consultation highlights a high level of illegal use of motorbikes/quad bikes throughout the area, particularly at those sites in secluded positions. It is recommended that bollards/preventative measures are installed and there is an increase in police presence to deter riders. Further options for funding and potential sites to develop an off road site for riders should also be investigated.
- 5.3.12 The Council recognises that the staff resource is critical to improving provision of open spaces.
- 5.3.13 Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

Justification of sites within the action plan

- 5.3.14 The action plan provides recommendations relating to individual sites and the need to enhance and develop new provision. The following criteria have been used to identify priorities and justify the inclusion of sites within the action plan. Just one of the following may apply:
- The site suffers from access problems in terms of safety, poor signage and/or poor disability provision.
 - A project is currently underway to enhance the existing site and/or funding has been secured.
 - An evaluation of site use is required as it is of poor quality and is reportedly underused.
 - The desired action is small scale, short term and will enhance the quality of current provision, whilst aiding community empowerment.
 - The importance of the site is identified in other strategies.

Management and development

- 5.3.15 The following issues should be considered when undertaking site development or enhancement:
- Financial viability.
 - Security of tenure.
 - Planning permission requirements and any foreseen difficulties in securing permission.

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- Gaining revenue funding from planning contributions in order to maintain existing sites.
- Gaining planning contributions to assist with the creation of new provision where need has been identified.
- Analysis of the possibility of shared site management opportunities.
- The availability of opportunities to lease site to external organisations.
- Options to assist community groups/councils to gain funding to enhance existing provision.
- Negotiation with landowners to increase access to private strategic sites.
- Current biodiversity value and biodiversity potential.

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5.3.16 Site specific actions

Vale of Leven

Site	KKP Ref	Timescale	Recommended actions	Rationale
Parks and gardens				
Millburn Park	56	S	Improve the boundary fencing.	Site visits and consultation found that the secondary entrance to the park opens onto a relatively busy road.
		S	Increase provision of litter bins.	Litter has been reported to be a problem and was highlighted as detrimental to the site during quality assessments.
		M	Increase provision of benches/seating areas.	Local residents have suggested increasing the provision of benches, and ensure they are placed in appropriate strategic positions in order to make the site more accessible and welcoming.
Chirstie Park, Alexandria.	45	M	Maintain to Green Flag standards and work towards successfully submitting to Green Flag .	Identified as having strong potential to achieve Green Flag Award in the future.
Ladyton Park	68	M	Increase provision of litter bins.	Litter has been reported to be a problem and is affecting the quality of the site.
Natural/semi natural greenspace				
Dalquhurn	54	L	Improve the position of entrances.. Improve management for wildlife.	Personal security was found to be low and local residents consider the area to be intimidating, particularly at night. There is an opportunity for improvement of management for wildlife.
		S	discourage fly-tipping through increased enforcement.	Litter and fly tipping was identified as an issue during the site assessments. Community consultation also highlighted a high level of fly tipping in and around the site.
Dillichip Loan	65	S	Increase the provision of bins', particularly on key paths and near to the playground / pitch in the SE corner.	The proximity of the primary school means the site is often used as a cut through and the use of the pitch by pupils after school hours can mean that litter is left on site.

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Site	KKP Ref	Timescale	Recommended actions	Rationale
Amenity greenspace				
Brown Street	123	S	Increase the provision of bins.	Consultation highlights that dog foul is an issue, which impacts the overall quality of the site.
Games Court, Tullichewan	169	S	Increase the provision of bins.	Site visits highlight that dog fouling is an issue, which impacts the overall quality of the site.
		M	Further landscaping to improve the site to be more aesthetically pleasing and usable/valuable for the local community.	Site visits found that the games court on site is no longer used leaving scruffy patch of land, which reduces the quality of the site.
India Street	210	M	Improve the perceived level of personal security, through maintenance of shrubbery etc and improve the nearby lighting.	The site is relatively secluded and as such there are issues with personal security.
Open space, Main Street, Renton	129	S	Increase the provision and visibility of bins throughout the site.	Litter and broken glass has been identified as an issue for this site which has been attributed to the congregation of teenagers. However, this may not be the sole cause of the litter problem.
		L	Help to reduce the occurrence of loitering/drinking at the site through work with the local community and police.	
			Consider increasing provision or areas in which young people feel comfortable in the area.	
Children's play areas				
Cameron Drive PA	158.1	M	Increase provision and include appropriate variety of equipment suitable for under 12 year olds.	Current equipment provision is reported to be limited and dull.
McAlister Road PA	231	M	Improve variety of equipment as appropriate and increase the quality of the surface to increase safety and aesthetic value.	Current equipment and playing surface are considered low quality.
Bonhill Recreation Ground PA	46	M	Improve the boundary fencing and provide appropriate seating on site.	Site visits found that the boundary fencing was inadequate and user safety/aesthetics of the site would benefit from improvement.
		S	Ensure that any missing/damaged equipment is replaced/ repaired as necessary.	The site suffers from vandalism which in turn reduces the value of the play area.

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Site	KKP Ref	Timescale	Recommended actions	Rationale
Pappert PA Braehead PA	230	S	Improve the general appearance of the site.	Both sites suffer from vandalism which in turn reduces the use of the play areas. Fire damage is a particular issue on both sites.
	193	M	Repair fire damage and increase the quality of the equipment. Consider replacing equipment with fire retardant provision.	
		S	Encourage greater police presence in the area in order to help reduce vandalism.	
Open space corridors				
River Leven Corridor	83	M	Increase quality and upgrade provision where appropriate.	The only analysis area to have a mean score lying below the quality threshold is Vale of Leven, where all sites are classified as low quality.
Allotments				
Throughout the area	-	M	Work with partners to conduct remedial work to consider the development of self managed allotment associations.	This will help reduce the demand for resources at WDC and will enable the sites to “self police”.
		L	Following the establishment of the associations, introduce a “best plot and best site” competition.	This will ensure that the sites and plots within them are well kept and maintained to a high standard.

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Dumbarton

Site	KKP Ref	Timescale	Recommended actions	Rationale
Parks and gardens				
Levorgrove Park	18	S	Maintain to Green Flag standards and work towards successfully submitting to Green Flag.	Site visits found that the park scored highly and is a valuable resource for the local community
		M	Increase awareness and perceived accessibility to the park for local residents, by considering new events. Any events proposed during September to April should not give rise to amplified, explosive or similarly elevated noise levels.	Consultation found that a large proportion of the Dumbarton community had not accessed parks and gardens in the previous 12 months and those that had did not consider there to be enough provision.
Natural/semi natural greenspace				
Brucehill Cliffs	-	S	Ensure development of a 'friends of group' and production of a management plan to ensure the site is well used and valued by local residents. Undertake grassland management for biodiversity.	Additional local nature reserve (LNR) provision is planned for Brucehill Cliffs.
Open space corridors				
NCN 7		M	Ensure that the lighting is consistent throughout the network and upgrade when funding available. Much of the route is, however, in rural areas and not considered for lighting.	Consultation has found that the lighting is inconsistent in places along the route.

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Site	KKP Ref	Timescale	Recommended actions	Rationale
Amenity greenspace				
Hunters Avenue	182	M	Consider repositioning/relocating the current signage within the site.	Site visits have found that the position of the signage on sites detracts from the quality of both sites.
Open space, Garshake (Campbell Terrace)	73			
Children's play areas				
East End PA	28.1	S	Ensure that regular inspections are conducted to keep play area clean and graffiti free.	The site is also reported to be a "youth congregation area" which can lead to an increase in litter and vandalism.
		L	Consider installing equipment specific to the needs of teenagers.	An increase in provision for teenagers and young people will encourage ownership of the provision and reduce the occurrence of vandalism impacting upon the use by younger children.
Cunningham Graham Memorial Park MUGA	124.1	S	Increase the visibility of WDC staff on site. Increase enforcement relating to littering and vandalism.	The site suffers from vandalism and there is a high level of graffiti. The increase of policing/enforcement will decrease misuse/damage to provision.
Garshake Avenue PA	214	M	Install additional seating.	It is thought that the play area would benefit from the installation of appropriate seating. This would allow parents somewhere to sit whilst supervising their children.
Muir Road PA	159.1	S	Improve the overall quality of the site.	The play area is on the edge of an estate and is reportedly in poor condition with poor quality equipment and play surface.

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Site	KKP Ref	Timescale	Recommended actions	Rationale
Allotments				
Knowe Top Community Farm	-	L	Continue to support Knowe Top Farm and ensure that residents and visitors are aware of the site through continued advertisement.	The site is a valuable resource for the local community and the voluntary organisation is keen to continue to work with all residents and visitors to West Dunbartonshire.
		S	Increase security on site and consider community engagement programs to encourage community buy in/ownership.	Consultation highlights numerous occurrences of vandalism to the site, particularly graffiti and damage. An increase in security at the site will help combat anti social behaviour and reduce instances of vandalism.

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Clydebank

Site	KKP Ref	Timescale	Recommended actions	Rationale
Parks and gardens				
Strauss Avenue	-	M	Work with landowners and investigate the potential to develop this site to further meet the needs of gaps identified in parks provision. This could include further landscaping and provision of formal facilities such as a play area, seating etc.	Consultation reveals green space on Strauss Avenue which is currently designated as a pitch site but is not in active use. WDC has recently installed a path across the site in order for residents to access nearby retail provision.
Clydeside Community Park	18	S	Continue to improve and upgrade and investigate expansion into Golden Jubilee Hospital Grounds.	The park has low levels of personal security has reportedly feels isolated, which may be restricting its use.
Goldenhill Park, Faifley	33	M	Increase provision of benches in the park	Community consultation revealed that older people like to use the park to reach the shops but would benefit from additional benches as it is a relatively hilly site.
Dalmuir Park	303	S	Maintain to Green Flag standards and work towards successfully submitting to Green Flag, including development of a site specific management plan.	Identified as having strong potential to achieve Green Flag Award. A number of female consultees expressed concern/reluctance to visit the park at night as it is set back from the road and a popular point for congregation. This in turn creates litter and broken glass.
		M	More effectively policing/community ownership of the site. Increase lighting in the area.	
Natural/semi natural greenspace				
Duntocher Burn	74	M	Continue to support improvement in this space, and others as identified in the LBAP.	Duntocher Burn has been identified as a priority area for improvement by WDC.
The Saltings	5	L	Investigate the potential to develop this site to further meet the needs of gaps identified in parks provision.	Although not designated as a park, the Saltings contributes to meeting the needs of parks and gardens provision.
Lusset Glen	34	S	Continue to work with local enforcement officers, including the police to reduce anti social behaviour occurring in the Glen.	Identified in consultation as being poor quality and in need of investment. Local residents report that the Glen is a popular

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Site	KKP Ref	Timescale	Recommended actions	Rationale
				congregation point and as such suffers from both damage through vandalism and increase in litter/glass.

Site	KKP Ref	Timescale	Recommended actions	Rationale
Children's play areas				
Goldenhill Park Play area	33.1	M	Increase the level of provision for teenagers and older children.	Consultation with users indicates that residents associate the issue of anti-social behaviour and youth congregation in open spaces, with a lack of provision for teenagers. This is considered to be a major contributor to the level of anti-social behaviour at the park.
Dalmuir Park	303.1	L	Consider developing more accessible access routes/pathways.	Consultation found that the park is considered to be too steep to easily manoeuvre children's pushchairs, which affects the level of usage.
Allotments				
Dalmuir Allotments	115	M	Partners to work to improve the drainage.	Consultation with users identifies that Dalmuir Allotments suffer from water-logging and vandalism.

5.4 Monitoring and reviewing the Open Space Strategy

5.4.1 This report is a 'living document' and the recommendations contained within it should be reviewed to take account of any changes, for example, adopted housing allocations and windfall developments as and when required. It is vital that WDC takes early ownership of this strategy from the outset, as further work is needed to continue the process that this study has commenced.

5.4.2 WDC should plan to review the implementation of its Open Space Strategy on a five year cycle, and update the strategy to address deficiencies, highlight successes and to set and update targets for the next five-year period.

5.4.3 A key element to the review process in the short term is to take the audit database and related GIS layers to create a useable data tool for future monitoring and review. The Council has been provided with two separate systems – Excel databases and GIS shapefiles – with the need for a trained spreadsheet/GIS individual to keep them aligned following an update. It would be more appropriate for the systems to be integrated without the need for an "expert", allowing greater cross departmental usage and ownership. This will also assist the Council with a visual prioritisation of actions relating to all open space, providing a comprehensive picture to enable the Council to accurately interrogate the GIS database in a wide range of applications to assist with the targeting of spending where needs are greatest. Further examination of the following options is recommended:

- Re-develop the databases in MS-Access with 'proper' integration to the GIS system via a 'secure' mechanism unlike to spreadsheets.
- Develop a macro to export all the data to MS-Access from the existing systems which will then provide the 'secure' integration mechanism.

5.4.4 It would also be beneficial to the overall strategic picture, to add GIS data (if available) from the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park to the West Dunbartonshire GIS layer in order to fully assess cross boundary issues. As and when available, it would also be prevalent to gather audit data from other neighbouring authorities such as Glasgow, as a number of assumptions were made in relation to how people are likely to travel to access provision and this would allow a review of identified deficiencies close to the West Dunbartonshire boundary.

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OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

Appendix One - open space hierarchy

Consultation highlighted a number of key sites across West Dunbartonshire. In order to help further prioritise open spaces for investment and level of investment required, we recommend that a tiered approach to site management is adopted. The identification of sites is based on strategic importance in the Council-wide context.

Generally speaking the larger an open space, the more varied the potential for recreational opportunities and the further people will travel to visit. It is therefore also useful to categorise open spaces by size.

Table 1.1: Tiered model approach criteria

Tier A sites <i>Burgh open spaces</i>	Tier B sites <i>Local Parks and open spaces</i>	Tier C sites <i>Pocket parks</i>	Tier D sites <i>Small open spaces</i>
Strategically placed in the local context with established value to wider area.	Strategically placed in the local and/or Burgh context.	Strategically placed in the local context.	Strategically placed in the neighbourhood context, often servicing a particular estate.
Large sites with wide catchment area. Multi functional providing a variety of facilities.	Medium size sites (relative to overall provision). Often more than one typology on site.	Generally smaller sites with single use.	Could include school sites.
Generally serves wider community: WDC residents and visitors. Destination site.	Generally serves WDC residents. Has county-wide importance.	Serves local residents/ neighbourhood. Tailored to local needs.	Limited or restricted community access.
Provides a high standard of open space. Can host large events or has regional significance. Managed to Green Flag Award standard.	Provides a good standard of open space and could be considered for Green Flag Award.	Provides a good standard of open space.	Provides a good standard of open space but with some issues.
Accessible site by most modes of transport.	Some ancillary provision on site/ nearby. Accessible site.	No ancillary provision and some access issues.	Limited wider access.
At least 20 hectares in size	Between 2 and 20 hectares	Under 2 hectares in size	Under 0.4 hectares in size

Applying the tiered model

Tier A sites are sites identified as having Council-wide significance and are recognised flagship sites. Large areas of open space that provide a landscape setting with a variety of natural features providing for a wide range of activities, including outdoor sports facilities and playing fields, children's play for different age groups and informal recreation pursuits. They offer a combination of facilities and features and are readily accessible by public transport and are managed to meet best practice quality standards. They are likely to include parks and gardens but may also include significant natural greenspaces and green corridors. These sites are often considered to be the most popular and should be destination sites providing a range of facilities/functions. They should be maintained to a high standard (Green Flag) in order to accommodate a sufficient number of users and functions. It is, therefore, anticipated that a significant amount of the annual maintenance budget should be spent on such sites. Large sites with more than one primary function.

Tier B sites are generally smaller catering for a local area or in this instance an analysis area importance. Sites may provide court games, children's play, sitting-out areas and nature conservation areas. They are likely to include amenity greenspaces which contain a play area or also operate as a recreation ground. Generally, tier 'B' sites have the potential to become 'A' sites but require higher levels of initial investment, more ongoing maintenance, and some infrastructure work. They should be designated as medium priority for investment. Large sites with more than one primary function.

Tier C sites are also smaller sites. They cater for demand at a local level and often provide a similar function to gardens and can provide sitting-out areas, children's play spaces or other areas of a specialist nature, including nature conservation areas. They should be particularly valuable to local residents and have some form of community interest in their management.

Tier D sites small areas of open space that provide natural surfaces and shaded areas for informal play and passive recreation that sometimes have seating and play equipment. These include school sites that have the potential to provide community open spaces or play provision for local residents without the need to provide new provision in areas of deficiency.

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We have applied the tiered model, as an example, to parks and gardens:

Table 1.2: Tiered model example – parks and gardens

KKP Ref	Site	Sub-typology	Tier
4	Overtoun Policies	Burgh Park	B
8	Auchnacraig, Faifley	Burgh Park	B
18	Levengrove Park, Kirktonhill	Burgh Park	A
27	Argyll Park Alexandria	District Park	B
28	East End Park, Dumbarton	District Park	C
33	Golden Hill Park, Duntocher	District Park	C
36	Meadow Park, Dumbarton	District Park	C
45	Christie Park, Alexandria	District Park	A
56	Millburn Park, Alexandria	District Park	B
57	Boquhanran Park, Radnor Park	District Park	C
68	Ladyton Park	District Park	C
303	Dalmuir Park	District Park	A
88	Clydeside Community Park	Local Park	D
124	Cunningham-Graham Memorial Park	Local Park	D
143	Park, Place of Bonhill, Renton	Local Park	D
171	Public Gardens, Drumry	Local Park	D
174	Halkett Crescent, Alexandria	Local Park	D
203	Public Park, Bowling	Local Park	D
205	Knoxland Square, Dumbarton East	Local Park	D

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Appendix Two – Quality and Value Matrix

QUALITY

The criteria used for assessing open spaces in West Dunbartonshire are summarised below. They are based upon those used for the Green Flag Award and ‘Green Space Strategies: A Good Practice Guide’, published by CABESpace (2004). The assessment form also reflects the criteria specified in “Greenspace Quality - a guide to assessment, planning and strategic development” ‘Greenspace Scotland/GCV Green Network (2008).

Open space site visit criteria for quality including play areas (summary)

- Physical access, e.g., public transport links, directional signposts.
- Access-social, e.g., appropriate minimum entrance widths.
- Parking, e.g., disabled parking.
- Information signage, e.g., presence of up to date site information.
- Equipment and facilities, e.g., assessment of both adequacy and maintenance of provision such as seats, benches, bins, toilets.
- Location value, e.g., proximity of housing, other greenspace.
- Site problems, e.g., presence of vandalism, graffiti.
- Healthy, safe and secure, e.g., staff on site.
- Maintenance and cleanliness, e.g., condition of landscape.
- Typology specific profile, e.g., presence of environmental education facilities (natural/semi-natural provision).
- Groups/communities that the site meets the needs of, e.g., elderly, young people.
- Site potential.

Please refer to Appendix Two of the Audit document for a full breakdown of the criteria used in the audit.

KKP utilises one site visit assessment sheet to assess all open space typologies (except play provision which has a separate audit form to additionally take account of equipment and surfaces). The weighting and scoring system takes account of the individual typologies and reflects their different natures and characteristics (each typology therefore has a different maximum score), which also mirrors the methods used by GCV Green Network/Greenspace Scotland. For example, the maximum score for allotments does not include scores for picnic benches. Similarly, the maximum score for amenity green-space does not include scores for toilets. Maximum scores achievable for each typology are set out below together with the equivalent data for value.

Maximum scores for quality of open spaces in West Dunbartonshire

Typology	Quality - maximum score
Allotments	79
Amenity greenspace	100
Cemeteries	115
Children’s play areas	97
Open space corridors	50
Parks and gardens	130

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Typology	Quality - maximum score
Semi / natural green-spaces	114
Civic space	110

On the assessment form itself some elements receive a direct score (1 – 5 scale) and other elements simply have a tick option if present (receiving a score of 3 for every tick). Some tick options are simply collated and analysed as additional data, receiving no score.

Examples of the applied scoring and weighting can be found in the Appendix Four.

The only national benchmark available for assessing the quality of open spaces is the Green Flag Award (GFA). In order to pass the site assessment a score of 60% must be achieved. Site assessment criteria used in this study is also based on the GFA criteria. The GFA standard of 60% is not appropriate to every typology of open space and it should be noted that GFA aims to achieve excellence and is recognised as a particularly high standard. Therefore, it is not always appropriate to apply this standard to all sites.

The primary aim of the quality threshold is to identify sites where investment and/or improvements are required. It can also be used to set an aspirational threshold to be achieved in the future and will inform decisions around the need to further protect sites from future development when applied with its respective value score in a matrix format.

In order to determine sites as high or low quality we colour code each site visited against a set threshold (high is green and low is red).

The table below summarises and applies the recommended quality thresholds for each typology and highlights how many sites fall above and below the thresholds.

Typology	QUALITY Scores						Number:	
	Threshold	Maximum score	Lowest score	MEAN score	Highest score	Spread	Below the threshold	Above the threshold
Allotments	40%	79	40%	43%	48%	8%	-	5
Amenity greenspace	20%	100	12%	37%	74%	62%	63	39
Cemeteries	50%	115	44%	55%	69%	25%	1	5
Children's play space	40%	97	11%	43%	77%	66%	40	40
Civic spaces	30%	110	36%	36%	36%	0%	1	-
Open space corridors	40%	50	22%	41%	64%	42%	5	4
Parks and gardens	40%	130	32%	42%	51%	19%	3	4
Burgh and District parks	60%	130	27%	44%	75%	48%	5	7
Natural and semi natural greenspaces	30%	114	19%	31%	47%	28%	2	16

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VALUE

The value of a site is most often described in relation to the following three areas:

- Context of the site, i.e., its accessibility, scarcity value and historic value.
- Community value i.e., level and type of use, the wider benefits it generates for people.
- Biodiversity and the wider environment.

The value of sites has been assessed by analysis of two sets of criteria: (i) site visit criteria (collated on site during the assessment); and (ii) non site visit criteria (collated as part of consultation and desk based research). Examples of the criteria used are presented below. This methodology differs slightly from the guidance suggested in The Greenspace Quality Guide (Greenspace Scotland/GCV Green Network) which appears to assess value and quality as a single step; however, the final assessment is of similar worth. As stated earlier, scores in the database are presented as total and percentage figures.

Value - site visit criteria

- Level of use (observations only).
- Context of site in relation to other open spaces.
- Structural and landscape benefits.
- Ecological benefits.
- Educational benefits.
- Social inclusion and health benefits.
- Cultural and heritage benefits.
- Amenity benefits and a sense of place.
- Economic benefits.

Value - non site visit criteria

- Designated site such as LNR or SSSI.
- Educational programme in place.
- Historic site.
- Listed building or historical monument on site.
- Registered 'friends of' group for the site.

KKP utilises one site visit assessment sheet to assess all open space typologies (except play provision which has a separate audit form to additionally take account of equipment and surfaces). The weighting and scoring system takes account of the individual typologies and reflects their different natures and characteristics (each typology therefore has a slightly different maximum score), which also mirrors the methods used by Greenspace Scotland /GCV Green Network. Maximum scores achievable for each typology are set out below. There is less variation in the maximum scores for value (compared to quality) as the majority of the criteria apply to all typologies. Where it does differ, it is to take account of the fact that LNR status only applies to natural/semi natural provision and 'friends of' groups usually only apply to parks for example.

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Maximum scores for value of open spaces in West Dunbartonshire

Typology	Value - maximum score
Allotments	60
Amenity greenspace	68
Cemeteries	58
Children's play areas	55
Open space corridors	68
Parks and gardens	70
Semi / natural green-spaces	72
Civic space	68

On the assessment form itself some elements receive a direct score (1 – 5 scale) and other elements simply have a tick option if present (receiving a score of 3 for every tick). Some tick options are simply collated and analysed as additional data, receiving no score.

Examples of the applied scoring and weighting can be found in the Appendix Four.

Value scores provide a starting point to determine where to focus investment in order to maximise the value of a space. It allows an objective approach to identifying spaces that should be given the highest level of protection in the planning system, those that require enhancement and those that may no longer be needed for their present purpose.

The primary aim of setting a value threshold is to help inform the identification of surplus provision when applied together with accessibility standards and where investment and/or improvements are required.

No national benchmarks are available to assess value. We have set the threshold for assessing value at 20%; this is based on experience and expertise in carrying out open space assessments and has been tried and tested with a number of local authorities. If a site only scores high for one element (i.e. educational benefit) it shall be of high value, however, this is not necessarily reflected in the total score and therefore the threshold is reduced to better reflect this.

The table below summarises and applies the recommended quality thresholds for each typology and highlights how many sites fall above and below the thresholds.

Typology	Value scores					Number:	
	Maximum score	Lowest score	Mean score	Highest score	Spread	Below the threshold	Above the threshold
Allotments	60	20%	24%	32%	12%	-	5
Amenity greenspace	68	3%	22%	41%	38%	26	76
Cemeteries	58	16%	22%	33%	17%	3	3
Children's play space	55	7%	25%	47%	40%	32	48
Civic spaces	68	32%	32%	32%	0%	-	1

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Open space corridors	68	21%	34%	51%	31%	-	9
Parks and Gardens	70	10%	32%	64%	54%	2	17
Semi / Natural greenspaces	72	10%	24%	40%	31%	4	14

Quality and Value Matrix

Vale of Leven

Typology	QUALITY	VALUE	
		Low	High
Allotments	High	-	-
	Low	-	-
Amenity greenspace	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brown Street Haldane 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Haldane Community Park Project Playing Fields, Nobleston Recreation Ground, Main Rd, Renton Open Space, Stirling Rd, Noblestone Bridge Street Open Space Cameron Drive, Tullichewan Bannachra Crescent, Tullichewan
	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vale of Leven Industrial Estate Woodburn Avenue, Haldane Games Court, Tullichewan Levenbank Gardens Highway Verge Open Space, Ladyton India Street 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A82 Alexandria Cordale Point Renton Recreation Ground, Bonhill Vale of Leven Hospital Ross Walk, Renton Open Space, Main Street, Renton
Cemeteries	High	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vale of Leven Cemetery
	Low	-	-
Children's play areas	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play Area, Braehead Play Area, Pappert 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A82 Alexandria PA Argyll Park PA Talbot Road MUGA Christie Park PA Haldane Community Park PA Ross Walk PA Brown Street PA
	Low	-	-

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Typology	QUALITY	VALUE	
		Low	High
Children's Play areas	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bannachra Road PA Breahead Play Area Pappert 5-a-side Colquhoun Drive PA Braehead 5-a-side
	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation Ground Renton Cameron Drive PA Play Area Tontine Crescent Play Area Mcalister Road 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bonhill Recreation Ground PA Halkett Crescent PA
Green Corridors	High	-	-
	Low	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> River Leven Corridor Open Space, Main Street, Jamestown
Parks and Gardens	High	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Argyll Park Alexandria Christie Park, Alexandria Park, Place of Bonhill, Renton Halkett Crescent, Alexandria
	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Millburn Park, Alexandria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park Ladyton
Semi / Natural greenspaces	High	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pappertwell Community Woodland Stirling Road, Dumbarton Renton Wood, Renton
	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dalquhurn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dillichip Loan

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

Dumbarton

Typology	QUALITY	VALUE	
		Low	High
Allotments	High	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> East Dumbarton Allotments Townend Allotments
	Low	-	-
Amenity greenspace	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowle Burn Playing Field and Burn, Duntocher Open Space, Dumbarton Road, Mountblow Breahead Avenue Open Space, Rowan Drive, Parkhall Open Space, Western Isles Rd, Mount Ground at Fisher Cres, Duntocher Kilbowie Road 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playing Fields, Brucehill Dumbarton Waterfront, Dumbarton Bowling Basin King George Field, Milton Recreation Ground, Silverton Holly Drive Bowie Street Open Space, West Bridgend School Lane, Dennystown Townend Road Rear of Community Centre, Dennystow
	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Space, Dumbuck Road, Barloan Garshake Council Offices Ground at Strathclyde Road Open Space, Ardoch Cres, Brucehill Graham Road, Brucehill Open Space, Castlegreen, Dumbarton Muir Road, Bellsmyre Glasgow Road, Highway Verge Hunter's Avenue Langlands Terrace Open Space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Space, Garshake Playing Fields, Howatshaws, Bellsmyre Open Space, Garshake Open Space, Oxhill Road, Dennystown Open Space, Glasgow Rd, Dennystown Open Space, Westcliff, Brucehill Ground at Millburn Road
Cemeteries	High	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dumbarton Cemetery, Garshake
	Low	-	-

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

Typology	QUALITY	VALUE	
		Low	High
Children's play areas	High	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playing Fields, Brucehill PA • Levensgrove Park PA1 • Levensgrove Park PA2 • Meadow Park PA2 • Castlehill PA • Playground, Braeside Drive, Bellsmy • Dennystown PA • Play Area, Bowling • High Mains Avenue Play Area
	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East End Park PA • Silverton Recreation Ground PA • Cunningham-Graham Memorial Park MUGA • Muir Road PA • Playground, Garshake Avenue • Dennystown Community Centre PA1 • Kick About Area, Hill St, Brucehill • Playground, Havoc Road, Brucehill • Hillfoot Avenue Play Area • PA Dennystoun Forge • Playground, Castlehill • Overburn Avenue PA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A82 Milton Play Area • Meadow Park PA1 • Howatshaws PA • King George V Playing Field Milton • Brucehill Activity Centre • Castlehill MUGA • Braeside Drive PA2 • Play Area, Bellsmyre • Play Area, Whiteford Avenue, Bellsmyre
Green Corridors	High	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A82 Milton • A82 Bowling
	Low	-	-
Parks and Gardens	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Park, Bowling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levensgrove Park, Kirktonhill • East End Park, Dumbarton • Meadow Park, Dumbarton • Knoxland Square, Dumbarton East
	Low	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overtoun Policies • Cunningham-Graham Memorial Park

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

Typology	QUALITY	VALUE	
		Low	High
Semi / Natural greenspaces	High	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whiteford Crescent Hawthorn Avenue Castlehill
	Low	-	-

Clydebank

Typology	QUALITY	VALUE	
		Low	High
Allotments	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Station Road Allotments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dalmuir Allotments Bannerman Place Allotments
	Low	-	-
Amenity greenspace	High	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Saltings, Old Kilpatrick Playing Fields/Tow Path, Dalmuir Playing Fields Mountblow Recreational Ground, Whitecrook Playing Fields, Duntocher Open Space, Dumbarton Road Open Space, Glenhead Road, Parkhall Glenhead Football Park, Duntocher HCI Hospital Recreation Ground, Old Kilpatrick Community Resource Centre Clydebank Council Offices Play Field, Milton Cottage, Duntoch Milldam Road White Crook Recreation Ground Thistleuk Old Kilpatrick St Patrick's Well, Old Kilpatrick Open Space, Freeland Road, Mountbl Creagle Road

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

Typology	QUALITY	VALUE	
		Low	High
Amenity greenspace	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playing Field and Burn, Duntocher • Open Space, Dumbarton Road, Mountblow • Breahead Avenue • Open Space, Rowan Drive, Parkhall • Open Space, Western Isles Rd, Mount • Ground at Fisher Cres, Duntocher • Kilbowie Road 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Space, Onslow Road, Drumry • Playing Field, Linnvale • Open Space, Mount Pleas, Old Kilpat • Open Space, Argyll Road, Drumry • Brafield Road Open Space • Playground, Lawmuir Crescent, Faifley • Ground at Low Crescent • Open Space, Iona Crescent, Mountblow • Ground at Dalgleish Avenue • Ground at Carleith Avenue • Creaglea Road • Brunswick House, Mountblow • Hill End Crescent Open Space • Open Space, Parkhall Road, Parkhall • Open Space, Faifley Road, Faifley • Dickens Avenue Open Space • West Manse, Parkhall • Perth Crescent, Mountblow • Blantyre Crescent • Cornock Recreation Ground • Craiglea Road Open Space • Open Space, Clarence Street, Drumry • Dalmuir Drop Lock • Open Space, Kirkwood Avenue, Linnva • Brown Avenue, Whitecrook

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

Typology	QUALITY	VALUE	
		Low	High
Cemeteries	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Dalnotter Cemetery • Dalnotter Cemetery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kilbowie Cemetery
	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old Kilpatrick Parish Church 	-
Children's play areas	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Space, Onslow Road, Drumry Play Area 2 • Whitecrock Recreation Ground • Play Area Attlee Avenue • Play Ground Drumry • Howcraigs Court Play Area • Play Area Melbourne Ave Mountblow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Columba's Community Campus Site Play Area • Golden Hill Park PA • Duntocher Playing Fields PA • Playing Field and Burn, Duntocher Play Area • Open Space, Duntocher Road, Parkhall • Clydeside Community Park PA • Community Resource Centre PA • Brunswick House, Mountblow PA • PA, Stark Avenue, Duntocher • Dalmuir Park PA
	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Space, Onslow Road, Drumry PA • PA, Braes Avenue Whitecrock • PA, Boquhanran Road • Brunswick House PA • Milldam Road PA • St Helena Crescent PA • Roman Crescent PA • Tarbolton Square PA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faifley Knowes PA • Recreation Ground, Old Kilpatrick Play Area • Dumbarton Road PA • Thistlenuk, Old Kilpatrick • PA at Stuart Avenue
Green corridors	High	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canal Tow Path, Whitecrock • Holm Park, Yoker
	Low	-	-
Parks and Gardens	High	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auchnacraig, Faifley • Dalmuir Park
	Low	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Golden Hill Park • Boquhanran Park, Radnor Park • Clydeside Community Park • Public Gardens, Drumry

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

Typology	QUALITY	VALUE	
		Low	High
Semi / Natural greenspaces	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loch Humphrey Burn, Duntocher Open Space, Duntocher Road, Parkhal Duntocher Burn, Duntocher 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faifley Knowes, Faifley Auchentoshan Lusset Glen, Old Kilpatrick Lusset Glen, Old Kilpatrick Cochno Burn, Faifley Open Space, Dock Street, Yoker Open Space, Field Road, Hardgate Open Space, Roman Cres, Old Kilpatrick
	Low	-	-