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# St Chad's Park

## Management and Maintenance Plan

### 2022 – 2027



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## Management and Maintenance Plan

June 2022

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# St Chad's Park

## Management and Maintenance Plan

June 2022

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# 1 Where are we now?

## 1.1 Site

### 1.1.1 Location

As shown in **Figure 1** overleaf, St Chad's Park is located in Rubery South Ward, forming part of the wider Birmingham conurbation. The Site is approximately 3.2 km from Bromsgrove Town Centre. It is surrounded by residential housing and is bounded by New Road to the north, Graham Crescent to the east, Leach Heath Lane to the south and St Chad's Road to the west. There is pedestrian access to the park from New Road and Leach Heath Lane and via the Co-op Food Rubery car park.

### 1.1.2 Site Description

St Chad's Park is classified as a neighbourhood site by Bromsgrove District Council. It covers 3.34 hectares and is approximately 0.21 km at its broadest point and 0.21 km at its widest. As shown in **Figure 2**, the site is bisected by a tarmac footpath, a Public Right of Way, which runs north-south from New Road to Leach Heath Lane. Streetlights light the pathway.

To the west of the footpath is an area of informal recreation that backs onto the residential properties off St Chad's Road. The western area also contains a tree-lined brook course running from Whetty Lane to New Road and a small coppiced area planted in 2000. There is also a Multi-Use Games Area.

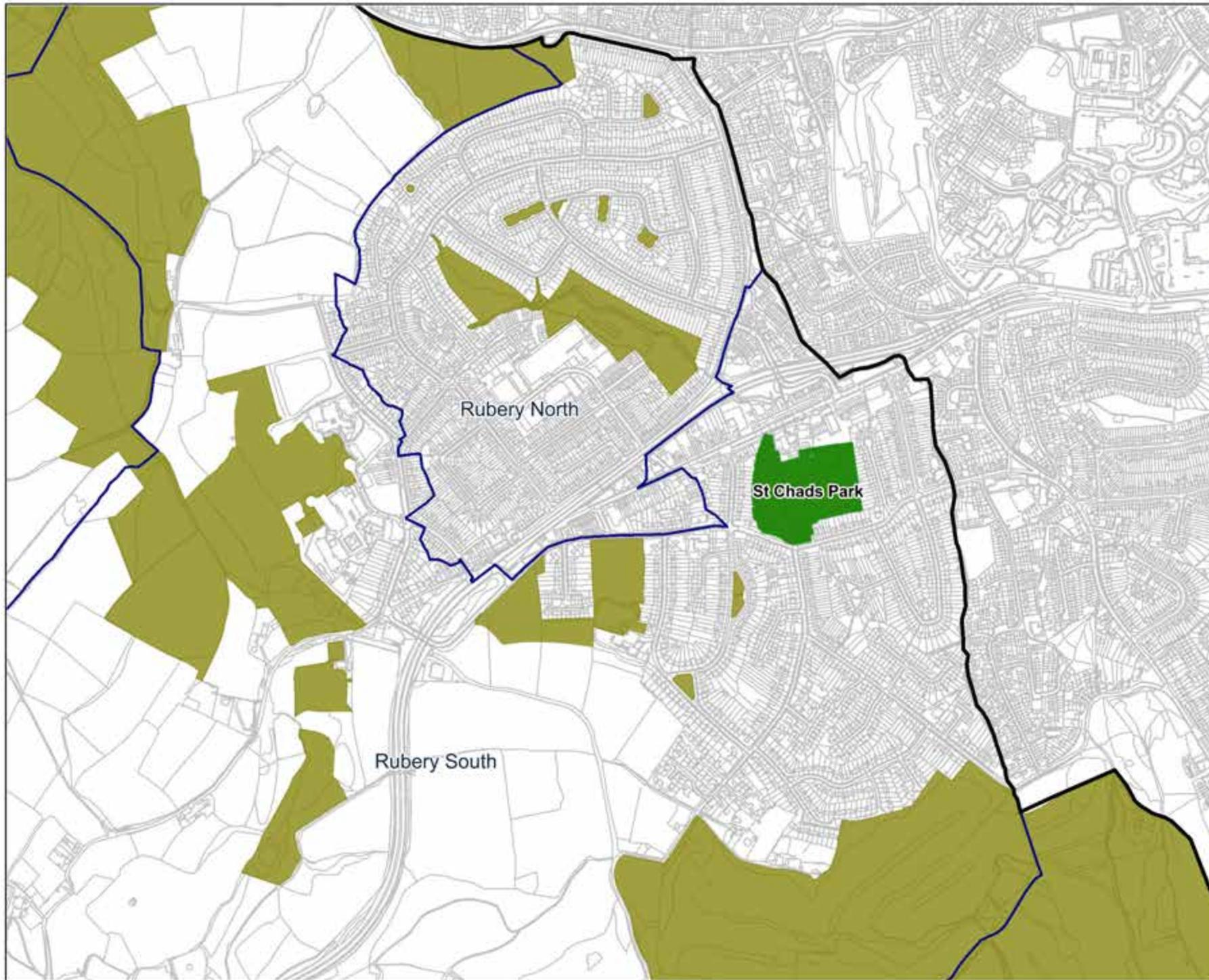
The site's main facilities for more active recreation are located to the east of the footpath. These include a senior football pitch and skatepark, as well as bowls pavilion and bowling green. To the south of the site, adjacent to Leach Heath Lane, is a Play Area with toddler and junior play. There is a toilet block located off New Road and also CCTV covering some areas of the park.

# St Chads Park Rubery Management and Maintenance Plan

Figure 1  
St Chads Park Rubery Site Plan

## LEGEND

-  St Chads Park
-  Other Open Spaces
-  Ward Boundaries
-  Bromsgrove District



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single point plans

# St Chad's Park Management and Maintenance Plan

Figure 2  
St Chad's Park Site Plan

## LEGEND

-  Site Boundary
-  Pedestrian access
-  Vehicle access
-  Public Right of Way

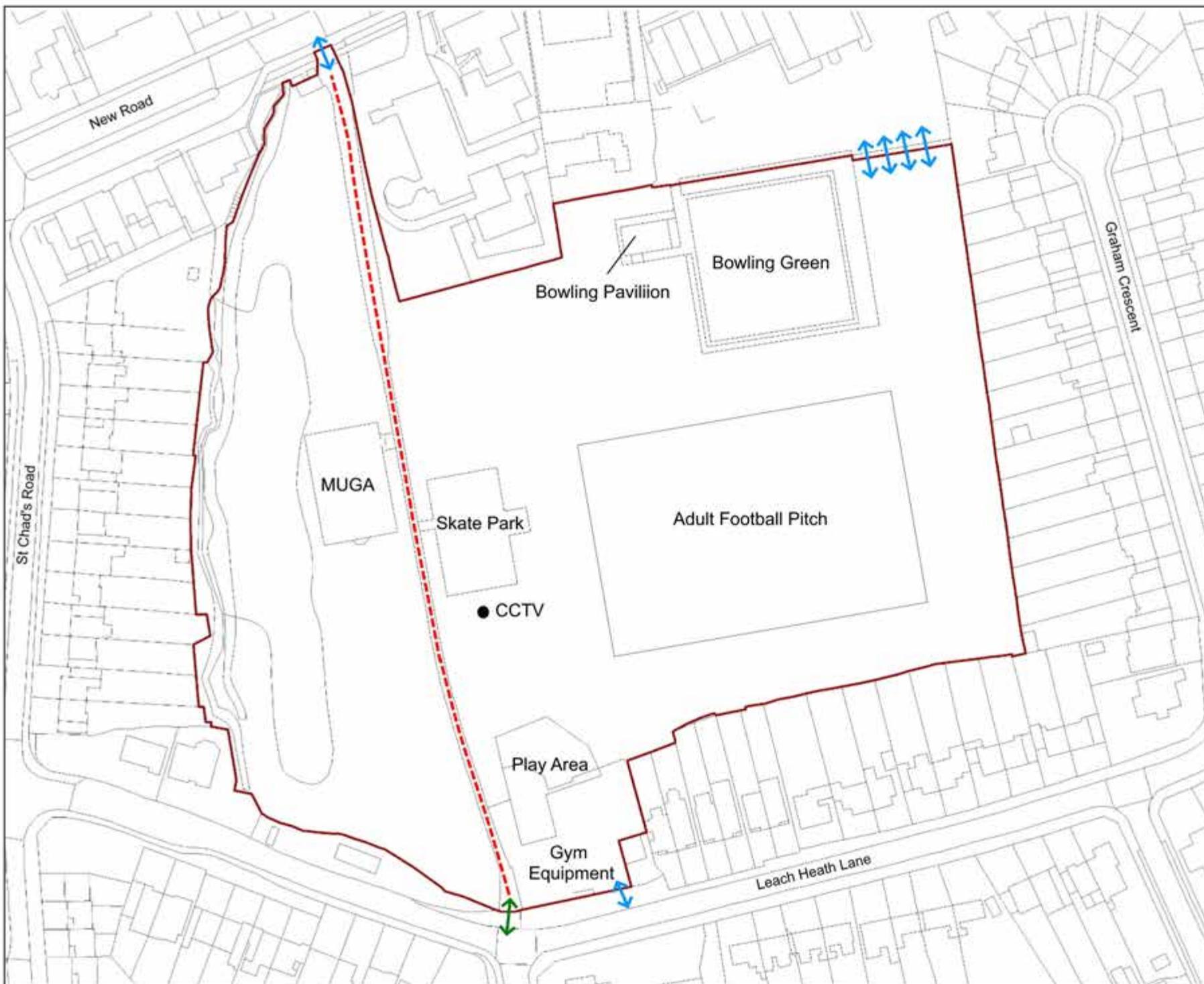


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### 1.1.3 Designations & Legal Issues

#### **Ownership**

St Chad's Park is in the freehold ownership of Bromsgrove District Council.

#### **Covenant and Restrictions**

A report to the Bromsgrove District Council's Licensing Committee regarding an application to prohibit the consumption of alcohol in designated public places in Rubery was presented on 10 May 2004. Following this meeting, an Order to prohibit the consumption of alcohol in St Chad's Park and other open spaces was put in place, effective from 21 July 2004.

#### **Licences**

The facilities within St Chad's Park are provided for informal recreation and no fees and charges are applicable for their use other than those for the use of the bowling green and football pitch.

The Football League pay £40.00 per match and play approximately 12 games per season. They do not use changing room facilities on-site currently as a means to reduce costs.

The Bowling Club have an agreement to use the building and green.

#### **Leases**

There are two active leases at St Chad's Park at present. These are:

- GD 363 - Agreements re rear access over Rubery Recreation Ground
- GD 919 – Re 10 Graham Crescent, Access agreement 1989, and fresh agreement 2007.

The Bromsgrove District Council Legal Team have the deed packets for the above leases, but it is unclear if any payment is collected for them.

The Rubery Community Bowling Club have an agreement with Bromsgrove District Council to use the bowling green and sports changing facilities. The lease expired September 2021 and is currently being held over pending the outcomes of the Playing Pitch Strategy and while the nature and length are discussed.

#### **Planning Status**

St Chad's Park is designated as Open Space under the Bromsgrove Development Plan, allowing the space some protection. The Council "will not permit the loss or displacement of existing indoor and outdoor open space,

sport and recreation facilities", unless there is a proven surplus of provision, the benefit of the development outweighs the harm or an alternative facility of equal or higher quality will be provided. Where development does occur, "the Council will require appropriate compensatory measures for the loss in the form of equivalent or improved facilities and/or financial contributions from developers".

St Chad's Park is protected in perpetuity as a Queen Elizabeth II Field by the charity, Fields in Trust. It is one of 1,396 sites designated to commemorate the Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee, and coinciding with the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and extending into the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games. The site has been protected since July 2012.

### Byelaws

There are no byelaws in effect at St Chad's Park.

### Access

There is a public right of way running north-south through the site, from Leach Heath Lane to New Road.

### Wider Legislation

St Chad's Park is covered by a legislative framework, which seeks to address and control behaviour and activities within the Councils green spaces.

These issues are actively promoted and enforced in partnership with the Police, community wardens and other council departments and responsibilities are outlined in **Table 1** below.

Legislation	Relevance to green space	Responsible organisation
Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996	Dog fouling, fines and disposal.	Bromsgrove District Council
Crime and Disorder Act 1998	Community safety e.g., anti-social behaviour and sight lines.	Police, Bromsgrove District Council & strategic partners
Disability Discrimination Act 1995	Access and participation for disabled people.	Bromsgrove District Council
Occupiers' Liability Act 1984	Health & safety of visitors.	Bromsgrove District Council
Health and Safety Act 1974	Health and safety of visitors and workers.	Bromsgrove District Council
Road Traffic Act 1991	Illegal access by motorcyclists.	Police
Environmental Protection Act 1990	Litter, fly tipping and abandoned vehicles.	Bromsgrove District Council

**Table 1** Wider Legislation

#### 1.1.4 History

St Chad's Park was acquired in 1946 at a cost of £2,000. The site was acquired for recreational purposes. No further historical information is available at the time of writing the management plan.

#### 1.1.5 Biodiversity

There is currently no biodiversity information available for the site.

### 1.2 Organisation

King George Vth Park is managed and maintained by Bromsgrove District Council. The council operates shared services with Redditch Borough Council for parks and open spaces and these are set out under the organisation structure section below.

#### 1.2.1 Policy context summary

##### **National Policies**

National policies of relevance to this Management and Maintenance Plan (MMP) are summarised below.

##### **Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs)**

The Plan was published in January 2018 and updated in May 2019. It sets out six goals for improving the environment, including thriving plants and wildlife and enhanced beauty, heritage, and engagement with the natural environment. It also looks to manage environmental pressures by improving biosecurity. These will be achieved through ensuring there are high quality, accessible, natural spaces close to where people live and work and encouraging more people to spend time in open spaces to benefit their health and wellbeing. Relevant to this MMP, the Plan targets to create or restore 500,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat outside the protected site network, plant 180,000 hectares of trees by the end of 2042.

##### **Environmental Bill 2020 (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs)**

The Bill was introduced into parliament on 15 October 2019 and re-introduced following the general election on 30 January 2020. The Bill will ensure environmental principles are implemented in law and provides measures to enhance and protect the natural environment, improve air and water quality and tackle waste and resource efficiency. Elements of the Bill relevant to this MMP include establishing the Office for Environmental Protection (a new body which will monitor progress towards improving the natural environment in line with government targets) and supporting the delivery of the 2017 Litter Strategy. The Bill will also make the development of Local Nature Recovery Strategies across England a requirement.

### **The Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution (Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy)**

The Ten Point Plan was published in November 2020. It aims to mobilise £12 billion of government investment, and potentially another £36 billion from the private sector, to create and support up to 250,000 green jobs.

The Plan focuses on increasing ambition across ten areas, including promoting green public transport, cycling and walking, offering further funding for the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to reduce emissions from public buildings and creating new National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

### **Public Health England Strategy 2020 to 2025**

Published in 2019, the Strategy sets out priorities for delivering its key aims of keeping people safe, preventing poor health, narrowing the health gap and supporting a strong economy. Priorities include promoting healthier diets and weights by creating vibrant, health-promoting environments and ensuring children have the best start in life by developing healthy places for families that help to reduce inequalities, vulnerability and adversity.

### **Improving Access to Greenspace 2020 (Public Health England)**

Published in March 2020, the report provides an update on the 2014 report. It reviews evidence on the health benefits of living in greener communities, the impact on inequalities in health and makes recommendations to help Local Authorities, policymakers and developers provide equitable greenspaces for communities. Priorities set out by the report include promoting the role of open space in health through interventions, such as green social prescribing initiatives and prioritising improving access to open space, especially in areas of deprivation or where there is poor or unequal access.

### **Space to Thrive Report**

The Space to Thrive Report was conducted by researchers from Sheffield Hallam University and The University of Sheffield. It was produced with The National Lottery Community Fund and published in January 2020. Based on its findings, the Report recommends that open spaces be seen as social and physical infrastructure, with investments in both the physical state of the site and activities that encourage its use and bring the local community together. It also recommended open spaces should support health and wellbeing and promote connections with nature through their design and maintenance.

### **Local Policies**

Local policies, including Worcestershire County Council and Council policies relevant to this MMP are outlined below.

### **Worcestershire Joint Health and Well-Being Strategy 2016 - 2021**

The Strategy sets out a vision for Worcestershire to be "healthier, live longer and have a better quality of life", focussing communities and groups with the poorest health outcomes. Six fundamental principles underpin the Strategy, including empowering individuals and families and taking local action. A renewed focus is also placed

on the prevention of poor health and wellbeing, with actions including creating a health-promoting environment and encouraging and enabling people to take responsibility for themselves.

#### **Bromsgrove District Council the Plan 2019-2023**

The Plan sets out the vision to "enrich the lives and aspirations of all our residents, businesses, and visitors through the provision of high-quality services, ensuring that all in need receive appropriate help and support". Among the Plan's purposes are to provide independent living and active, healthy lives and create communities that are safe, well-maintained and green.

#### **Bromsgrove District Plan 2011-2030 (Adopted January 2017)**

The Local Plan is based on the vision that "By 2030 Bromsgrove District and its communities will have become sustainable, prosperous, safe, healthy, and vibrant. People from all sections of society will have been provided with access to homes, jobs, and services. The attractiveness of the District in terms of its natural environment, built form and settlements will have been preserved and enhanced". It sets out 12 strategic objectives to deliver this vision, including improving quality of life, protecting and enhancing the natural environment, safeguarding natural resources, adapting to climate change, and fostering community pride. Two policies outlined in the Plan are relevant to the management and maintenance of open space. These are delivery of a high-quality green infrastructure network and providing high-quality, accessible open space, sport, and recreation facilities to ensure local communities have good health and well-being.

#### **Bromsgrove Partnership**

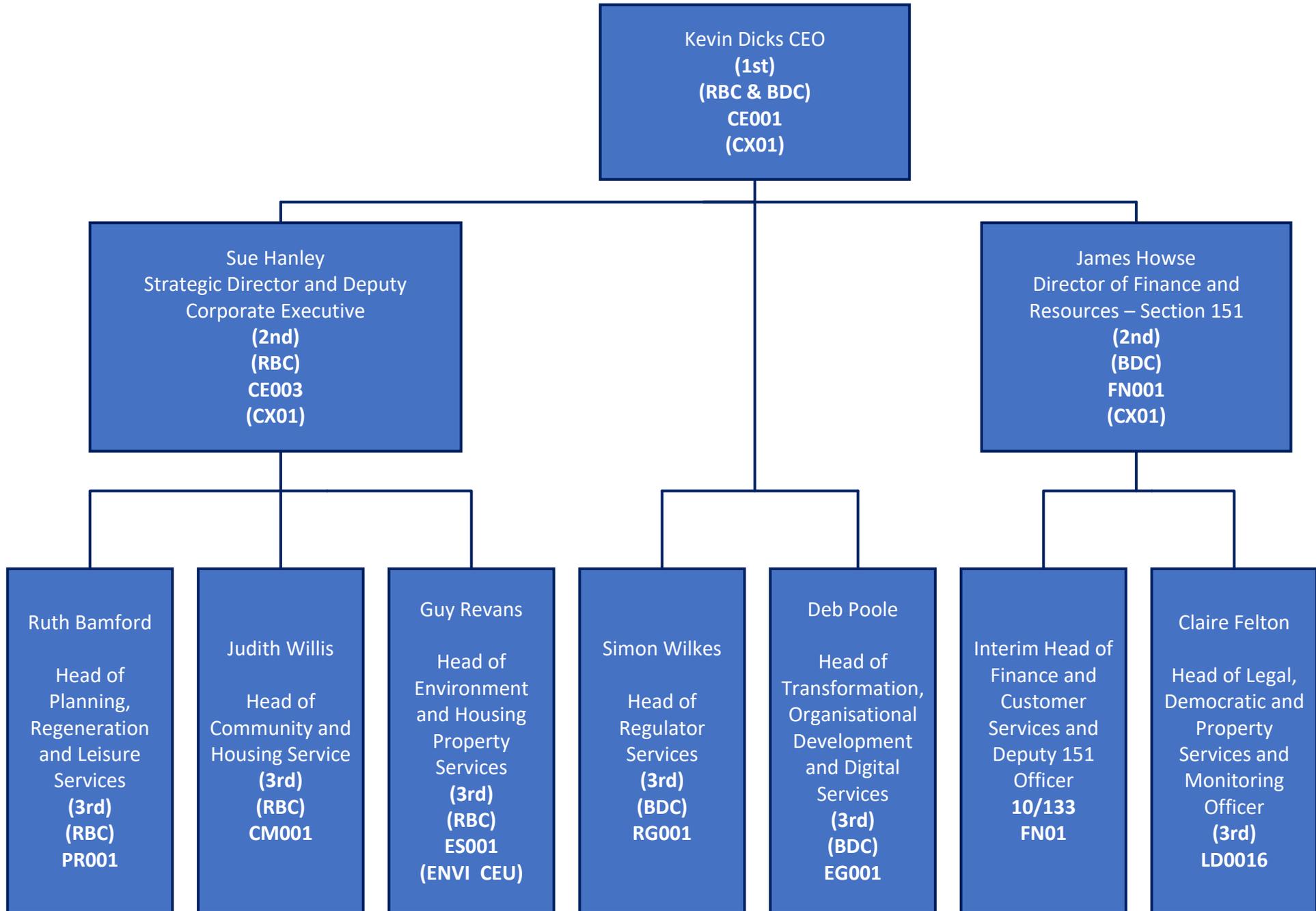
The Bromsgrove Partnership brings together different organisations from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors in its role as the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). The LSP aims to provide a forum for local organisations to come together and address critical issues more effectively and cohesively. The LSP work to support the delivery of the Bromsgrove District Plan and work toward the vision to "...make Bromsgrove District the place to live, do business and to visit".

### 1.2.2 Organisational structure

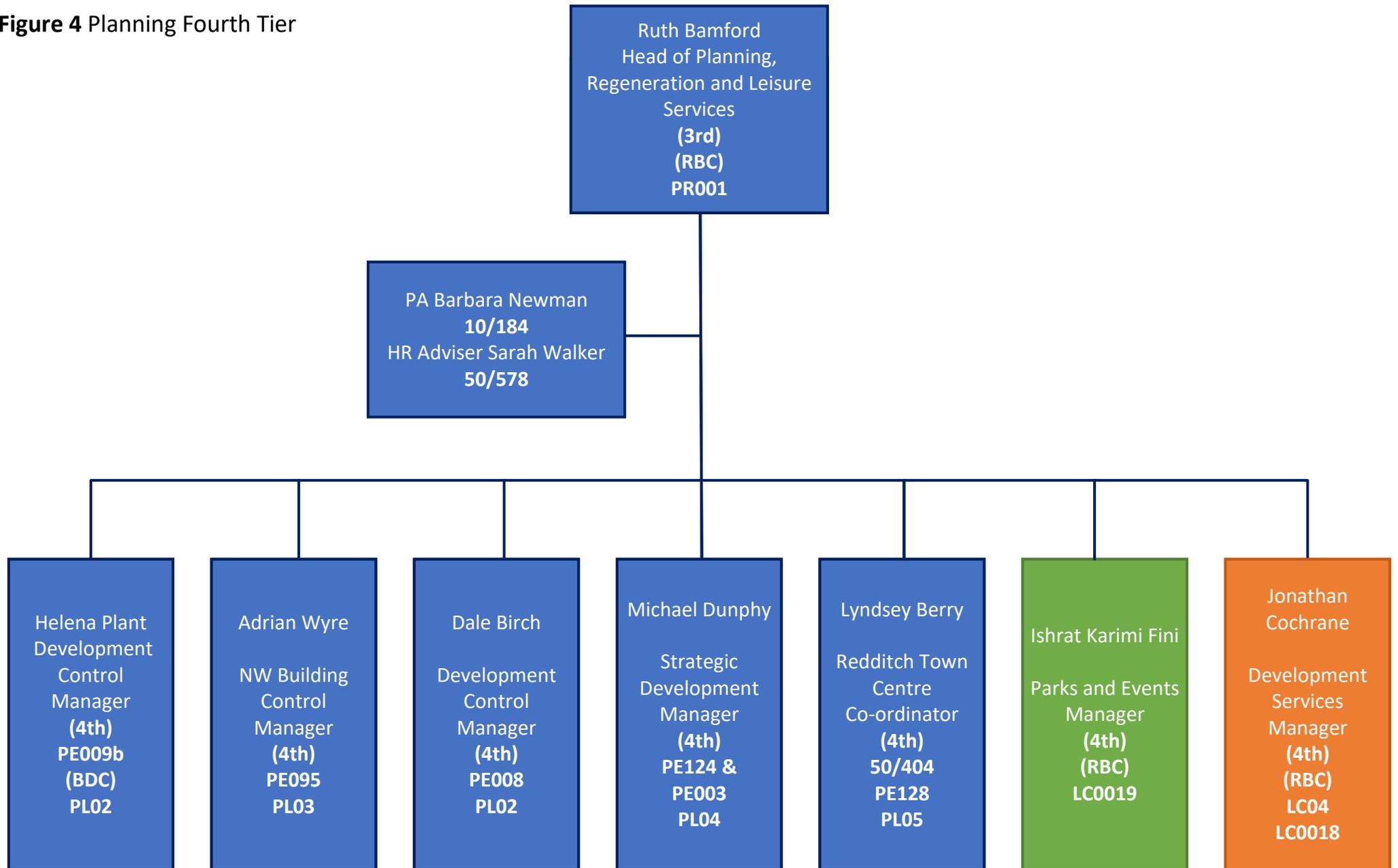
Bromsgrove District Council and Redditch Borough Council share the same management team as shown in **Figure 3** overleaf. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is responsible for strategic planning alongside the Deputy Corporate Executive (DCX) and Strategic Director. The CEO and DCX form the Senior Management Team and are responsible for the Council's overall performance. The Director of Finance and Resources is responsible for managing the Council's resources, including facilities, personnel and budgets. Under the management of the CEO, DCX and Director of Finance and Resources are the Council's departments, each with its own service head, as shown in **Figure 4**. Bromsgrove and Redditch Council's operate a number of shared services.

**Figure 4** on page 11 shows the fourth-tier managers who report to the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services.

**Figure 3** Heads of Service



**Figure 4** Planning Fourth Tier



## **Parks and Events Services**

**Figure 5** shows the organisational structure of Parks and Events Services, headed by the Parks and Events Manager. The service includes the Parks Operational Team, the Projects and Events Team and the Parks Development Team who oversee the following:

- Management and Delivery of Council, Community and Business Events within Parks and Civic Spaces (Including management of the Christmas Light Contract)
- Project management and monitoring of s106 monies
- Advising on the leisure and cultural implications of planning applications
- Parks development
- Play management
- Contract management (lease) facilities within parks
- Manage the Service Level Agreement in place with Rubicon Leisure Limited Company (sports, physical activity leisure centres and building management), a council-owned leisure company
- Stewardship programme
- Water risk management
- Allotment provision
- Management of heritage assets
- Woodland conservation and management
- Football pitch bookings
- Land management / Grounds Maintenance
- Woodland conservation and management
- Management of heritage assets

The Operations Team, under Operational Team Leader, manage and maintain strategic sites: Arrow Valley Park, Morton Stanley Park, Sanders Park and Lickey End Recreation Ground. The Team are responsible for golf course management (fine turf and sports pitch management) and maintenance at Pitcheroak Golf Course. They also manage and carry out equipment maintenance on all play areas in Redditch and Bromsgrove, as well as managing and doing some maintenance work on football pitches at the following sites:

- Greenlands
- Green Lane Pitches (Morton Stanley)
- Old Forge and Pathways (in Arrow Valley)
- Terrys Field
- Lickey End Recreation Ground
- Charford
- Braces Lane
- St Chad's Park

- King George Vth Playing Field

The Operations Team have a management role in many of the smaller green spaces across Redditch and Bromsgrove but do not do regular maintenance, this is done by the Place Teams. Place Teams (described below) carry out tasks such as litter picking, routine play area inspections and grass cutting. The Operations Team get involved when things such as bridges, fencing needs replacement as they hold budgets for this kind of work.

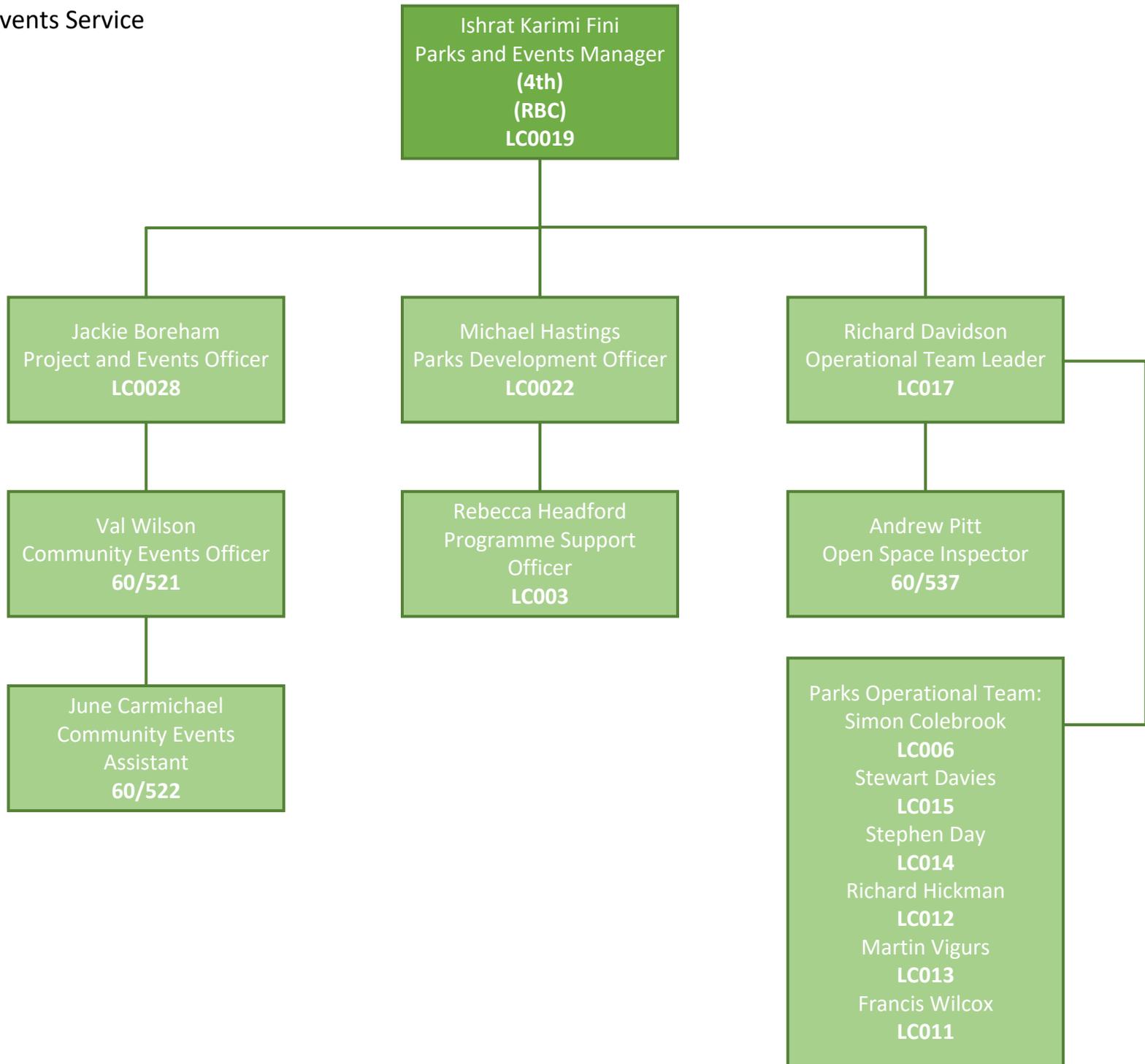
Maintenance, such as tractor mowing, hedge flailing, is carried out with assistance from the Environmental Services Team. Although the Operations Team manage the football pitches, it is the responsibility of the Environmental Services Team to carry out day to day maintenance.

### **Development Services**

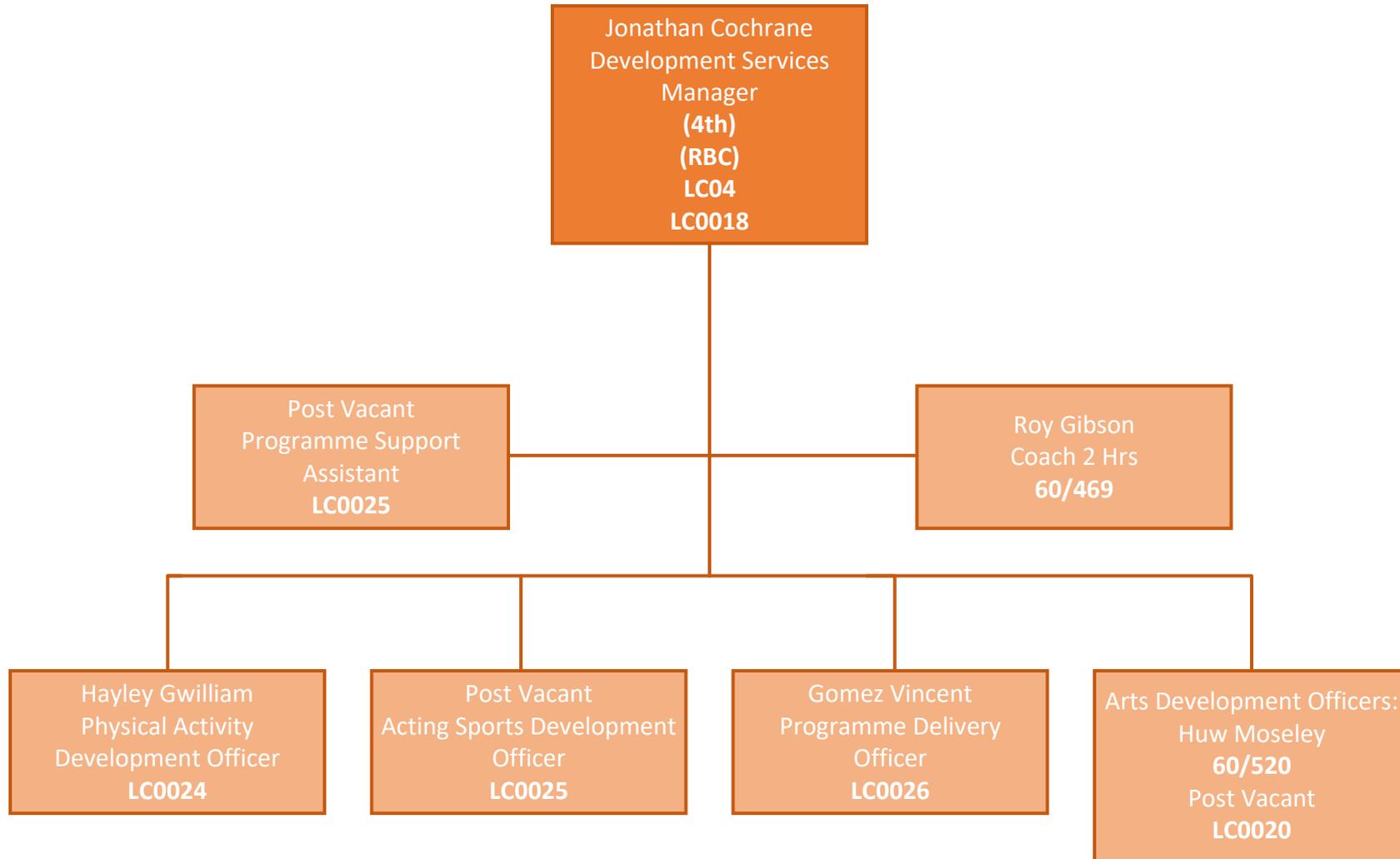
As shown in **Figure 6**, Development Services is headed by the Development Services Manager. Development Services deliver a range of practical projects that encourage residents to participate in arts, sports and heritage activities. The team also offers organisational development support to the leisure and culture sector. They act as a specialist advisory service internally and externally concerning all matters relating to sports, arts and heritage. They currently oversee the following:

- Health intervention projects to reduce symptoms and pain e.g. due to MS, COPD, Dementia, and Cancer, postural stability, obesity, low mood and anxiety (Public Health)
- Targeted activity and creativity programmes in ward areas of low engagement
- Activity and creativity programmes with target groups, such as those with low engagement levels due to disability or youth at risk, vulnerable residents, BAME communities
- Economic impact projects such as community arts in shop windows, pop up museums, public art installation encouraging footfall and secondary spend
- Community safety projects through deterrent positive activities
- Public realm enhancement through public art commissioning, temporary activities to improve place
- Activity and Creativity Consortium management to deliver externally funded projects
- Providing organisational development support to clubs, societies, venues (circa 300 per annum)
- Developing civic pride through awards and recognition schemes

**Figure 5** Parks and Events Service



**Figure 6** Development Services



### **Core Team and Place Teams**

The Core Team and Place Teams sit within Environment and Housing Property Services, shown in **Figure 7**. The Teams carry out all of the ground maintenance work across Redditch Borough and Bromsgrove District excluding some works on the four strategic sites. They work closely with the operations Team detailed above.

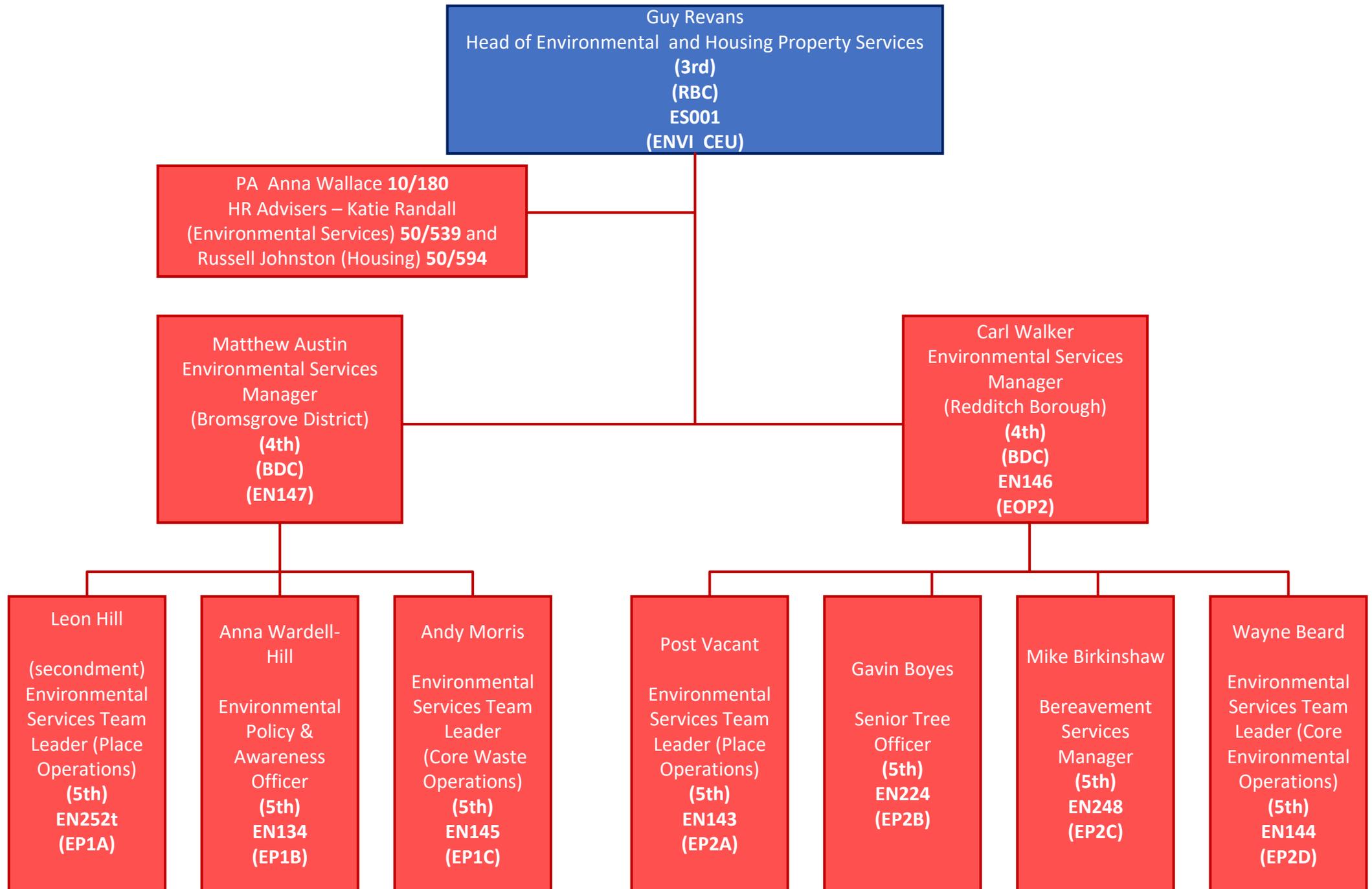
The service area is led by the Head of Environment and Housing Property Services. The Team is divided between two Environmental Services Managers (**Figure 7**).

The Environmental Services Manager (Bromsgrove District) manages work on Lickey End Recreation Ground, St Chad's Park and George Vth Park. The team also support litter picking and some of the ground maintenance within Bromsgrove sites.

The Environmental Services Manager (Redditch Borough) oversees the Tractor Team who are responsible for large scale mowing and seasonal hedge flailing and scrub encroachment clearance at all sites, as well as ad-hoc graffiti removal. The team are also responsible for the following work:

- Arrow Valley Country Park - Land Drainage – culvert checks, ditch works/improvements
- Morton Stanley Park - Land Drainage – culvert checks, ditch works/improvements
- Batchley Pool and Brockhill Park – cleansing/emptying of litter bins, Land Drainage – culvert checks, ditch works/improvements
- Overdale Park - cleansing/emptying of litter bins, Land Drainage – culvert checks, ditch works/improvements

**Figure 7** Environmental and Housing Property Services



### 1.2.3 Current management and maintenance arrangements

#### **Operations Team**

The Operations Team manages and maintain strategic sites, including St Chad's Park.

#### **Place Teams**

The Place Teams carry out regular mowing, seasonal hedge flailing and scrub encroachment clearance, plus any ad-hoc graffiti removal. They are also responsible for checking the culverts and any ditch works and improvements.

The full Grounds maintenance schedule for St Chad's is included in **Appendix A Grounds maintenance schedule** on page 39.

**1.3 Community**

**1.3.1 Demographics of Catchment**

St Chad’s is located across two wards: Rubery North Ward and Rubery South Ward.

- Total population of wards = 6,607 (North = 3,643 & South = 2,964)
- 48.7% male & 51.3% female

	<b>Wards</b>	<b>Bromsgrove</b>
18 & under	19.8%	21.7%
18 - 24	5.2%	5.0%
25 – 44	23.5%	22.8%
45 - 64	28.6%	27.8%
65 over	22.9%	22.7%

**Table 2** Age Profile

The surrounding wards are mostly reflective of the wider borough. However, it would appear that the surrounding wards have an older population. Those aged 18 & under in the wards is around 2% lower than in Bromsgrove, and those aged between 25-44 & 45-64 are slightly higher when compared to Bromsgrove.

An average of 81.0% of 16–64-year-olds are economically active, the same as the average in Bromsgrove overall.

Ethnic profile:

- White 95.0%
- White other 2.2%
- Mixed 1.4%
- Asian 0.9%
- Black 0.4%
- Other 0.1%

Just under 3% residents are of BAME ethnicity, slightly lower than the BAME population within Bromsgrove overall. However, it is important to note that data at ward level is only available from 2011, and data for the borough is taken from 2016 estimates. Therefore, it is likely that there will be some variation.

Average life expectancy:

- Male 76.7
- Female 83.3

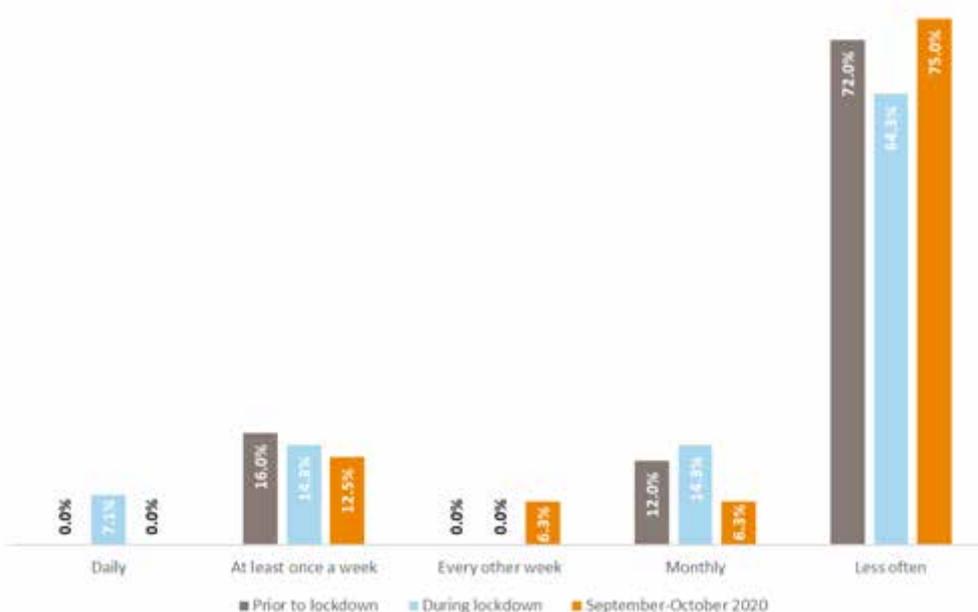
Male life expectancy is significantly lower than average within Bromsgrove, female life expectancy is only slightly lower.

18.3% of resident’s day to day activities are limited a lot or a little, slightly higher than those in Bromsgrove Borough.

The surrounding two wards range in levels of deprivation. Rubery North contains a Lower Super Output Areas considered to be in the top 50% most deprived areas in England according to the 2019 Indices of Multiple Deprivation. However, the remainder of the Rubery North & Rubery South have low levels of deprivation, with Lower Super Output Areas in the top 30% most affluent in England.

### 1.3.2 Current Use

St Chad’s Park provides a range of facilities currently used by the local community. Families and children visit to use the play area which include toddler, junior and teenager play. The site also includes facilities for exercise and recreation for older children and adults: a Multi-Use Games Area and skatepark. The site contains a senior football pitch which is let on a seasonal basis currently to two football teams, the Old Hare and Hounds Football Club and Frankley Rangers. The Rubery Community Bowling Club use the bowling green and sports changing facilities.



**Chart 1** How often do you use St Chad’s Park? (Never use omitted)

At present Bromsgrove District Council do not monitor visitor numbers at any of their sites. However, an online district-wide consultation in 2020 asked respondents about their frequency of visits to St Chad’s Park. The results indicate that respondents visited St Chad's Park more frequently during the lockdown. Before lockdown, no one visited St Chad's daily, and only 16.0% reported visiting at least once a week (**Chart 1**).

During lockdown, a fifth of respondents (21.4%) reported visiting at least once a week, 7.1% of whom visited daily. The proportion of respondents visiting less than monthly decreased, from 72.0% to 64.3%.

By September-October 2020, visit frequency had reverted to levels similar to pre-lockdown, with three-quarters (75.0%) visiting less than monthly.

1.3.3 Current Events and Activities

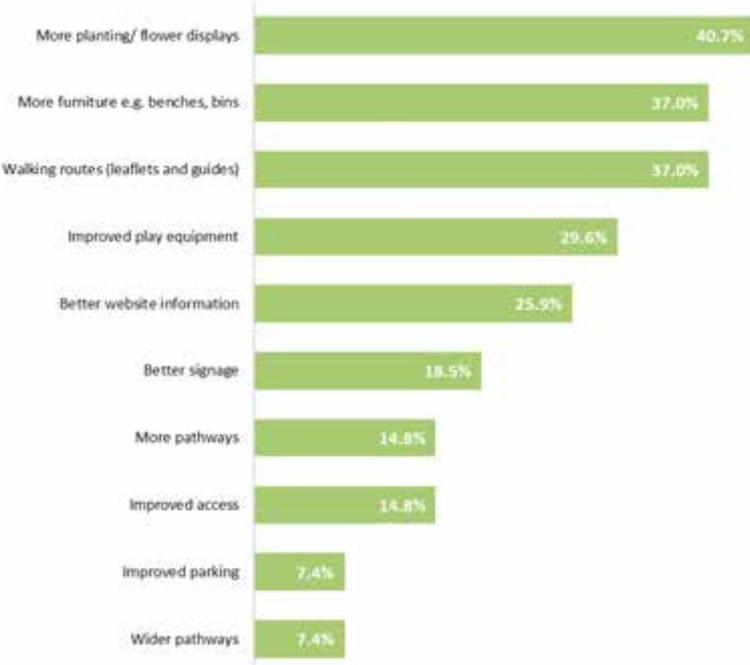
In 2021, a street theatre event was hosted in St Chad’s Park. It attracted around 800 people.

1.3.4 Current Volunteer Participation

The Rubery Wombles are a group of six to 12 volunteers who undertake work at St Chad’s Park once a month. They carry out litter picking, path clearance, waterways clearance and are willing to do planting and remove weeds.

1.3.5 Recent Consultation

Bromsgrove District Council has run five community surveys over the previous four years. As part of the 2020 borough-wide community survey, respondents were asked what would improve their experience of St Chad's Park. **Chart 2** below shows that two-fifths (40.7%) said more planting and flower displays would enhance their experience. This was closely followed by more furniture (37.0%) and walking routes (37.0%).



**Chart 2** What would improve your experience in our parks and open spaces?

## **2 Where do we want to be?**

This section sets out an analysis of the current performance of the site using the Green Flag Award criteria and then draws on information from site assessments, community consultation and discussions with key council staff to develop a series of recommendations for the future management, maintenance and development of St Chads Park. The following section sets out all of the actions arising from this assessment, also later captured on a Masterplan.

For more information on the Green Flag Award scoring criteria please visit:

<https://www.greenflagaward.org/how-it-works/judging-criteria/>

### **2.1 A Welcoming Place**

#### **2.1.1 Welcome**

The pedestrian entrance off Leach Heath Lane has a metal “Welcome to St Chads Park” entrance arch. The path slopes down and leads to the outdoor gym and main tarmac path through the site.

The pedestrian entrance off New Rd has a metal entrance arch with lantern and leads directly onto the main tarmac path through the site.

The entrance from the car park behind the supermarket leads directly on to the grassed playing field up a kerb and onto the grassed playing fields.

All entrances have reasonable or good visibility into the park.

#### **2.1.2 Good and Safe Access**

There is one tarmac path that runs from the New Rd entrance to the Leach Heath Lane. It is in good condition and provides adequate access into the park and is a popular cut through from the town to residential areas. The skate park, MUGA and play areas can all be accessed from this main path.

#### **2.1.3 Signage**

There is various signage around the site. Most of the signs convey messages of restrictions in the park. The styles are mixed and most have been placed above eye level on the lampposts.

The sign by the skate park is missing. This should either be replaced or the frame removed.

2.1.4 Equal Access for All

The tarmac path in the park provides good access, however access would be difficult for anyone with mobility issues if visiting the park by car as there is no designated car parking and there is only parking on street that is close to the surfaced path entrance off Leach Heath Lane.

The access ramp from Leach Heath Lane may also present a barrier to access to those with mobility issues.

The entrance from the (private) car park could be improved and possibly some one site car parking introduced here for the bowls club or for special events.

Recommendations
1. Carry out a signage audit and undertake appropriate actions.
2. Check the access ramp from Leach Heath Lane is DDA compliant.
3. Consider options for disabled parking on or off site.
4. Repaint entrance railing at gate on New Road and other entrances as appropriate.
5. Replace the missing sign at the skate park.
6. Investigate the feasibility of improving access from the private car park.

2.2 Healthy, Safe and Secure

2.2.1 Appropriate Provision of Quality Facilities

The park provides a level of facilities appropriate to its designation in the green space hierarchy – i.e. play, outdoor gym, skate, Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA), bowls, football pitch.

2.2.2 Safe Equipment and Facilities

The equipment was in good working order and there was a sign in place with a contact number to report safety hazards.

The culvert grille effectively prevents debris from entering the culvert beneath New Rd. However, access to the culvert could be gained by the public and pets which may be potentially hazardous. The grille should be modified to enclose the culvert outflow.

A water safety inspection was last carried out at St Chad’s Park in October 2017. The risk level of the brook course was identified as increased and the following recommendations were made:

- Possible clear the brook course.
- Small barrier (3 metre) at the top end of the inlet.
- Change maintenance regime- allow vegetation to grow. Propose 1.2 m mowing section through wooded area to decrease mowing and increase vegetation along the side of the brook course.
- Possible fencing and warning signs.

### 2.2.3 Personal Security

The open landscape provides good visibility. There are CCTV cameras mounted onto a central mast near to the Skatepark. The path has lighting from Leach Heath Lane to New Rd.

It would be important when considering any future tree planting on site not to block the CCTV sightlines.

### 2.2.4 Control of Dogs/Dog Fouling

Dogs on site were under control. There was some evidence of dog fouling on the football pitch.

#### Recommendations

7. Ensure the recommendations of the water safety inspection have been carried out.
8. Carry out a new water safety inspection.
9. Renew signage regarding dog fouling.
10. Review culvert grille with regards to public safety - the grille should be modified to enclose the culvert outflow.
11. Ensure CCTV sightlines are not blocked by any future tree planting.

## 2.3 Well Maintained and Clean

### 2.3.1 Litter and Waste Management

Litter picking and bin emptying on site was being carried out to a good standard. There was evidence of fly tipping along the Callow Brook course.

### 2.3.2 Horticultural Maintenance

Grass cutting and hedge trimming was being carried out to a good standard. There was evidence of chemical use around bollards and trees.

### 2.3.3 Arboricultural Maintenance

Trees on site appeared to be in a good condition. The “naturalised” area adjacent to the Callow Brook course requires some appropriate maintenance work e.g. tree works and under planting to complement the more naturalised setting. The small copse near the Skate park may need thinning. There are opportunities for additional tree planting which may be considered.

The last recorded tree survey on site was in 2004.

A comprehensive survey of all trees on land owned, managed or maintained by the Leisure Services department of Bromsgrove District Council was undertaken on 15 March 2004 by Arboricultural Asset Management Ltd. Every tree was individually numbered with details of the species, maturity, height, condition, identified hazards, the likelihood of hazard failure, recommended action and suggested work prioritisation recorded in a database and digitally mapped.

The survey recorded 12 species and 48 trees within St Chad’s Park, with the most common species being ash, oak and alder. The condition of the tree stock in St Chad’s Park was generally acceptable, and no trees were recorded as requiring “urgent and immediate action” or “urgent priority”. The survey identified one tree requiring attention within a suggested timescale of two months and two trees within 12 months. Of the three trees, only one required felling.

### 2.3.4 Building and Infrastructure Maintenance

The railings along Leach Heath Rd require repair work. The ramp edging also requires some consolidation work. The railings at the New Rd entrance require repair work.

A toilet block is located near the New Road entrance accessed from the Highway. This is managed by Bromsgrove District Council Environmental Services. The building suffers from occasional graffiti and there is evidence that this is painted out when required. The upper metal structure supporting the roof is showing signs of deterioration and would benefit from repainting. The steel doors appear to be a target for vandalism and the condition should be monitored.

The metal benches along the main footpath are showing signs of wear and tear and require repainting.

### 2.3.5 Equipment Maintenance

The equipment was in a reasonable state. However, one of the self-closing gates on the play areas needs repair.

### Recommendations

12. Investigate possible encroachment onto brook course from resident garden extension (St Chads Rd).
13. Consider improvements to the naturalised area adjacent to Callow Brook course.
14. Carry out repairs to self-closing gate.
15. Carry out repairs to railings at Leach Heath Rd and railings at New Rd.
16. Tree thinning required in small copse area.
17. Remove fly tipping present to brook course and monitor the situation.
18. Repaint the upper metal structure on the toilet block.
19. Continue to monitor the condition of the toilet block.
20. Repaint the metal benches as appropriate.
21. Start a programme of tree surveys.

## 2.4 Environmental Management

Currently the council does not have a policy within either Environmental Services or the Parks and Events Service that addresses how the authority will address the Worcestershire Climate Change Strategy nor how it will assess its own impacts and what it can do to mitigate these.

It is critical that both service areas work together to look at areas such as

- Waste minimisation
- Chemical use
- Peat use
- Energy use
- Climate change adaptation

The following positive actions have been taken however:

- Green waste arisings are taken off site and recycled into compost by Severn Waste
- Pesticide use has been reduced but this has not been quantified in any way

### Recommendations

22. The council needs urgently to develop an overarching environmental management strategy linked into individual service plans and operational procedures.

## 2.5 Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage

### 2.5.1 Management of Natural Features, Wild Fauna and Flora

The Callow Brook course, naturalised area and the small copse near the skate park could be further improved to increase biodiversity on the site.

## 2.5.2 Conservation of Landscape Features

There is no historical information available about the site but a simple analysis of historical maps shows that the mature trees on site adjacent to the footpath may well be on old field boundaries. Historical research could be a good community project.

## 2.5.3 Conservation of Buildings and Structures

There are no historic buildings or structures on site.

### Recommendations

23. Consider a wildlife survey and management regime along the Callow Brook course and associated "naturalised" area and small copse.
24. Consider developing a community history project to explore the origins of the mature trees on site.

## 2.6 Community Involvement

### 2.6.1 Community Involvement in Management and Development

Community engagement is limited to the litter picking work of the Rubery Wombles, a local voluntary group.

### 2.6.2 Appropriate Provision for Community

There is currently no regular events or community activity programme for the park. In 2021 the council events team held one of their summer Street Theatre events on site which attracted around 800 people.

### Recommendations

25. Consider carrying out local consultation to establish if there is interest in volunteering in the park.
26. Consider carrying out development work with local voluntary organisations, the business community and residents to establish interest in developing a programme of community activity in the park.

## 2.7 Marketing and Communication

There is limited information available on the Council's web site at

<https://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/things-to-do/parks-and-outdoors/parks-and-play-areas/rubery,-frankley-and-area-play-areas.aspx>

There is currently no educational or interpretational information relevant to this site.

### Recommendations

- 27. The Council needs to develop an overall marketing strategy for its priority parks.
- 28. Consider developing interpretation of the history and biodiversity value of the park.

## 2.8 Management

There are three main sources of improvements to overall management. Firstly, the green flag site assessment for items not picked up above, secondly the playing pitch strategy audits and thirdly staff and community consultation.

### 2.8.1 Green Flag Audit Issues

The safety inspection procedures need reviewing for all green spaces.

### Recommendations

- 29. The Council needs to develop an overall safety inspection procedure to cover infrastructure, trees, play equipment and water safety.

### 2.8.2 Playing Pitch Audit

The Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) audit carried out in 2021 examined the football pitch on site, which is an adult 11x11. The audit looked at both the pitch quality and also the built facilities on site to support sports use.

Item	Adult 11x11
Pitch	32.9% / poor
Built facilities	0.0% / poor

It was described as a “poor pitch, park location. Sloped and uneven ground. Long grass, poor unsafe goal posts. No ancillary facilities”.

### Recommendations

- 30. Carry out improvements to sports pitches as set out in the PPS audit.

### 2.8.3 Staff and Community Consultation

The current lease for the bowls club has expired and is being ‘held over’.

In the 2020 borough wide survey the key issues that people said would enhance their experience were

- more planting and flower displays (40.7%)
- more furniture (37.0%)
- walking routes (37.0%).

#### Recommendation

31. Review the lease for the bowls club, undertake feasibility study and condition survey.
32. Consider introducing new planting (planting regimes to be subject to maintenance implications).
33. Consider introducing more seating.
34. Consider how an informal walk could be developed through the more natural areas of the park.

#### 2.8.4 Legal

There are two active leases at St Chad's Park at present, however, it is unclear if any payment is collected for them.

#### Recommendation

35. Investigate implications of resident's direct access into the park and determine what the appropriate action is for the Council to take.

### **3 How will we get there?**

The action plan below brings together all of the recommendations in section 2 above and considers a reasonable timescale for their implementation along with an indicative lead officer and also any resource or financial implications

It should be noted that generic actions across all 8 priority parks are picked up in the overall Priority Parks Strategy.

Recommendation		Financial Year	Lead Officer(s)	Partners	Resource implication
<b>A Welcoming Place</b>					
1	Carry out a signage audit and undertake appropriate actions.	2022/24	Parks Development Officer	Internal Departments Volunteers	Officer time / Bromsgrove District Council Budget
2	Check that the access ramp from Leach Heath Lane is DDA compliant.	2022/23	Parks Development Officer	BDC Engineers & Officers	Demand/Budget
3	Consider options for disabled parking on or off site.	2023/24	Parks Development Officer	BDC Officers	Bromsgrove District Council Budget & Officer Time
4	Repaint entrance railing at gate at New Road and other entrances as appropriate.	2023/24	Parks Development Officer / Operations Team Leader	CIr & Volunteers / Community Payback	Bromsgrove District Council Budget
5	Replace the missing sign at the skate park.	2022/23	Operations Team Leader	N/A	Bromsgrove District Council Budget
6	Investigate the feasibility of improving access from the private car park.	2022/23	Parks Development Officer / Projects and Events Officer	Legal/bowls club	Bromsgrove District Council Budget
<b>Healthy, Safe and Secure</b>					
7	Ensure the recommendations of the water safety inspection have been carried out.	2022/23	Operations Team Leader	Environmental Services	Bromsgrove District Council Budget
8	Carry out a new water safety inspection.	2023/24	Operations Team Leader		Officer time
9	Renew signage regarding dog fouling.	2023/24	Environmental Services		Bromsgrove District Council Budget

Recommendation		Financial Year	Lead Officer(s)	Partners	Resource implication
10	Review culvert grille with regards to public safety - the grille should be modified to enclose the culvert outflow	2022/23	Operations Team Leader	NWWM, Environmental Services, Severn Trent	Bromsgrove District Council Budget
11	Ensure CCTV sightlines are not blocked by any future tree planting.	2024/25	Environmental Services	Monitoring Centre	Bromsgrove District Council Budget
<b>Clean and Well Maintained</b>					
12	Investigate possible encroachment onto brook course from resident garden extension (St Chads Rd).	2023	Parks Development Officer	Legal Services – Confirm boundaries	Officer Time
13	Consider improvements to the naturalised area adjacent to Callow Brook course.	2023/24	Operations Team Leader / Environmental Services		Staff time/resource
14	Carry out repairs to self-closing gate.	2023/24	Operations Team Leader		Bromsgrove District Council Budget / Staff time
15	Carry out repairs to railings at Leach Heath Rd and railings at New Rd.	2022/23	Operations Team Leader	Contractor	Bromsgrove District Council Budget / Staff time
16	Tree thinning required in small copse area.	2023/24	Operations Team Leader	Environmental Services	Bromsgrove District Council Budget / Staff time
17	Remove fly tipping present to brook course and monitor the situation.	2022/23	Environmental Services		Bromsgrove District Council Budget / Staff time

Recommendation		Financial Year	Lead Officer(s)	Partners	Resource implication
18	Repaint the upper metal structure on the toilet block.	2022/23	Property Services	Private contractor, Volunteers, Community Payback	Bromsgrove District Council Budget / Staff time
19	Continue to monitor the condition of the toilet block.	2022/23	Property Services	Property Services	Bromsgrove District Council Budget / Staff time
20	Repaint the metal benches as appropriate.	2023/24	Operations Team Leader	Cllr & Volunteers / Community Payback	Bromsgrove District Council Budget / Staff time
21	Start a programme of tree surveys.	2023/24	Environmental Services	Specialist contractor	Bromsgrove District Council Budget / Staff time
<b>Environmental Management</b>					
22	The council needs urgently to develop an overarching environmental management strategy linked into individual service plans and operational procedures.	2023	Parks and Events Service Manager & Parks Development Officer	Specialist Consultants/partners (NWWM, WWT, WCC)	Bromsgrove District Council Budget / Staff time
<b>Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage</b>					
23	Consider a wildlife survey and management regime along the Callow Brook course and associated "naturalised" area and small copse.	2022/23	Parks Development Officer	WCC/WWT/NWWM	Bromsgrove District Council Budget / Staff time /external funding
24	Consider developing a community history project to explore the origins of the mature trees on site	2023/24	Parks Development Officer	Environmental Services, External consultants, Cllr, volunteers & school groups	Bromsgrove District Council Budget / Staff time

Recommendation		Financial Year	Lead Officer(s)	Partners	Resource implication
<b>Community Involvement</b>					
25	Consider carrying out local consultation to establish if there is interest in volunteering in the park.	2023/24	Parks Development Officer	Comms team	Officer time
26	Consider carrying out development work with local voluntary organisations, the business community and residents to establish interest in developing a programme of community activity in the park.	2023/24	Parks Development Officer & Projects and Events Officer	N/A	Officer time
<b>Marketing and Communication</b>					
27	The Council needs to develop an overall marketing strategy for its priority parks.	2023/24	Parks and Events Service Manager	Communications Team, Policy Team	Officer time
28	Consider developing interpretation of the history and biodiversity value of the park.	2023/24	Parks Development Officer	Communications team and specialist consultants	Bromsgrove District Council Budget / Staff time
<b>Management</b>					
29	The Council needs to develop an overall safety inspection procedure to cover infrastructure, trees, play equipment and water safety.	2023/24	Parks and Events Service Manager	Environmental Services (using asset management software)	Staff time and software costs
30	Carry out improvements to sports pitches as set out in the PPS audit.	TBA PPS	TBA PPS	TBA PPS	TBA PPS
31	Review the lease for the bowls club, undertake feasibility study and condition survey.	2022/23	Projects and Events Officer	Internal Departments Parks and Events Services External Partners	Bromsgrove District Council Budget/Officer time
32	Consider introducing new planting (planting regimes to be subject to maintenance implications).	2024/25	Parks Development Officer & Operations Team Leader	WCC, WWT, volunteers	Bromsgrove District Council Budget/Officer time/ External funding
33	Consider introducing more seating.	2023/24	Parks Development Officer & Operations Team Leader	Community Consultation	Bromsgrove District Council Budget/Officer time/ External funding

Recommendation		Financial Year	Lead Officer(s)	Partners	Resource implication
34	Consider how an informal walk could be developed through the more natural areas of the park.	2023/24	Parks Development Officer & Operations Team Leader	Environmental Services	Officer time
35	Investigate implications of resident's direct access into the park and determine what the appropriate action is for the Council to take.	2023/24	Parks Development Officer	Legal and Property Teams	Officer Time

**Figure 8** overleaf visually shows the site-based improvements that are set out above.



# St Chad's Park Management and Maintenance Plan

Figure 8  
St Chad's Park Masterplan

## LEGEND

- Site boundary
- ⇄ Pedestrian access
- ⇄ Vehicular access
- Main entrance

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#### **4 How will we know when we have arrived?**

The management plan will be reviewed annually by the council team along with any key stakeholders to track its implementation.

The Action Plan will be formally reviewed annually, with progress recorded and future actions reviewed and prioritised.

**Appendix A Grounds maintenance schedule**

Month	Jan					Feb				March					April				May					June			
Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Football Pitch Marking - Initial mark (July to August) and overmarking (Sept to May) approx every 2 weeks																											
Litter and bins cleansing (Winter - Twice Wkly Mon/Fri)																											
Litter and bins cleansing (Summer - Three Wkly Mon/Wed/Fri)																											
Hedges - Spring/Autumn																											
Grass Mowing, each site approx every 2 weeks																											
Bowls green mowing and maintenance (Sanders park) up to twice weekly																											
Play Inspections - Routine Weekly Winter x 1																											
Routine summer twice weekly																											
Operational Monthly																											
Annual Inspections (independent)																											
Water Course/Pond - monitoring - general works																											
Woodland Coppicing, winter pruning, thinning tree works																											
Shrub bed pruning (General) Early Spring (wk 12)																											
Hard Surface Weed control/Spraying																											
Garden Maintenance, weeding, pruning etc																											
Water Risk Assessment (Annual) as required																											
Golf Course additional help for major works and general maintenance																											
Mechanical Sweeping																											
End of season mowing, cutting back																											
Goal post erection / dismantle / painting																											
Env Services work Hways / gritting / Vas signs etc / culverts																											
Kerb edges, gullys																											
Wild flower / reed bed maintenance																											
Volunteers																											
Meetings																											
General customer enquiries interacting with members of the public																											
Dead animals / trapped birds / fly tips / fallen trees																											
Installing bins, security hoops, fence repairs, fishing pegs																											
Event preparation																											

