



Cabinet

18 November 2020

Report of: Councillor Leigh Higgins - Portfolio Holder for Growth and Prosperity (and Deputy Leader)

Melton Mowbray Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan

Corporate Priority:	Priority 1: Excellent Services positively impacting on our communities Priority 3: Delivering sustainable and inclusive growth in Melton Priority 4: Protect our climate and enhance our rural, natural environment
Relevant Ward Member(s):	All
Date of consultation with Ward Member(s):	Member Consultation Event (via Zoom) 30 th July 2020 Public Consultation 20 th July 2020-14 th September 2020
Exempt Information:	No
Key Decision:	Yes c) Has significant impact on two or more wards in the Borough and on communities living or working in those areas
Subject to call-in:	Yes

1 Summary

- 1.1 This report seeks the agreement of Cabinet to adopt the Melton Mowbray Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan, following the responses received from consultation feedback.
- 1.2 The Melton Mowbray Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan is focused on supporting the delivery of Local Plan Policies, in particular Policy EN7 and opens the way for a more strategic and design led approach to open spaces, with the intention of not only improving the quality of provision, but also formally endorsing opportunities for developer contributions to be directed towards investment in strategic provision of open space on larger key sites in lieu of small scale on site provision which has lower amenity value.

- 1.3 As part of this project, a separate report has also been produced to look at the current cemetery provision within Melton Mowbray. This report concludes that the existing cemetery on Thorpe Road is nearing capacity and has identified possible sites for a cemetery extension and/or new cemetery provision.

2 Recommendations

That Cabinet:

- 2.1 **Notes the responses given to consultation comments as outlined in Appendix 2.**
- 2.2 **Adopt the Melton Mowbray Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan which appears at Appendix 1, including:**
- **Opportunity to reclassify some types of existing open spaces to help with deficiencies in semi-natural open space and allotments, which will reduce maintenance costs;**
 - **A methodology to allow for developer contributions to provide investment in off-site open spaces or enhancement to those existing nearby, or allow for strategic investment in larger projects, in lieu of on-site provision of often limited value;**
 - **The potential for a large publically accessible site to the south of the town for further investigation;**
 - **A methodology for capital and revenue contributions from developers to be negotiated in Section 106 agreements to provide clear and transparent costs for the Council to consider the adoption of open spaces in future developments.**
- 2.3 **Notes the recommendations within the Cemetery Provision Report at Appendix 3 to inform future consideration of cemetery provision.**

3 Reason for Recommendations

- 3.1 Formal adoption of the Melton Mowbray Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan is sought in order to provide a deliverable Open Spaces Strategy for Melton Mowbray which reflects the requirements within Policy EN7 of the Local Plan.
- 3.2 As well as guiding the size, type and distribution of open spaces that will be provided across the urban area, the work sets out a well evidenced and transparent formula based approach to seeking developer contributions for the provision, enhancement, management and maintenance of open spaces, to ensure that the spaces provided are sustainable over the long term.
- 3.3 The consultation feedback was generally positive with some useful additions and comments received. This feedback has been implemented within the Melton Mowbray Open Spaces Strategy to produce the final document.
- 3.4 The current cemetery within Melton Borough is nearing capacity. The Cemetery Provision Report identifies suitable sites for a new cemetery and an extension to the existing cemetery.

4 Background

- 4.1 Policy EN7 of the adopted Melton Local Plan requires the provision of open space to meet identified deficiencies and to sustain quantity standards as the population grows. It opens the way for a more strategic, design-led approach to open space provision that focusses on enhancing and providing green infrastructure in the areas identified in the plan (Policy EN3 and EN7). This is a marked change from the previous approach which was to provide new open space on a pro-rata basis, which sometimes resulted in small open spaces that do not effectively serve their intended purpose and can in some cases, lead to local anti-social behaviour problems arising from misuse.
- 4.2 However, the data and distribution forecast for development from which the deficiencies set out in Policy EN7 were calculated dates from 2015, and does not reflect the final housing allocations in the local plan. The detail provided within this Melton Mowbray Open Spaces Strategy & Action Plan now gives the Council an up-to-date evidence base.
- 4.3 MD2 Consulting Ltd were appointed in October 2019 to undertake the preparation of the new Open Space Strategy and Action Plan. The first option for this work was to commission an Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan to cover Melton Mowbray, encompassing the sustainable neighbourhoods to the north and south.
- 4.4 Option two was to extend the report to cover the whole of the Borough however there would have been further cost implications, and due to the rural nature of the rest of the Borough (and therefore access to green space for residents being plentiful) it was not considered a priority at the time. Therefore, the first option was chosen to ensure that Melton Mowbray has a deliverable Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan in place. The work can then be extended to the whole of the Borough if funding becomes available and it is identified as a priority.
- 4.5 The Melton Mowbray Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan audit found a total of 133 sites within Melton Mowbray, and scores them according to their quality. Almost 90% of the sites audited are within the ownership of Melton Borough Council. The table below (extracted from the main document) shows how the sites performed, where Band A is of the highest quality and Band E the lowest. It should be noted that no sites fell within the lowest Band E category, and 96% of sites fall within Bands A-C which are considered Good to Outstanding:

Band	Scoring	Total No. of Sites	% of Audited Sites	No. of MBC maintained sites	No. of sites per typology						
					Allotment (Total = 9)	Amenity Greenspace (Total = 59)	Cemeteries (Total = 2)	Non pitch Sports Facility (Total = 8)	Park & Gardens (Total = 9)	Provision for Children & Young People (Total = 29)	Semi Natural Greenspace (Total = 17)
A	Scores > 80%	19	14	13	0(0%)	3 (5%)	1 (50%)	2 (25%)	6 (67%)	7 (24%)	0 (0%)
B	Scores 70 - 79%	60	45	55	2(22%)	23 (39%)	1 (50%)	5 (63%)	3 (33%)	20 (69%)	6 (35%)
C	Scores 60 - 69%	49	37	44	6 (67%)	32 (54%)	0 (0%)	1 (12%)	0 (0%)	2 (7%)	8 (47%)
D	Scores 50 - 59 %	5	4	4	1 (11%)	1 (2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0(0%)	0 (0%)	3 (18%)
E	Scores < 50%	0	0	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
	Total	133	100	116	9	59	2	8	9	29	17

- 4.6 The table below shows the action plan in terms of maintaining and enhancing the open spaces within Melton Mowbray;

Strategic component	Band	Statement	Proposal and trajectory
Quality	Band A; 80% plus	Outstanding equivalent to 'green flag' or 'green pennant' standard	Maintain standard
	Band B; 70 – 80%	Very good with small deficiencies. Normally small investments and management changes can raise the site to the 'outstanding' category.	Plan and invest to move up to Band A within 5 years
	Band C; 60 –70%	Good with a few more notable deficiencies. Sometimes these sites may be 'aged' and require refreshing.	Plan and invest to move up to Band A or B within 5 years
	Band D; 50 – 60%	Average with notable deficiencies and requiring more notable interventions.	Investigation required leading to plans to move up to band C, B or A.
	Band E: <50%	Poor , there are presently none in this category in Melton Mowbray. Sites in this category require detailed site investigation, planning which can lead to proposals to rejuvenate or dispose of the site.	Detailed Investigation – investment to move up to band C, B or A or disposal and re-invest elsewhere.

4.7 As can be seen above, there around 19 sites that would have the potential to be considered for Green Flag, or Green Pennant status (page 51 of the report refers), as per Quality Strategy 2 below. The Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan lists seven strategies for quality standards of open spaces within Melton Mowbray, these have been summarised below;

Quality strategy 1:

The Council commissions independent quality audits of open spaces every five (5) years to make sure that site quality is progressing in accordance with the trajectory recommended (in Figure 33 of Appendix 1).

Quality strategy 2:

Owners of key sites (i.e. larger and most prominent sites) that are above the 80% quality score in the 2020 audit seek 'Green Flag' status and for smaller sites 'Green Flag Community Award' where there is notable community participation.

Quality strategy 3:

The Council seeks to increase the number of community volunteers involved in open space site care including supporting these groups with 'small grants' and providing access to technical knowledge, hand tools, safety training, skills training and group insurance.

Quality strategy 4:

The Council have a procedure in place for annual quality review of sites in its ownership which inter alia links to an annual programme of quality improvements. 1.

Quality strategy 5:

Open space schemes associated with new development should be quality assured by the Council through annual development control visits which may require training of Planning Officers.

Quality strategy 6:

Open space providers should seek to replace equipment (i.e. play equipment, signage etc) prior to them becoming visibly deteriorated or excessively weathered.

Quality strategy 7:

The management of new sites provided through development should be vested in the Council with finance to meet management costs provided in line with the Developer Contributions strategy.

- 4.8 The Strategy has identified a deficiency within the south of the Town and also an overall deficiency in semi-natural spaces. One option to help with this would be to convert some existing small amenity green spaces to semi-natural spaces, which would also have the benefit of reducing the maintenance cost of those areas. Possible sites for reclassification have been identified within the Melton Mowbray Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan.
- 4.9 Another option identified within the Strategy is the idea of a 'Melton Mowbray Natural Park' which would be located to the south of the town on a site of approximately 50 hectares. This site could include commercial attractions, bike hire, play areas, woodland trails, and festivals/events to encourage visitors from outside of the Borough, becoming a regional attraction, with an eye to it being self-funded. This could be potentially pursued through the Local Plan Review intended at present for 2023, or the next Melton Local Plan extending beyond 2036.
- 4.10 The Melton Mowbray Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan lists six strategies for quantity standards within Melton Mowbray, these have been summarised below and will be assessed fully in the review of the Local Plan, particularly with regards to the new quantity formula as recommended within the Strategy & Action Plan;

Quantity strategy 1:

The Council uses the Open Space 2020 Action Plan to guide the redesign and reclassification of selected amenity green space sites to meet existing deficiencies in quantity in other typologies. It is NOT recommended that provision for children and young people is included in this exercise since standards are considered as a target minimum and the good provision for children and young people in is considered a key selling point for the town.

Quantity strategy 2:

The Council puts in place plans to increase the multi-functionality of sites in its ownership as a response to Green Infrastructure policy EN3 and the declaration of the climate emergency.

Quantity strategy 3:

A new urban park or several smaller urban parks are created within the timeframe of the Local Plan totalling circa 10 hectares. A minimum size of 2 hectares is considered necessary if new parks are to act differently to amenity green space.

Quantity strategy 4:

The Council commits to the future creation of a major new urban fringe countryside site (referred to as Melton Mowbray Natural Park [MMNP]) on the southern outskirts of the

town, the exact location to be identified through a land search or further consulting commission involving a land agent as required.

Quantity strategy 5:

That developer contributions beyond those required for maintaining quality are focused on (i) meeting deficiencies in open space typologies that are below the quantity standard and with a preference for sites that provide green space connectivity, (ii) LAPs and LEAPs within sustainable neighbourhoods, noting however that NEAPs can be co-located with new urban parks (see quantity standard 3) and (iii) pooled when possible to deliver quantity standard 4.

Quantity standard 6:

That developers should seek to use nature based solutions (NBS) in their developments which could be used as open space beyond normal developer contributions, but would not apply to the quantity formula.

4.11 The Melton Mowbray Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan has examined the current quantity and access standards and has recommended that an increase in standards should be considered in any review of the Local Plan.

4.12 Access standards for Melton Mowbray are based upon 'distance on foot'. Although this Strategy does not cover the rest of the Borough, it was nevertheless considered to be beneficial to set an access standard elsewhere in the Borough to be used in future. This is based on a cycling distance rather than a driving distance, which is a reflection of the declared climate emergency and the need to encourage modal shift to reduce carbon emissions. Realistically however, it should be assumed for planning purposes that many users will continue to access larger open space sites by car and this trend might become even more pronounced with the opening of the MMDR. The consequent recommendation is that adequate on-site parking will be needed at key sites, including new sites, otherwise feeder roads will become heavily congested and resident complaints are likely to rise.

4.13 The Melton Mowbray Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan lists four strategies for Access standards within Melton Mowbray, these have been summarised below;

Access strategy 1:

The Council adopts the new access standards in this Open Space strategy for future planning of open space provision in Melton Mowbray.

Access strategy 2:

That in decision making on the locations of new urban parks and semi natural greenspace, as advised in the Open Space Strategy, that localised deficits are considered in the planning process for these.

Access strategy 3:

It is recommended that new LAPs and LEAPs are located in the sustainable neighbourhoods but that NEAPs are focused on key larger locations including urban parks and the proposed new Melton Mowbray Natural Park (MMNP).

Access strategy 4:

That in the detailed planning of new provision that strong consideration is given to non-motorised access.

- 4.14 Within the Open Spaces Strategy a section has been included on Developer Contributions stating that it is not only important to provide new Open Spaces but to also maintain the high quality of Open Spaces currently within Melton Town.
- 4.15 The Strategy also encourages the pooling of contributions to provide larger semi-natural open space off-site if appropriate. This funding could potentially be used to provide areas such as, but not limited to, the proposal for the ‘Melton Mowbray Natural Park’ to the south of the Town subject to meeting CIL Regulation requirements.
- 4.16 The Strategy encourages the adoption of open spaces by the Council where possible as developers can lose interest in maintaining the areas once the development has been completed. Emphasis has also been given to the opportunity for the community to get involved with the maintenance of open spaces, the benefit of this was also highlighted within the consultation events.
- 4.17 The Strategy also proposes new capital and revenue contributions which will provide a clear and transparent way of working out Developer Contributions, this work will feed into the Developer Contributions SPD. Providing clarity and transparency in respect of open space provision will increase the Council’s reputation for being open in the way it seeks contributions for infrastructure from developers.
- 4.18 The scale of contributions is based on the nearest neighbour comparison, with reference to examples from elsewhere in England and knowledge of local needs as they apply to Melton Mowbray.
- 4.19 Capital contributions for the provision of new open spaces have been worked out as follows:

<i>Typology</i>	Standards (sqm) per person	Cost of provision	
		£ Cost/sqm	£ Contribution per person
Allotments	10	32.00	320.00
Amenity greenspace	8	15.00	120.00
Parks and gardens	15	85.00	1,275.00
Play space, LAP, LEAP, NEAP including MUGA – compound figure.	1	195.00	195.00
Semi-natural greenspace	8	15.00	120.00
TOTAL COST	42	-	£2,030.00

- 4.20 Revenue contributions for the management of open spaces, per annum and for a period of 15 years, have been worked out as follows:

<i>Typology</i>	£ average cost/sqm per year	£ contribution/sqm for 15 years	Cost of provision	
			Inflation if paid annually	£ paid and walkaway sum + 3% annual compound interest
<i>Allotments</i>	0.13	1.95	+RPI	3.04

<i>Amenity greenspace</i>	0.62	9.30	+RPI	14.49
<i>Parks and gardens</i>	4.59	68.85	+RPI	107.27
<i>Play space including MUGA</i>	5.30	79.50	+RPI	123.86
<i>Semi-natural greenspace</i>	0.62	9.30	+RPI	14.49

5 Main Considerations

- 5.1 An audit of the Open Spaces within Melton Mowbray was undertaken between November 2019 and February 2020. A total of 133 sites were identified within the audit and a quality assessment was undertaken. 19 sites were identified as 'Outstanding', 60 sites as 'Very good', 49 sites as 'Good' and 6 sites as 'Average'. None of the sites within the audit scored within the lowest category of 'Poor'
- 5.2 The audit also identified where there may be deficiencies in the types of Open Spaces within Melton Mowbray. The report identifies that there is a deficiency in semi-natural open spaces and a small deficiency in allotments.
- 5.3 The Melton Mowbray Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan, which can be found at Appendix 1, recommends that funding from developer contributions should supply new provision where needed however, should also be focused on retaining the good quality of Open Spaces and pooled towards new larger provisions.
- 5.4 Adoption of the document would provide a deliverable Melton Mowbray Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan for the main built up area of Melton Mowbray encompassing the proposed sustainable neighbourhoods to the north and south. As well as guiding the size, type and distribution of open spaces that will be provided across the urban area, the work sets out a well evidenced and transparent formula based approach to seeking developer contributions for the provision, enhancement, management and maintenance of open spaces, to ensure that the spaces provided are sustainable over the long term

6 Options Considered

- 6.1 The proposed option is to adopt the Melton Mowbray Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan. This action will ensure that Melton Mowbray has an updated audit of current open spaces, and recommendations of how to maintain, enhance and provide new provision of open spaces. The work on developer contributions contained within the Melton Mowbray Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan will also provide a clear and transparent way of working out developer contributions, which will then feed into the Developer Contributions SPD.
- 6.2 The second option is to delay adoption of the Strategy for any additional work or consultations to be undertaken. If this were to happen, the 2015 Open Spaces Strategy would remain in place for Melton Mowbray. This strategy is outdated and does not reflect the quality and number of open spaces within the town. Additionally, if the document is not adopted, there will continue to be no clear and transparent method of calculating developer contributions.

7 Consultation

- 7.1 Public consultation took place between 20th July 2020 and 14th September 2020. The draft Melton Mowbray Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan was emailed to all the organisations and individuals on the Planning Policy consultees database.
- 7.2 An article and press notice appeared in the Melton Times and was advertised on 'The Eye' radio station to notify members of the public and raise awareness of the consultation. An email was sent to all stakeholders to notify them of the consultation. This included Councillors; Parish Councils; developers; house builders; planning and land agents; registered providers; Homes England; the County Council; neighbouring Councils; Leicester City and Leicestershire County Council and relevant internal members of staff.
- 7.3 A copy of the draft Melton Mowbray Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan was made available online and paper copies were available on request. A survey monkey questionnaire was also made available and advertised within the press notice, radio announcement, on social media and online.
- 7.4 Three separate Zoom consultation meetings took place for members, stakeholders and the general public. These events were also advertised within the press notice, radio announcement, on social media and online.
- 7.5 The consultation of the Melton Mowbray Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan highlighted that there was concern over the classification of the Country Park solely as a Park and Garden. For the purpose of the study metrics a decision was made to count the whole site as a 'park' rather than a semi-natural greenspace since amenity type grassland is the largest single land management unit within the site. Greater subdivision was considered but this would have impacted park provision across the whole town and potentially drawn the narrative away from other strategic arguments. However, the Strategy highlights the importance of the Country Park and states that it is a template for elsewhere, notably in respect of any new provision south of the town. The Strategy makes it clear that the diversity of the areas within Melton Country Park are invaluable however, it does not restrict any further beneficial changes within the site such as additional play equipment, sport pitches etc.
- 7.6 The consultation also highlighted the need for open spaces to be fully accessible to all, including provision for disabled people and the importance of wildlife, and tree corridors. Focus is also required on the smaller issues such as litter, weeding, street lamps, bins and seating. These points have been included within the Strategy.
- 7.7 A full summary of the comments received and the Council's responses can be seen in Appendix 2.

8 Next Steps – Implementation and Communication

- 8.1 If Cabinet adopts the Melton Mowbray Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan, an adoption statement would be published in the local press, on the meltonplan.co.uk website and publicity would be given via a radio announcement and social media posts. Publicity would take place in December 2020.

- 8.2 The recommendations within the Melton Mowbray Open Spaces Strategy and Action plan would be implemented within the functions of the planning service and the Environmental Maintenance Team, immediately from December, including the approach to developer contributions which would then feed into the Developer Contributions SPD which is in process.
- 8.3 The Environment Maintenance Team has been involved within the consultation on the Melton Mowbray Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan and are supportive of the recommendations contained within the document. The relevant sections of the Melton Mowbray Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan would be presented to the Environment Maintenance Team in order for the recommendations to be implemented and scheduled in to work programmes.

9 Financial Implications

- 9.1 The financial implications of the Melton Mowbray Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan being formally adopted would be that there is more evidence and support for the use of developer contributions to pool money to create larger, more usable, open spaces.
- 9.2 There would be financial implications to some of the recommendations within the Melton Mowbray Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan, if they are to be taken forward, along with the financial impact of the maintenance of Open Spaces and management of funds secured for these purposes and/or secured for investment in off site solutions or strategic sites. Feasibility studies would need to be carried out on possible allotment sites and possible larger open spaces, such as the Melton Mowbray Natural Park, highlighted within the documents.
- 9.3 There are three financial strategies recommend within the Melton Mowbray Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan, as follows:

Financial strategy 1:

That there is an increase in commercial activity in open spaces but only to a level which does not compromise free access or devalue a site's attractiveness. The Council should maintain a good understanding of total cost and practice 'full cost recovery' in delivering commercial services and site usage for these items and ensure that its internal processes are entrepreneurial in their approach.

Financial strategy 2:

The Council should avoid irreversible decisions so whilst in principle it is acceptable to transfer land management of municipal open space to alternative providers the Council should unerringly retain the ownership of sites.

Financial strategy 3:

It is recommended that a plan for replacement of 'time expired' play and other equipment on Council owned or operated sites is maintained and funded by the Council. The Council should actively seek external funding for capital projects.

- 9.4 These financial strategies will be enabled mainly by the funding received from developer contributions which will be set out in the Developer Contributions SPD which is currently being produced. Where replacement equipment cannot be funded from these sources then affordability will be a factor in the level of funds that can be set aside for future replacement. S 106 receipts can be used in identified areas of need (e.g. deficiencies or

poor quality play equipment), and matched against potential external funding bids (e.g .Heritage Lottery etc).

- 9.5 Developer contributions, and associated expenditure are monitored annually, and will be reported to Council each December in the Infrastructure Funding Statement.

Financial Implications reviewed by: Director for Corporate Services

10 Legal and Governance Implications

- 10.1 The Melton Mowbray Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan is an evidence-based report produced to support delivery of policies, particularly Policy EN7, in the Council's Local Plan, which was adopted in October 2018.
- 10.2 The Local Plan has been prepared in accordance with legal requirements set out in the Planning & Compensation Act 2004 and accords with the Government's National Planning Policy Framework. The Local Plan is consistent with the Council's Corporate Plan vision and priorities.
- 10.3 Consultation has been undertaken as detailed in the report.
- 10.4 The Cabinet decision on the Melton Mowbray Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan is subject to the call-in process as a key decision.

Legal Implications reviewed by: Deputy Monitoring Officer

11 Equality and Safeguarding Implications

- 11.1 The Melton Mowbray Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan places an emphasis on ensuring that open spaces are accessible for all, including the provision of disabled parking spaces, low gradient paths, surfaces paths, raised beds within allotments and opportunities for those with visual and auditory needs. This inclusion will ensure that everybody has equal chance to maintain a healthy lifestyle and can be included in social open spaces such as community allotments.

12 Community Safety Implications

- 12.1 The Melton Mowbray Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan encourages the provision of larger open spaces and maintenance of all spaces in order to reduce the likelihood of anti-social behaviour, in accordance with Policy EN7 of the Melton Local Plan.
- 12.2 Policy EN7 of the Melton Local Plan requires the provision of open space to meet identified deficiencies and to sustain quantity standards as the population grows. It opens the way for a more strategic, design-led approach to open space provision that focusses on enhancing and providing green infrastructure in the areas identified in the plan (Policy EN3 and EN7). This is a marked change from the previous approach which was to provide new open space on a pro-rata basis, which sometimes resulted in the creation of small open spaces. Inter alia, this strategy may not result in new open spaces serving their intended purpose and can sometimes precipitate anti-social behaviour problems arising from misuse.

13 Environmental and Climate Change Implications

- 13.1 The Melton Mowbray Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan encourages the Council to sponsor the creation of more woodland areas within Melton Mowbray which would help reduce emissions to address the causes of climate change. This would have positive impact on climate change.
- 13.2 The document also states that the provision of more soft landscaping, tree planting and provision of inbuilt flood attenuation measures in open spaces can ameliorate flooding and provide more shade. There is also encouragement to adapt existing areas of open spaces to more semi-natural spaces which would create positive impacts upon biodiversity and climate change.
- 13.3 One key recommendation within the Strategy is to increase connectivity between existing open spaces and to ensure that new provision or open spaces are well connected. This would provide wildlife corridors and contain off-road walking and cycle routes, giving an alternative to driving. This would have a positive impact on pollution and biodiversity.

14 Other Implications (where significant)

- 14.1 The Melton Mowbray Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan recommends more connectivity between open spaces, providing walking and cycle routes. This would have a positive impact upon healthy lifestyles and would encourage more people to walk or cycle rather than drive.

15 Risk & Mitigation

Risk No	Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Risk
1	If adoption of the Melton Mowbray Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan was delayed, the 2015 Open Spaces Strategy would remain in place for Melton Mowbray. This strategy is outdated and does not reflect the quality and number of open spaces within the town.	Low	Marginal	Low Risk
2	If adoption is delayed, there would continue to be no clear and transparent method of working out developer contributions. There would also be no evidence in place to support the pooling of developer contributions for larger open space projects.	Low	Critical	Medium Risk
3	Developers oppose new Developer Contribution calculations.	Significant	Critical	Medium Risk
4	Identified deficiencies in the type and location of open spaces are not solved and recommendations within the report are not considered.	Low	Critical	Medium Risk

		Impact / Consequences			
		Negligible	Marginal	Critical	Catastrophic
Likelihood	Score/ definition	1	2	3	4
	6 Very High				
	5 High				
	4 Significant			3,4	
	3 Low		1	2	
	2 Very Low				
	1 Almost impossible				

Risk No	Mitigation
1	Approval of recommendation 1 in order to facilitate a revised Strategy
2	Approval of recommendation 1 in order to allow developer contributions to be sought for investment in strategic sites where applicable
3	Developers were consulted on the Melton Mowbray Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan, no concerns were raised over the proposed Developer Contributions calculations
4	The Action Plan within the document provides guidance to enable the recommendations to be implemented. Some recommendations within the Melton Mowbray Open Spaces and Action Plan are subject to viability assessments.

16 Background Papers

- 16.1 Melton Mowbray Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan
- 16.2 Cemetery Provision Report

17 Appendices

- 17.1 Appendix 1 – Melton Mowbray Open Spaces Strategy and Action Plan
- 17.2 Appendix 2 – Consultation feedback
- 17.3 Appendix 3 – Cemetery Provision Report

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