



Arun District Council

Parks and Greenspaces Spaces (PGS) Strategy

2024-2034

APPENDIX 1 - PROJECT SCOPING REPORT

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE 31 JANUARY 2023

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The council introduced its new Vision for the period 2022-2026. It is now beneficial that the Parks and Greenspaces Service develops a Parks and Greenspaces Strategy which underpins the Vision and supports delivery of its aims.

- **Improving the wellbeing of Arun**
 - Improve our parks and greenspaces by providing infrastructure that supports wellbeing
- **Supporting the environment to support us**
 - To consider climate change, sustainability, biodiversity, and the environment in the management and maintenance of parks and greenspaces
 - Protect and enhance our parks and greenspaces.
 - Regularly review progress toward Arun's Carbon Neutral Strategy (2022-30) as set out in the annual Climate Action and Biodiversity Work Plan
 - Make low carbon transport including walking, cycling, travel by public transport and electric vehicle easy, convenient, and pleasant and a fundamental part of our placemaking by interconnecting communities through parks and greenspaces.
- **Fulfilling Arun's economic potential**
 - Encourage the development of the district as a key tourist destination, supporting and enabling improvements and activities to increase visitor spend
 - Use regeneration opportunities to attract new and relocating businesses to the district.
 - Make best use of our parks and greenspaces to help drive the economy

1.2 The PGS will be designed to bring together a strategic framework for the management and development of better-quality parks and greenspaces which delivers on the key outcomes by identifying a series of actions which then link back to the Council's Vision. For example, the PGS will establish key policies with respect to the procurement and direction of future grounds maintenance contracts.

1.3 The PGS will identify priorities for future service delivery plans and performance indicators.

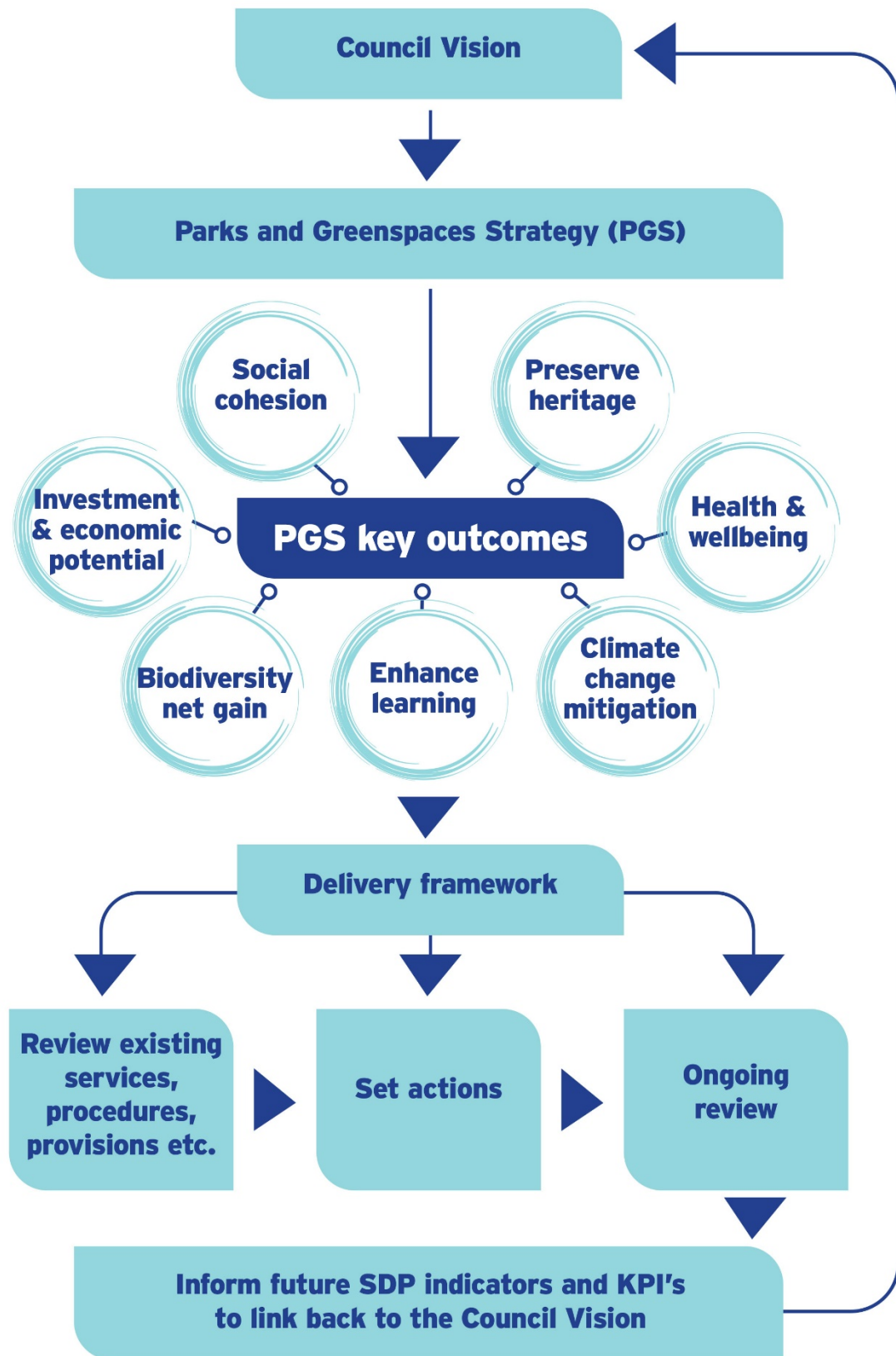
1.4 The PGS will support and underpin existing local and national planning/sector strategies and other corporate objectives. Other greenspace strategies/policies will underpin the PGS: for example the Children's Play Strategy or the Tree Planting Strategy.

1.5 The PGS will be informed by pre-existing national/regional policy/strategy, best practice among our peer authorities and consultation with our partners and stakeholders, including Councillors, community representatives, concessions, Parish and Town Councils among others. It will help to ensure that the Council acts in a co-ordinated way with all stakeholders to ensure best use of parks and greenspaces by

as much of the community as possible, across the whole District. A key part of achieving success with the strategy will be working with a variety of partners and stakeholders. In this way we can ensure that all residents of the district can have suitable access to the right types of high-quality parks and greenspaces.

1.6 The PGS will therefore represent a robust framework for delivering parks and greenspaces for the foreseeable future in line with the Councils vision and is illustrated in diagram 1. below.

Diagram 1.



2.0 DETAIL

2.1 It is proposed that the PGS will be in place for ten years, with a full review at 5 years.

2.2 It will guide the prioritisation and resource allocation for the management and improvement of parks and greenspaces. It will deliver good practice in the management of new and existing parks and greenspaces. It will also exploit opportunities to increase the provision of parks and greenspaces, and support and enable bids for funding to improve the network of parks and greenspaces.

2.3 Limitations & Parameters

2.3.1 The PGS does not seek to set policy in a planning context and does not refer to parks and greenspaces which are the responsibility of other landowners, however it is anticipated that future development sites (where parks and greenspaces would ultimately transfer to the council) should refer to and be influenced by the PGS.

2.3.2 The PGS will not set policy relating to beaches, foreshores or other outdoor open spaces not under the management responsibility of the Parks and Greenspaces Service.

2.3.3 The strategy will also ensure the Council's commitment to high quality parks and greenspaces is fully integrated into its strategies, plans and programmes, by influencing and informing policy development and implementation across the Council's activities.

2.4 In adopting a PGS, Arun District Council will show it aspires to make significant improvements in the provision of parks and greenspaces in Arun.

2.5 A key part of achieving success with the strategy will be working with a variety of partners and stakeholders. In this way we can ensure that all residents of the district can have suitable access to the right types of high-quality parks and greenspaces.

3.0 Outcomes

3.1 The development of seven key beneficial outcomes in respect of parks and greenspaces, assessed in a scoring matrix:

- Health and wellbeing inc. accessibility
- Biodiversity net gain
- Climate change mitigation
- Social cohesion
- Preserve heritage
- Enhance learning
- Investment and economic potential

3.2 Review of processes, provisions and procedures:

- Review role of Parks and Greenspace service
 - Evaluate 'parks officer' role - fit for 21st century
 - Community engagement
 - Training needs
 - The Tree and Maintenance Team
 - The Landscapes & Project Delivery Team
- Review of parks and greenspace management, maintenance, and development interventions
 - Income generation
 - Maximising the potential of built assets within parks
 - Events, education, and community engagement
 - Biodiversity enhancement
 - Repairs and maintenance
 - Regeneration
 - Green infrastructure
 - Climate change mitigation
 - Biodiversity net gain
 - Social cohesion
 - Green Flag aspiration
 - Volunteering
 - Accessibility enhancements
 - Child and adult outdoor recreation and play
 - Prioritising resources
 - Events
 - Marketing and promotion
- Review performance of GMC and other contracts
 - Performance monitoring
 - Public surveying
 - Evolution
- Review how maintenance is undertaken and by whom
 - New GMC considerations
 - Volunteer engagement
 - TMT involvement
- Maximise collaborations with colleagues/services/stakeholders
 - Cleansing
 - Health & wellbeing
 - Property & estates
 - Economic regeneration
 - The Landscapes & Project Delivery Team
 - Environmental health
 - Residential services (Housing)
 - Foreshores
 - Community safety

- Cemeteries Service
 - Review existing local and national policies/strategies
- 3.3 An action plan for the future delivery of parks and greenspaces to meet identified deficiencies where they may exist as highlighted in the Local Plan.
- Quality standards for each parks and greenspaces typology and set out policy statements
 - Parks & gardens
 - Natural & semi natural open space
 - Amenity green spaces
 - Provision for children and young people
 - Outdoor sports facilities
 - Allotments, community gardens and urban farms
 - Cemeteries and closed churchyards
 - Green corridors
 - Civic spaces
 - Tree and hedgerows
 - Woodlands
 - Grasslands
 - Information to the communities of Arun on the provision of parks and greenspaces.
 - Consultation through events, surveys, activities – be a leader
 - An opportunity for communities to participate in a series of workshops for the duration of the strategy to help shape and inform ongoing decision making and deliver continuous improvement
 - Prioritisation of funding – accepting that the likely investment needed far and exceeds finance available through conventional income streams (S106, CIL, revenue budgets)
 - Consider disposal options on facilities that ‘overlap’ provision to ensure reinvestment is secured
 - Review land use to maximise income opportunities, to include third sector
 - Act as critical ‘friend’ to key partners and provide advice and support where possible
 - Unlock funding opportunities
 - Develop a matrix of enhancement projects indemnified by need which are ‘ready to go’ when funding sources are identified.

4.0 Questions the PGS will answer:

4.1 General

- Why have a strategy?
- How can we build further on existing success and what we already do well?
- How will we measure improvement?
- Why should we invest in parks?

4.2 Income

- How could we fund parks and green spaces
- What opportunities exist to secure additional income?
- How do we value parks and greenspaces?
- How will we market, promote parks and the service?
- What are the investment opportunities available to unlock income potential?

4.3 Performance

- How will we measure our performance?
- How will we measure improvement once it is place?
- How will we promote the strategy and the work we do to implement it?

4.4 People

- How will we renew the social contract between how we manage and maintain these spaces with the communities they serve?
- How will we engage communities and develop engagement in parks?
- How can we gather meaningful feedback from our park users to support a culture of continuous improvement?
- How will we develop events in parks?
- How will we improve children and young adult outdoor recreation provision?
- How will we undertake visitor management?
- How do we maximise the health and wellbeing potential of parks and greenspaces?
- How can we make parks and greenspaces more accessible and inviting?

4.5 Operations

- What role will the future GMC play in supporting delivery of the Strategy?
- How will we reverse the decline in green space skills?
- How will we improve diversity in green space management?
- How will we co-ordinate with others across the sector?
- How will we develop relationships across the sector?
- How will we develop cross-sector partnerships?
- How will we maximise the opportunities technology represents in enhancing productivity?

4.6 Environment

- How will we address the climate emergency?
- How will improve biodiversity?
- What is our 'natural capital balance'?

4.7 Existing relevant Council strategies/reports/studies/etc which will link with the PGS and which need to be considered in respect of developing a PGS include;

- Play Strategy 2018-2028
- Tree Planting Strategy 2021/22-2031/22
- Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sports Strategy & Action Plan 2016
- Playing Pitch Strategy 2009
- Open Space Sport & Recreation Study 2009
- Open Space Assessment Report 2016
- Leisure and Cultural Strategy 2013-2028
- Arun Green Infrastructure Study 2012
- Bognor Regis GI Framework A Landscape & Green Infrastructure Framework Connecting Bognor Regis to the South Downs National Park
- Arun Open Space and Sports Assessment 2006
- Arun Local Plan 2011-2023

4.7 Key consultees

- Internal services – e.g. Property & Estates, Housing, Community Safety, Cleansing
- Parks Management Association
- South East Parks Managers Forum
- APSE
- Concession holders
- Community groups
- WSCC, Towns & Parishes
- SDNPA
- Incumbent GM contractor -Tivoli
- Other key contractors i.e. Biffa/Freedom Leisure
- Sports clubs
- University, colleges, schools
- Neighbouring authorities