

CLIMATE CHANGE, LEISURE AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

NOTICE AND AGENDA

For a meeting to be held on Wednesday, 12 March 2025 at 7.30 pm at Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Rickmansworth, WD3 1RL.

Members of the Climate Change, Leisure and Housing Committee:-

Councillors:

Steve Drury (Co-Chair)
Chris Lloyd (Co-Chair)
Jon Tankard (Co-Chair)
Anne Winter
Reena Ranger

Ciaran Reed
Mike Sims
Cheryl Stungo
Stephen King

*Joanne Wagstaffe, Chief Executive
Tuesday, 4 March 2025*

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. MINUTES

(Pages 7 - 16)

To confirm, as being a correct record, the minutes of the Climate Change, Leisure and Housing Committee, held on 16 October 2024, and for them to be signed by the Chair.

3. NOTICE OF URGENT BUSINESS

Items of other business notified under Council Procedure Rule 30 to be announced, together with the special circumstances that justify their consideration as a matter of urgency. The Chair to rule on the admission of such items.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of interest.

5. Budget Management Report P10

(Pages 17 - 28)

This report covers this Committees financial position over the medium term (2024 – 2028) as at Period 10 (end of January).

Recommendation

That Members note & comment on the contents of the report.

6. Climate and Sustainability Action Plan Update (Pages 29 - 86)

This report provides an update on the council's performance against the Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy 2024 -2027 and associated Action Plan detailed at Appendix 1.

Recommendation

That:

The Climate Change, Leisure and Housing Committee note the progress being made towards the delivery of the Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy 2024-2027, and support officers to continue their progress in accordance with the Action Plan.

7. Solar Car park canopies and Community Funding Feasibility Study Outcomes and Report (Pages 87 - 188)

In April 2024, Grand Union Community Energy (GUCE), in partnership with Three Rivers District Council (TRDC), was awarded a £40,000 grant from the Greater South East Net Zero Hub's Community Energy Fund (CEF) to assess the feasibility of installing solar canopies in council-owned car parks funded by community investment.

A team of technical, legal, financial and community engagement experts collaborated to evaluate the feasibility of installing solar canopies in seven TRDC-owned car parks.

Recommendations

That Members agree to:

- i. Officers pursuing the development of business cases for solar canopies at William Penn Leisure Centre car park and the Rose Garden car park, utilising a blend of grant funding, and internal budgets.
- ii. Note that the Feasibility Study detailed in Attachment 2 will be shared with the GSENGH, and neighbouring authorities in Hertfordshire.

8. Rickmansworth Aquadrome Project Update Report (Pages 189 - 214)

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Rickmansworth Aquadrome Programme, including funding progress and opportunities.

Recommendation

- i. To note the content of the report.

- ii. Give delegated authority to the Director of Finance, in agreement with the Lead Member, to enter into a contract or funding agreement above the value of £25,000, subject to securing external funding in order that external funds were awarded for the Aquadrome Programme can be accepted by the Council
- iii. Give delegated authority to the Director of Finance, in agreement with the Lead Member, to enter into contracts above the value of £25,000 for works procured under the councils procurement and contracts procedure rules relating to those secured external bids.

9. Play Space Strategy 2025 - 2030

(Pages 215 - 404)

The purpose of this report is to present and recommend for approval, a new Three Rivers Play Space Strategy for the period 2025-2030.

Recommendation

- i. To approve the Three Rivers Play Space Strategy 2025 – 2030.
- ii. To approve the updated Capital Programme for the period of this strategy and beyond (2025/26 – 2044/45) as detailed at Appendix C and within Appendix A.
- iii. To give delegated authority to the Director of Finance to enter into a contract or funding agreement above the value of £25,000 for the play space capital programme, subject to capital budget confirmation as part of the medium-term financial planning process.
- iv. To agree to the use of S106 funding to be used for the play space projects outlined in Appendix C, subject to the agreement from the legal team at the appropriate time.

10. Watersmeet 50 Years

(Pages 405 - 450)

To celebrate this 50th anniversary there are a series of special events designed to honour the venue’s legacy and bring the community together. Throughout 2025, a diverse programme of events will be offered to engage residents of all ages, celebrate the theatre’s relationship with the community and create lasting memories.

Recommendation

That the Climate Change, Leisure and Housing Committee note the Watersmeet Anniversary summary of detail for 2025.

11. Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2028 - Action Plan - Year One Review (Pages 451 - 476)

As part of the council's Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2028, an Action Plan was produced detailing key projects and aims to be taken or delivered by the Service during the five years, that will ensure the delivery of our key objectives.

Recommendation

That the Committee to review and note the Year One Review of the council's Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2028 Action Plan.

12. Work programme (Pages 477 - 478)

To receive the Committee's Work programme.

13. OTHER BUSINESS - if approved under item 3 above

Exclusion of Public and Press

If the Committee wishes to consider any items in private, it will be appropriate for a resolution to be passed in the following terms:

"that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act. It has been decided by the Council that in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information."

(Note: If other confidential business is approved under item 3, it will also be necessary to specify the class of exempt or confidential information in the additional items.)

General Enquiries: Please contact the Committee Team at
committeeteam@threerivers.gov.uk

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public on agenda items at the Climate Change, Leisure and Housing Committee meetings. Details of the procedure are provided below:

For those wishing to speak:

Members of the public are entitled to register and identify which item(s) they wish to speak on from the published agenda for the meeting. Those who wish to register to speak are asked to register on the night of the meeting from 7pm. Please note that contributions will be limited to one person speaking for and one against each item for not more than three minutes.

In the event of registering your interest to speak on an agenda item but not taking up that right because the item is deferred, you will be given the right to speak on that item at the next meeting of the Committee.

Those wishing to observe the meeting are requested to arrive from 7pm.

In accordance with The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 any matters considered under Part I business only of the meeting may be filmed, recorded, photographed, broadcast or reported via social media by any person.

Recording and reporting the Council's meetings is subject to the law and it is the responsibility of those doing the recording and reporting to ensure compliance. This will include the Human Rights Act, the Data Protection Legislation and the laws of libel and defamation.

The meeting may be livestreamed and an audio recording of the meeting will be made.

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Climate Change, Leisure and Housing Committee MINUTES

Of a meeting held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Rickmansworth, WD3 1RL, on Wednesday, 16 October 2024 from 7.31 pm - 10.01 pm.

Present: Councillors

Steve Drury (Co-Chair), Chris Lloyd in the Chair, Jon Tankard (Co-Chair), Reena Ranger, Mike Sims, Cheryl Stungo, Stephen King, Philip Hearn (In place of Ciaran Reed), Raj Khuroya (In place of Anne Winter), Christopher Alley, Chris Mitchell

Officers in Attendance:

Emma Sheridan, Associate Director for Environment
Josh Sills, Head of Customer Experience
Charlotte Gomes, Head of Leisure and Natural Infrastructure
Alex Laurie, Principal Trees and Woodlands Officer
Kelly Barnard, Leisure Assets Manager
Jason Hagland, Strategic Housing Manager
Shivani Dave, Partnerships Manager
Joanna Hewitson, Climate Change & Sustainability Strategy Officer
Ben Terry, Watersmeet General Manager
Judy Simpson, Marketing & Campaigns Manager
Anita Hibbs, Committee Officer

External in Attendance:

Mark Leahy, Everyone Active
John Sewell, Everyone Active

CCLHC8 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Anne Winter and Ciaran Reed, for whom Councillors Raj Khuroya and Philip Hearn substituted respectively.

The Chair noted that instead of one of the named substitutes, Councillor Philip Hearn, Councillor Christopher Alley was present. The Chair permitted Councillor Christopher Alley to remain for the duration of the meeting and speak, however he advised that Councillor Alley will not be able to vote on any of the items on the agenda.

CCLHC9 MINUTES

The minutes of the Climate Change, Leisure and Housing Committee, held on 24 July 2024 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

CCLHC10 NOTICE OF OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair announced that he had agreed to take Carpenters Wood and Pheasants & Solomons Wood Management Plans as urgent business so that the management plans could be implemented and the works therein commenced to avoid a delay in works commencing to the next meeting of the Committee in January 2025.

The Chair confirmed there was no other urgent business. In response to a question, the Chair clarified that he had been contacted in advance of the meeting about another prospective matter of urgent business but had not considered it to be urgent, and so it was not before the Committee for discussion during the meeting.

The Chair also stated that he intended to change the order of the agenda to bring forward agenda item 12.

CCLHC11 CARPENTERS WOOD AND PHEASANTS & SOLOMANS WOOD MANAGEMENT PLANS

The Principal Trees and Woodlands Officer, introduced the report.

The Committee discussed the challenges of managing invasive species, particularly muntjac deer, and the risks of such species being present in urban areas. The Committee further discussed community engagement at the site, noting that a 'friends of' group assisted with site management.

In discussion on the contract values and proposal for delegated authority, officers clarified that the annual budget for routine tree maintenance was not sufficient to undertake the extensive plans proposed and that external funding was sought for use to undertake works at the site. In discussions on the need to take advantage of new funding opportunities promptly, officers clarified that, if obtained, any external funding would be available to the Director of Finance to be used for site works.

In response to questions on the report, officers confirmed that the Countryside Management Service was a part of Hertfordshire County Council and outlined their responsibilities.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee:

- i. Adopt the new 5 year Management Plan for Carpenters Wood
- ii. Adopt the new 5 year Management Plan for Pheasants and Solomans Wood
- iii. Give delegated authority to the Director of Finance to enter into a contract or funding agreement above the value of £25,000, subject to securing external funding to facilitate works to support the implementation of the Management Plans.

CCLHC12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

CCLHC13 BUDGET MANAGEMENT REPORT P3

The Associate Director for Environment advised the Committee that the Budget Management report has already been reviewed and approved by the Policy and Resources Committee. As per standard procedure, the report is presented to the Service Committee for acknowledgment and for Members to provide any comments or feedback regarding its contents.

In response to a question raised regarding the corporate climate change budget that shows a significant expenditure, the officer responded by explaining that the minus figure indicates external funding received by the council, specifically from the social housing decarbonisation fund, which is being used to retrofit social homes.

Members inquired about the staffing situation in the Residential Housing & Environmental Health department, highlighting ongoing challenges in recruiting qualified personnel for the senior Housing Enforcement Officer position. The officer mentioned the national shortage of qualified officers and acknowledged previous reliance on interim staff. However, the officer advised that the position has now been filled permanently, resulting in the team being fully staffed with permanent members.

Members raised a question regarding a sum of £41,400 in the report, seeking clarity on whether this amount is recoverable from central government support. The officer outlined the Home Office funding received for participation in resettlement schemes, specifically highlighting support for two Afghan families under the ARAP and ACRS schemes.

RESOLVED:

That Members note and comment on the contents of the report.

CCLHC14 WATERSMEET ANNUAL REVIEW

The Watersmeet General Manager and Marketing & Campaigns Manager delivered a presentation highlighting key information on the following topics:

- Capital Projects
- Tenants and Partners
- Community Engagement
- Participation and Accessibility
- Sustainability and Environment
- Looking ahead – Challenges
- Looking ahead – Opportunities
- Looking ahead – Watersmeet turns 50

Before questions were allowed, the Chair stated that he wished to change the order of the remaining agenda items due to a Councillor feeling unwell.

Members raised questions regarding the financial performance and operational challenges of Watersmeet Theatre. They highlighted concerns about the venue's direct costs, which amount to approximately £60,000, and questioned whether the Committee should analyse the financial details further to identify potential revenue enhancements. The officer responded by providing context on the venue's income, noting a decrease in costs compared to the previous year, but emphasised the impact of rising utility costs and the adoption of the real living wage on operational expenses. The discussion also touched on income sources, primarily from ticket sales for live theatre events, and the limited market for specialised technical equipment. Members inquired about the frequency of detailed financial reports to the Committee, to which the officer explained that financial scrutiny is conducted through budget monitoring.

Further points were raised by Members, highlighting the theatre's £60,000 deficit due to low cinema ticket sales, suggesting that increasing cinema utilisation could help mitigate this issue. They emphasised the importance of promoting the cinema as a valuable venue while also questioning the selection of films shown, particularly noting that some recent offerings have not attracted audiences. The officer responded by acknowledging competition from local cinemas, at home streaming services and the challenges of programming films suitable for their demographic. The officer highlighted that the theatre can only secure film screenings 6 weeks after release due to film distributor conditions of minimum number of screenings in first 6 week release. The officer also mentioned the impact of recent industry strikes and the need to diversify film offerings to attract a broader audience, including younger viewers. The officer also emphasised the need to return to traditional marketing methods, particularly focusing on paper advertising in magazines. The officer noted that these strategies had previously yielded

positive results and are essential for reaching older demographics who may not engage with social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram.

In response to a question Members raised around the potential for enhancing local prosperity through partnerships with High Street venues, such as afternoon tea events and screenings of classic films that cater to families without competing with larger cinemas. Although the concept seems feasible, the officer acknowledged the challenges of implementing such collaborations fairly among different businesses. Despite previous efforts to foster these partnerships, progress has been slow, yet there is optimism about the possibilities for future cooperation.

RESOLVED:

That the Climate Change, Leisure and Housing Committee note the Watersmeet Annual Review 2023-2024.

CCLHC15 CAPITAL GRANTS

The Partnerships Manager outlined the report presented to the Committee regarding the allocation of £20,000 capital funding aimed at addressing health and wellbeing in the community.

The Chair advised that the Committee does not control the budget and is here to ask questions and provide updates rather than make decisions.

Members addressed the challenges faced by community members during the cost of living crisis, particularly the need for warm spaces and activities for individuals with learning difficulties. They emphasised the potential of the Council building to offer support by providing free or low-cost access to community groups. The officer shared insights from previous initiatives that aimed to create warm spaces, noting that while there was an initial attempt to open facilities like Leavesden Hive, the turnout was disappointingly low.

Members suggested utilising the Healthy Hubs as a platform for advertisement, highlighting their growing popularity. The officer confirmed the positive trend in visitor numbers and mentioned the upcoming Community Network Forums, which are part of a regular meeting cycle. They plan to promote the initiative through various channels, including social media, partnership newsletters, and local councillors once the meeting timetable is finalised.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee acknowledge the report and share comments relating to the recommendations listed above.

CCLHC16 DRAFT SERVICE PLANS 2025-28

The Partnerships Manager provided an introduction of the draft service plans, shared with the Committee for feedback, with a final version to be presented to Council in February along with the budget. The officer highlighted changes made to the service plan template for the current year, emphasising the publication of these plans on the website, which will include performance indicators and risk registers. A new link to the risk registers has been created within the service plans to ensure synchronisation and avoid duplication.

The Strategic Housing Manager provided a brief summary of the Housing and Residential Services plans.

Members raised concerns regarding the staggering need for social housing in the district. He questioned the availability of dwellings through the Thrive stock, specifically seeking data on the total number of dwellings, their availability percentage, and reasons for any properties being out of circulation, such as being unfit for habitation or sold. The officer acknowledged

the lack of immediate figures but committed to retrieving the necessary data. They discussed the process of acquiring affordable housing through development agreements and the distribution of properties via nominations agreements, emphasising the importance of understanding the stock management by housing associations.

The Chair requested that figures on the housing stock be circulated to the Committee after the meeting and be included in the minutes.

Members also raised questions about potential key performance indicators (KPIs) for home building and the responsibilities of the local authority in developing housing stock. The officer responded by outlining the role of Housing Services as a consultee on planning applications, with the aim to achieving an affordable housing provision on a site that suits the council's current housing needs. Also discussed, was the role of Environmental Health in assessing planning applications related to noise and lighting, emphasising the statutory obligations to investigate nuisances as defined by the Environmental Protection Act. The conversation also touched on the collaboration with Planning Policy to ensure adequate affordable housing is provided in the district.

The Associate Director for Environment advised that the Regulatory Services plan, which were previously divided between the two Service Committees but now sits entirely with General Public Services, Community Safety & Infrastructure Committee due to recent changes. The officer clarified that this topic is not open for discussion in the current Committee meeting and suggests that it is for informational purposes only.

The officer moved onto the next service plan; Customer Experience and advised that the Committee should concentrate solely on the items within the service plan that are pertinent to Watersmeet, indicating a targeted approach to evaluating customer service aspects relevant to the specific context.

The Head of Customer Experience provided a brief summary on Watersmeet of the Customer Experience service plan.

The Associate Director for Environment provided a brief summary of the Climate Change and Sustainability service plan.

Members of the Committee raised concerns regarding the district's ambitious carbon emissions reduction targets, highlighting a calculation of 6,635,000 kilotons of CO2 emissions in 2018. The aim is to achieve a 48% reduction, bringing emissions down to 330,200 kilotons, but predictions suggest a further reduction to 260,000 kilotons by 2026. The officer acknowledged the ambitious nature of these goals but emphasised the importance of aiming high to achieve significant progress. A more detailed carbon trajectory report is being prepared, which will provide further insights for the Committee's consideration before the end of the current financial year.

The Head of Leisure and Natural Infrastructure provided a brief summary of the Leisure and Natural Infrastructure service plan.

Members raised questions about the maintenance of various land areas, particularly regarding Taylors Cut and the need for action on specific areas of land that haven't been actively managed. The officer responded by outlining plans for a district-wide green space action plan, which aims to consolidate individual management strategies for key sites into a comprehensive framework. This initiative will involve stakeholder input to ensure that all relevant land areas, managed and maintained by the Council are addressed and properly managed, including considerations for flood management.

The Partnerships Manager provided a brief summary of the health area of the Strategy & Partnerships service plan.

The Associate Director for Environment provided a brief summary of the Waste & Environment Protection service plan, advising the Committee that they will only need to consider the information in the report relevant to the cemeteries.

In response to a request for further information on the cemeteries, the officer mentioned Woodcock Hill, which is currently open for burials; a closed cemetery in Chorleywood, which is maintained for biodiversity and nature, while still being a site for family visits; and the Heritage Cemetery at Leavesden, known as East Lane Cemetery. Each cemetery serves distinct purposes, ranging from active burials to conservation and heritage.

Members raised concerns regarding traveller plots in cemeteries, highlighting that there have been no recent issues raised. However, it is noted that community tensions occasionally arise. Ongoing efforts are being made in collaboration with Gate Hearts to review cemetery regulations and seek compromises that would address the needs of all community members.

The officer further explained that the management of cemeteries, distinguishing between closed cemeteries, which are managed with a focus on nature, and active cemeteries like Woodcock Hill, which are maintained in a more formal manner. The officer emphasised the differences in management strategies based on whether burials are still taking place.

In response to a question whether there is a need to increase live cemetery stock due to an increasing population and changing preferences, the officer confirmed that cremation is becoming more popular and pointed out a national shortage of burial space, indicating that Woodcock Hill may eventually run out of capacity. The officer also advised that while there are requests for additional burial space in Butler's Wells, there are currently no suitable areas available for expansion, and this issue is not unique to their locality but is a broader national concern.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee comment on and/or request any amends to the draft service plans for 2025 – 2028. Final Service Plans will be agreed by Council alongside the budget.

CCLHC17 CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN BI-ANNUAL UPDATE

The Climate Change & Sustainability Strategy Officer provided an update on the progress made on the Climate Action Plan over the past six months, highlighting key achievements and challenges. Notable actions include the installation of solar panels, securing funding for a decarbonisation plan, and retrofitting homes for energy efficiency. The district's emissions have declined by 3%, with ongoing projects and community initiatives aimed at further reductions. Funding has been secured for various climate initiatives, with a focus on sustainability and community engagement.

Members expressed enthusiasm about the impressive funds raised for environmental initiatives, highlighting the success in utilising last year's budget. However, concerns were raised regarding Three Rivers District's greenhouse gas emissions, which have seen a dramatic decline since 2018 but require a significant reduction to meet future targets. The officer emphasised the district's ambition to achieve net zero emissions by 2045 and discussed the importance of transitioning from gas to electricity to take advantage of the upcoming decarbonisation of the national grid. The conversation also touched upon innovative projects, such as installing solar panels in car parks, to enhance renewable energy integration within the district.

Members further inquired about local planning policies aimed at enhancing sustainability in new builds. Members asked about the planning policy's role in the local plan, emphasising the importance of sustainable practices to combat climate change. The officer responded by detailing the collaboration with a specialist company, Edgars, which is helping to draft sustainability policies. They discussed the need for a holistic approach to future

developments, including tree planting initiatives and the challenges posed by national planning policies. The conversation also touched on the complexities surrounding tree preservation and the enforcement of anti-idling measures around schools.

Members of the Committee emphasises the need for public education regarding the benefits of trees, particularly in the context of urban development. They highlighted common misconceptions where trees are viewed negatively, often due to the influence of builders who advocate for their removal. Members pointed out the crucial advantages trees provide, such as shade during warmer summers and their ability to retain water, which can mitigate flooding effects, but also expressed concerns about the declining public perception of trees and the challenges faced in protecting them.

Members also inquired about external insulation, raising questions regarding educational efforts to promote its benefits and the availability of financial assistance for those unable to afford the costs. The officer responded by highlighting ongoing initiatives aimed at encouraging insulation uptake, particularly among low-income households. The officer also mentioned the challenges faced in reaching potential beneficiaries and the introduction of the Warm Homes grant, which offers substantial financial support for insulation and heat pumps to qualifying postcodes, regardless of income.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee note the progress made against the Climate Emergency and Sustainability Action Plan 2024 – 2027 and agree the forward direction of travel as outlined in this report.

CCLHC18 FISHING SWIMS PROJECT - CONTRACT AWARD

The Head of Leisure and Natural Infrastructure introduced the report, which seeks approval from the Committee to enter into a contract exceeding £25,000. The project in question has a budget of £100,000, funded by the UK Share Prosperity Fund.

Members raised a question about the sustainability of the fishing swim area in light of potential flooding and environmental reports. The officer responded by clarifying that the project involves a platform-based fishing swim, which will not be influenced by the ongoing hydrological study, allowing the project to proceed independently.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee agree the approval to award and enter into a contract with a chosen supplier, should a suitable tender be received, for upgrading the fishing swims at Batchworth Lake, Rickmansworth Aquadrome, as outlined in the report.

CCLHC19 SOUTH OXHEY PLAYING FIELDS MANAGEMENT PLAN 2024-2029

The Leisure Assets Manager introduced the report.

Members asked the officer a question about the status of the Village Green, to which the officer responded by advising that discussions are still ongoing and there are no new updates at this time.

A Member of the Committee expressed approval of the management plan and mentioned ongoing communication with the parish council. They are currently waiting for additional information from the open public space legal team regarding the village green status, indicating a collaborative effort to address community concerns.

Members expressed enthusiasm for the project and inquired about potential funding sources. The officer outlined various channels for funding, including collaborations with the Countryside

Management Service and grants from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, DEFRA, and the Rural Payments Agency.

Members expressed disappointment over the low response rate to a recent report, noting only ten responses received, and highlighted the area's unique assets and suggested the need for better promotion to increase public awareness and visitation. They proposed initiatives such as healthy walks and collaboration with local councils to enhance community engagement and attract more visitors to the region's historical sites.

The Chair emphasised the need for agreement on the work programme, suggesting that items related to the current meeting should be excluded from future agendas. Members raised a concern about the necessity of publishing documents online for public access before discussions. The Chair responded by reiterating the importance of filtering out current meeting items to streamline future work plans.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee:

- i. Adopt the new five year Management Plan for South Oxhey Playing Fields.
- ii. Give delegated authority to the Director of Finance to enter into a contract or funding agreement above the value of £25,000, subject to securing external funding to facilitate works to support the implementation of the Management Plans.

CCLHC20 LEISURE FACILITIES MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT

The Leisure Assets Manager introduced key personnel from Everyone Active, the management company overseeing the council's leisure venues since 2018. The officer advised that the report covering the contract year from April 2023 to March 2024, and John Sewell will provide further insights before a question-and-answer segment.

John Sewell outlined key initiatives and successes at William Penn Leisure Centre over the past year, focusing on decarbonisation efforts at the leisure centre, including the installation of pool covers, PIR sensors, and a new chemical dosing system. The speaker highlighted community outreach programs like the Happy Camps, which served 537 children, and various charity events. The presentation also touched on increasing participation levels at local leisure facilities, improvements in golf course conditions, and future plans for solar panel installations to enhance sustainability. The majority of activities are reaching pre-pandemic levels. The speakers emphasised the importance of community engagement and the ongoing efforts to promote health and fitness within the community.

Members congratulated the representatives from Everyone Active on their recent award.

The Committee raised concerns regarding high water levels, particularly around the golf course, and whether the leisure centre is doing any remedial work to prevent flooding.

John Sewell advised that in the past few months the focus was on working on the irrigation and where the water can be diverted. There is also further works planned around the golf course, including a path that has been installed so people can access the facility all year round, which has contributed greatly to the increase in usage of the facilities.

Officers also advised that it needs to be acknowledged that groundwater levels generally everywhere at the moment are significantly higher than they would be normally. It is a national problem, not an isolated incident at a particular golf course, or across the district as a whole.

Members also raised a question regarding parking at the facility, where there are concerns about the difficulties staff face in managing unauthorised vehicles. John Sewell responded by clarifying that while they have a tanner assistant, it is not available at the South Oxhey Leisure

Centre. The speaker also talked about measures taken to address the parking issue, including the installation of signs, marketing efforts to discourage improper parking, and the implementation of green travel plans.

In response to a question raised regarding financial interests in Woodside Leisure Centre, officers advised that it is owned by Watford Borough Council not Three Rivers District Council. Officers further clarified that while there is a continued interest in the services offered at Woodside, such as free swimming and gym memberships for residents, monitoring of attendance is managed by Watford Borough Council independently.

RESOLVED:

- i. That the 12-month work plan presented by Sports and Leisure Management is noted.
- ii. That the 12-month work plan presented by Sports and Leisure Management be made available as part of the minutes of the meeting.

CCLHC21 MOTIONS

The committee received a motion in accordance with procedure rules 11 and 37. The motion was moved by Councillor Chris Mitchell and seconded by Councillor Cheryl Stungo.

In accordance with procedure rule 11(10), the motion was altered prior to being formally moved thus:

‘To discuss at the 16 October 2024 meeting of the Climate Change, Leisure and Housing Committee the flood risks in Three Rivers District and what actions, if any, can be taken to mitigate these.’

Councillor Cheryl Stungo formally seconded the altered motion.

The Chair opened the discussion.

The Committee expressed its gratitude to officers for the works undertaken to managing flooding in the district. The Committee discussed a range of matters, including:

- The impact of climate change on the frequency and severity of flooding
- The need for communication between public bodies in managing flooding risks, and communication with the public
- Environment Agency advice to households on developing flood plans

In discussion, officers clarified that Hertfordshire County Council was the lead authority for flooding and that the Environment Agency was responsible for water management. Officers further advised that Three Rivers District Council actively engaged with community groups and other authorities to address flooding on a catchment basis, and that officers were involved in flooding meetings across the area and would ensure that members of the Council were kept abreast of developments and updates.

In response to a suggestion for an implementation of a pilot project focused on flood planning, the officer reiterated that the issue being discussed fell under the jurisdiction of the county council rather than the district council, emphasising a lack of resources to address the matter, but that officers and members continued to lobby the county council on the issue of flooding.

CCLHC22 OTHER BUSINESS - IF APPROVED UNDER ITEM 3 ABOVE

CHAIR

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Agenda Item 5

CLIMATE CHANGE, LEISURE AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

12 MARCH 2025

PART I - NOT DELEGATED

BUDGET MONITORING – Period 10

(DoF)

1. Summary

1.1 This report covers this Committee's financial position over the medium term (2024 – 2028) as at Period 10 (end of January)

1.2 The Period 10 comprehensive Budget Management report has already been presented to the Policy & Resources Committee at its meeting on 10 March 2025 which sought approval to a change in the Council's 2024 - 2028 medium-term financial plan

2. Details

2.1 This Committee's details can be found in Appendix 2 of the full Budget Management Report a copy of which is attached.

3. Options/Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 The Committee is to note the changes concerning their budget.

4. Policy / Budget Reference and Implications

4.1 In accordance with the Council's financial procedure rules, the revenue and capital budgets will be updated accordingly, if the recommendation from the Policy & Resources Committee is agreed by Council.

4.2 There are no substantial changes to Council policy resulting from this report.

5. Legal, Equal Opportunities, Staffing, Environmental, Community Safety, Public Health, Customer Services Centre, Communications & Website, and Health & Safety Implications

5.1 None specific.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 As contained in the report

7. Risk Management and Health and Safety Implications

7.1 None specific.

8. Recommendation

8.1 That Members note & comment on the contents of the report.

Report prepared by: Sally Riley (Finance Business Partner)

Checked by: Alison Scott (Director of Finance)

APPENDICES

Climate Change, Leisure and Housing Detailed Monitoring Report (Appendix 2 of the full Budget Management Report)

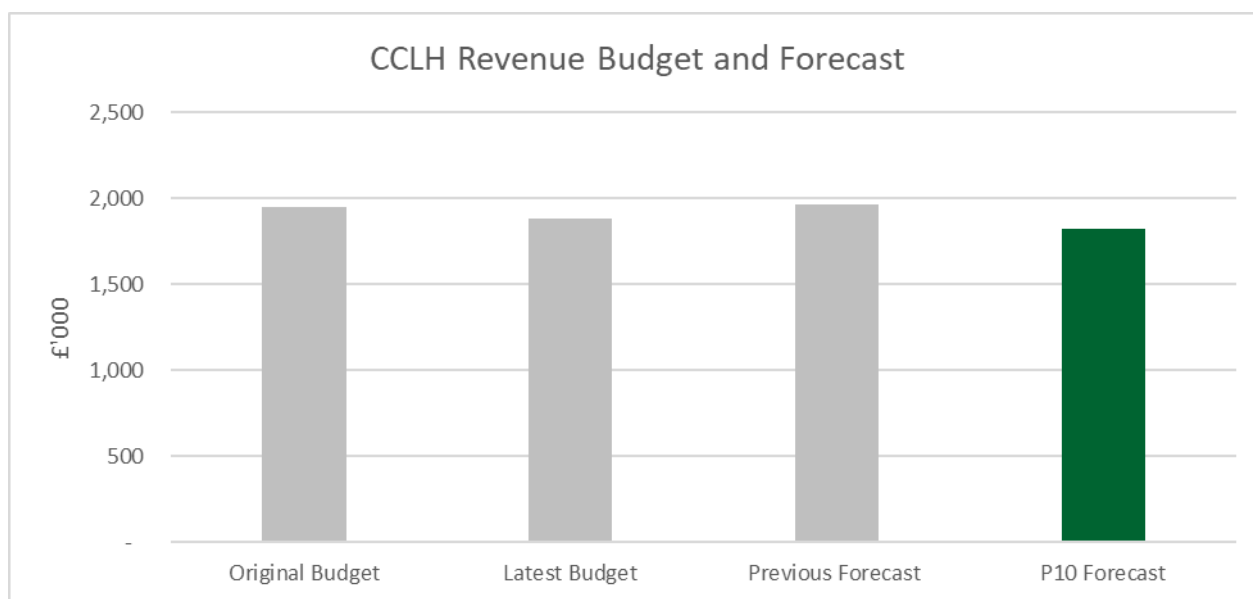
Climate change, Leisure and Housing Committee Detailed Monitoring Report

Overview

1. This appendix sets out the detailed financial monitoring position for budgets within the scope of the Climate Change, Leisure and Housing (CCLH) Committee. The forecast is based on the position as at Period 10 which covers the period from 1 December 2024 to 31 January 2025.

Revenue

2. The previous forecast reported at Period 8 was net expenditure of £1.967m. This was a variation to budget of £0.084m. The latest forecast position at Period 10 is £1.826m. This is a favourable variance of £0.140m. The detailed revenue budgets and MTFP forecast is set out in Annex A.



Service Area	Original Budget Plus		Latest Budget £000	Previous Forecast £000	Latest Forecast £000	Variation to Previous Forecast £000	Variation to Latest Budget £000
	Original Budget £000	2023/24 Carry Forwards £000					
Housing	423	423	450	449	296	(153)	(154)
Leisure	1,220	1,220	1,043	1,127	1,146	19	104
Sustainability and Climate	309	389	390	390	384	(6)	(6)
Total	1,952	2,033	1,883	1,967	1,826	(140)	(57)

3. Annex B sets out the main variations to budget.

Capital Investment Programme

4. The latest capital investment programme for 2024/25 is £3.827m. A variation of £0.112m is reported.
5. Detailed Capital budgets and explanation of key variations are set out in Annex C and Annex D respectively.

Staff Vacancy Monitoring

6. A major risk of non-delivery of service is where key staff leave the Council's employment and there is a delay or difficulty in recruiting suitable candidates to fill the vacant post.
7. The following table sets out the vacancies as at 31 January 2025.

Department	Job Title	Comments	Total
Grounds Maintenance	Grounds Maintenance Operative	Recently advertised	2.00
Housing	Housing Options Officer	Recently advertised	1.00
Total Climate Change, Leisure & Housing			3.00

Annex A CCLL Committee Medium Term Revenue Budget Service

Climate Change, Leisure and Housing											
Housing, Public Health and Wellbeing	Original Budget 2024/25	Original Budget Plus 2023/24 Carry Forwards	Latest Budget 2024/25	Previous Forecast 2024/25	Spend to Date	Latest Forecast 2024/25	Variance @ P10	Forecast 2025/26	Forecast 2026/27	Forecast 2027/28	Officer Comments
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Housing Services Needs	523,344	523,344	533,533	534,813	609,427	510,145	(24,668)	559,622	582,749	571,140	Variance includes revised employee estimates which takes into account vacancies and changes in pay elements. Grant and Contributions budget of £3,000 not required this financial year
Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme	5,110	5,110	5,110	2,110	900	2,110	0	5,110	5,110	5,110	Demand led service
Homelessness General Fund	(177,620)	(177,620)	(163,740)	(163,740)	(642,841)	(268,460)	(104,720)	(148,740)	(148,740)	(148,740)	Grant and Contributions budget not required this financial year
Housing Associations	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)	(2,500)	(5,000)	0	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)	Income will be received by year end
Refugees	0	0	0	0	(41,330)	0	0	0	0	0	Transfer to/from reserves at year end
Env Health - Residential Team	77,427	77,427	80,513	80,748	50,682	57,314	(23,434)	85,305	86,518	87,442	Variance includes revised employee estimates which takes into account vacancies and changes in pay elements.
Public Health	0	0	0	0	(20,220)	0	0	0	0	0	Income and Expenditure budgets of £19,250 for the use of Healthy Hub Grant from HCC
Total	423,261	423,261	450,416	448,931	(45,882)	296,109	(152,822)	496,297	520,637	509,952	
Leisure	Original Budget 2024/25	Original Budget Plus 2023/24 Carry Forwards	Latest Budget 2024/25	Previous Forecast 2024/25	Spend to Date	Latest Forecast 2024/25	Variance @ P10	Forecast 2025/26	Forecast 2026/27	Forecast 2027/28	Officer Comments
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Leavesden Country Park	0	0	0	0	95,760	0	0	0	0	0	S106 funded expenditure will be transferred at year end
Community Arts	11,400	11,400	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Cost Centre no longer used
Watersmeet	26,393	26,393	26,604	26,839	(220,055)	86,809	59,970	47,251	34,788	35,718	Increased budgets required for Gas £14,750 and Electricity £13,700 due to increased supplier costs. Reduction in income of £31,520 due to Daybreak vacating the premises in August 2024
Leavesden Ymca	(35,000)	(35,000)	(35,000)	(35,000)	(38,210)	(35,000)	0	(35,000)	(35,000)	(35,000)	Income is received quarterly.
May Hall	(3,000)	(3,000)	(3,000)	(3,000)	(3,887)	(3,000)	0	(3,000)	(3,000)	(3,000)	Income is received quarterly.
Museum	(700)	(700)	(700)	(700)	(700)	(700)	0	(700)	(700)	(700)	Budget met
Playing Fields & Open Spaces	93,981	93,981	93,981	127,875	60,897	150,655	22,780	127,450	127,450	127,450	Increased budgets required for Gas £7,160, Electricity £14,550 and Water Rates £1,070 due to increased supplier costs
Play Rangers	56,484	56,484	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	0	0	Cost Centre no longer used
Scotsbridge River Chess Project	0	0	0	0	(113,095)	0	0	0	0	0	Income and Expenditure budgets of £3,198 to spend funding from Thames Water
Comm Parks & Sust Project	24,200	24,200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Cost Centre no longer used
Aquadrome	39,615	39,615	39,615	89,735	(379,415)	80,475	(9,260)	64,615	64,615	64,615	Increased income from back dated rent from the Café at the Aquadrome
The Bury Green Space	0	0	0	0	(76,380)	0	0	0	0	0	Income and Expenditure budgets of £8,100 to spend funding from Affinity Water
Leisure Venues	(509,893)	(509,893)	(709,455)	(709,455)	(614,181)	(709,455)	0	(709,455)	(709,455)	(709,455)	Budget is currently forecast to be spent
Leisure Activities	0	0	120,532	120,532	69,324	100,532	(20,000)	124,507	124,507	124,507	Income and Expenditure budgets of £3,000 to spend funding from Parkinson UK for physical activities project. Budget virement of £2,000 from Hire of Rooms and £8,000 from Equipment, Furniture and Materials to Tees and Landscapes for emergency tree works. Increased income received for Leisure activities and sports promotion of £10,000
Leisure Development	557,807	557,807	648,911	649,376	538,699	655,833	6,457	680,239	694,460	702,264	Variance includes revised employee estimates which takes into account vacancies and changes in pay elements.
Play Development - Play schemes	34,843	34,843	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Cost Centre no longer used
Sports Devel-Sports Projects	48,135	48,135	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Cost Centre no longer used
Leisure & Community Services	36,087	36,087	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Cost Centre no longer used
Grounds Maintenance	840,028	840,028	861,069	861,069	649,532	820,008	(41,061)	877,513	877,513	877,513	Full Repairs & Maintenance budget of £10,000 not required this financial year due to the purchase of newer vehicles. Variance includes revised employee estimates which takes into account vacancies and changes in pay elements.
Total	1,220,380	1,220,380	1,042,557	1,127,271	(31,712)	1,146,157	18,886	1,173,420	1,175,178	1,183,912	

CCLC Committee Medium Term Revenue Budget Service cont.

Sustainability and Climate	Original Budget 2024/25	Original Budget Plus 2023/24 Carry Forwards	Latest Budget 2024/25	Previous Forecast 2024/25	Spend to Date	Latest Forecast 2024/25	Variance @ P10	Forecast 2025/26	Forecast 2026/27	Forecast 2027/28	Officer Comments
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Energy Efficiency	9,500	23,900	23,900	23,900	23,872	23,900	0	9,500	9,500	9,500	Budget is currently forecast to be spent
Sustainability Projects	78,000	78,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Cost Centre no longer used
Climate Change & Sustainability Projects	102,262	149,471	229,409	229,409	(958,835)	229,409	0	207,432	294,965	294,965	Income and expenditure budgets required of £196,859 to Spend Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Grant
Innovate UK	0	0	0	0	10,249	0	0	0	0	0	Grant claimed retrospectively
Pest Control	12,755	12,755	12,755	12,755	3,813	12,755	0	12,755	12,755	12,755	Budget is currently forecast to be spent
Environmental Maintenance	25,970	25,970	25,970	25,970	42,956	19,775	(6,195)	25,970	25,970	25,970	Reduction in the cost of the Boundary Way service of £4,800. Increased income from fly-tipping of £1,395
Animal Control	64,490	64,490	63,581	63,581	61,587	69,692	6,111	65,829	67,220	67,220	Reduction in income of £3,500 for Other Licences due to the reduction in the number of licences issued. Variance includes revised employee estimates which takes into account vacancies and changes in pay elements.
Cemeteries	(228,193)	(228,193)	(228,193)	(228,193)	(214,993)	(244,243)	(16,050)	(234,233)	(234,233)	(234,233)	Miscellaneous IT Costs budget increase by £15,400 due to the purchase of a new cemetery system and an increase in subscription with the new contract. Increased income received from Tree Planting £1,450, Burial Fees £8,000, Burial Rights Fees £ 16,000, and Memorial Fees £1,000
Trees And Landscapes	243,760	262,914	262,914	262,914	197,200	272,914	10,000	243,580	243,580	243,580	Budget virement from Leisure Activities for emergency tree works
Total	308,544	389,307	390,336	390,336	(834,150)	384,202	(6,134)	330,833	419,757	419,757	
Total Climate Change, Leisure and Housing	1,952,185	2,032,948	1,883,309	1,966,538	(911,744)	1,826,468	(140,070)	2,000,550	2,115,572	2,113,621	

Annex B

CCLH Committee Explanations of revenue supplementary estimates, variances to be managed and virements reported this Period

Variances to be managed

Climate Change, Leisure and Housing			
Description	Main Group Heading	Details of Outturn Variances to Latest Approved Budget	2024/25 £
Animal Control	Employees	Variance includes revised employee estimates which takes into account vacancies and changes in pay elements.	2,611
	Income	Reduction in income for Other Licences due to the reduction in the number of licences issued	3,500
Environmental Maintenance	Supplies and Services	Reduction in the cost of the Boundary Way service of £4,800	(4,800)
	Income	Increased income from fly-tipping of £1,395	(1,395)
Cemeteries	Supplies and Services	Miscellaneous IT Costs budget increase by £15,400 due to the purchase of a new cemetery system and an increase in subscription with the new contract.	10,400
	Income	Increased income received from Tree Planting £1,450, Burial Fees £8,000, Burial Rights Fees £ 16,000, and Memorial Fees £1,000	(26,450)
Total Sustainability and Climate			(16,134)
Description	Main Group Heading	Details of Outturn Variances to Latest Approved Budget	2024/25 £
Watersmeet	Premises	Increased budgets required for Gas £14,750 and Electricity £13,700 due to increased supplier costs	28,450
	Income	Reduction in income of £31,520 due to Daybreak vacating the premises in August 20204	31,520
Playing Fields & Open Spaces	Premises	Increased budgets required for Gas £7,160, Electricity £14,550 and Water Rates £1,070 due to increased supplier costs	22,780
Aquadrome	Income	Increased income from back dated rent from the Café at the Aquadrome	(9,260)
Leisure Activities	Income	Increased income received for Leisure activities and sports promotion of £10,000	(10,000)
Leisure Development	Employees	Variance includes revised employee estimates which takes into account vacancies and changes in pay elements.	6,457
Grounds Maintenance	Employees	Variance includes revised employee estimates which takes into account vacancies and changes in pay elements.	(31,061)
	Transport	Full Repairs & Maintenance budget not required this financial year due to the purchase of newer vehicles	(10,000)
Total Leisure			28,886
Description	Main Group Heading	Details of Outturn Variances to Latest Approved Budget	2024/25 £
Housing Service Needs	Employees	Variance includes revised employee estimates which takes into account vacancies and changes in pay elements.	(21,668)
	Supplies and Services	Grant and Contributions budget not required this financial year	(3,000)
Homelessness General Fund	Income	Increased income received from Nightly lets on Temporary Accommodation	(104,720)
Env Health - Residential Team	Employees	Variance includes revised employee estimates which takes into account vacancies and changes in pay elements.	(23,434)
Total Housing, Public Health and Wellbeing			(152,822)
Total Climate Change, Leisure and Housing			(140,070)

Virements

Climate Change, Leisure and Housing			
Description	Main Group Heading	Details of Outturn Variances to Latest Approved Budget	2024/25 £
Public Health	Supplies and Services	To spend Health Hub Grant from HCC	19,250
	Income	Receipt of Healthy Hub Grant from HCC	(19,250)
Total Housing, Public Health and Wellbeing			0
Description	Main Group Heading	Details of Outturn Variances to Latest Approved Budget	2024/25 £
Scotsbridge River Chess Project	Supplies and Services	To Spend funding from Thames Water	3,198
	Income	Receipt of funding from Thames Water	(3,198)
The Bury Green Space	Supplies and Services	To spend funding from Affinity Water	8,100
	Income	Receipt of funding from Affinity Water	(8,100)
Leisure Activities	Premises	Budget virement from Hire of Rooms to Trees and Landscapes for emergency tree works	(2,000)
	Supplies and Services	To Spend funding from Parkinson uk for Physical Activity Project	3,000
		Budget virement from Equipment, Furniture and Materials to Trees and Landscapes for emergency tree works	(8,000)
	Income	Receipt of funding from Parkinson uk for Physical Activity Project	(3,000)
Total Leisure			(10,000)
Description	Main Group Heading	Details of Outturn Variances to Latest Approved Budget	2024/25 £
Corporate Climate Change	Supplies and Services	To Spend Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Grant	196,859
	Income	Receipt of Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Grant	(196,859)
Trees & Landscapes	Premises	Budget virement from Leisure Activities for emergency tree works	2,000
		Budget virement from Leisure Activities for emergency tree works	8,000
Total Sustainability and Climate			10,000
Total Climate Change, Leisure and community			0

Annex C CCLH Medium term capital investment programme

Climate Change, Leisure & Housing													
Housing, Public Health & Wellbeing	Original Budget 2024/25 £	Original Budgets Plus 2023/24 Rephasing £	Latest Budget 2024/25 £	P10 Spend To Date £	Forecast Outturn 2024/25 £	Variance £	Latest Budget 2025/26 £	Proposed 2025/26 £	Latest Budget 2026/27 £	Proposed 2026/27 £	Latest Budget 2027/28 £	Proposed 2027/28 £	Comments
Disabled Facilities Grant	586,000	790,474	790,474	552,759	790,474	0	586,000	586,000	586,000	586,000	586,000	586,000	Budget is currently forecast to be spent
Home Repairs Assistance	2,000	2,000	0	0	0	0	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	Demand led service. No applications expected this financial year
Sub-total Housing, Public Health & Wellbeing	588,000	792,474	790,474	552,759	790,474	0	588,000	588,000	588,000	588,000	588,000	588,000	
Leisure	Original Budget 2024/25 £	Original Budgets Plus 2023/24 Rephasing £	Latest Budget 2024/25 £	P10 Spend To Date £	Forecast Outturn 2024/25 £	Variance £	Latest Budget 2025/26 £	Proposed 2025/26 £	Latest Budget 2026/27 £	Proposed 2026/27 £	Latest Budget 2027/28 £	Proposed 2027/28 £	Comments
Aquadrome Bridge Replacement	320,524	320,524	1,137,755	100,231	1,137,755	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Works progressing - phased payments will be made. May complete in 2025/26
Leavesden Country Park Gate	0	164,889	164,889	150,356	210,086	45,197	0	0	0	0	0	0	Use of S106 monies required for Leavesden Country Park Entrance as approved at P&R on the 11 November 2024
Watersmeet Electrical	144,100	144,100	144,100	5,658	144,100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Tender to be processed before year end
Watersmeet Fire Doors	0	0	0	0	0	0	75,400	75,400	0	0	0	0	
Scotsbridge-Chess Habitat	8,190	8,190	8,190	0	8,190	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Budget is currently forecast to be spent
Open Space Access Improvements	60,000	95,946	95,946	27,539	102,946	7,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	Budget virement from Capital Grants & Loans Capital budget as approved at GPSCS&I on 15 October 2024
Improve Play Area-Future Schemes	120,000	132,650	197,800	64,370	197,800	0	120,000	120,000	120,000	120,000	120,000	120,000	Budget is currently forecast to be spent
Aquadrome-Whole Life Costing	11,000	15,020	15,020	0	15,020	0	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	Budget is currently forecast to be spent
Replacement Ground Maintenance Vehicles	804,000	804,000	830,318	586,071	673,518	(156,800)	540,000	696,800	540,000	540,000	540,000	540,000	Rephase from 2024/25 to 2025/26 for vehicle purchases
Watersmeet-Whole Life Costing	20,000	20,000	20,000	2,781	20,000	0	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	Budget is currently forecast to be spent
Pavilions-Whole Life Costing	11,000	16,668	16,668	14,684	16,668	0	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	Budget is currently forecast to be spent
William Penn Leisure Centre Solar Panels	0	0	150,096	150,096	150,096	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Budget is currently forecast to be spent
Fearey Mead Play Area	0	50,000	17,245	17,245	17,245	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Project complete
Lincoln Drive Play Area	0	50,000	17,605	17,605	17,605	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Project complete
Sub-total Leisure	1,498,814	1,821,987	2,815,632	1,136,636	2,711,029	(104,603)	837,400	994,200	762,000	762,000	762,000	762,000	
Sustainability & Climate	Original Budget 2024/25 £	Original Budgets Plus 2023/24 Rephasing £	Latest Budget 2024/25 £	P10 Spend To Date £	Forecast Outturn 2024/25 £	Variance £	Latest Budget 2025/26 £	Proposed 2025/26 £	Latest Budget 2026/27 £	Proposed 2026/27 £	Latest Budget 2027/28 £	Proposed 2027/28 £	Comments
Cemetery-Whole Life Costing	5,000	9,830	9,830	0	2,488	(7,342)	65,000	72,342	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	Rephased into 2025/26 for works at Woodcock Hill in Spring 2025
Sustainability Schemes	0	0	0	0	0	0	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	
UK Shared Prosperity	0	0	210,852	0	210,852	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Procurement has taken place and contracts issued
Sub-total Sustainability & Climate	5,000	9,830	220,682	0	213,340	(7,342)	565,000	572,342	505,000	505,000	505,000	505,000	
Total Climate Change, Leisure & Housing	2,091,814	2,624,291	3,826,788	1,689,395	3,714,843	(111,945)	1,990,400	2,154,542	1,855,000	1,855,000	1,855,000	1,855,000	

Annex D

CCLH Explanations of capital variances reported this Period

Description	Details of Outturn Variances to Latest Approved Budget	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £
Climate Change, Leisure & Housing					
Leavesden Country Park Gate	Use of S106 monies required for Leavesden Country Park Entrance as approved at P&R on the 11 November 2024	45,197	0	0	0
Open Space Access Improvements	Budget virement from Capital Grants & Loans Capital budget as approved at GPSCS&I on 15 October 2024	7,000	0	0	0
Replacement Ground Maintenance Vehicles	Rephase from 2024/25 to 2025/26 for vehicle purchases	(156,800)	156,800	0	0
Cemetery-Whole Life Costing	Rephased into 2025/26 for works at Woodcock Hill in Spring 2025	(7,342)	7,342	0	0
Total Climate Change, Leisure & Housing		(111,945)	164,142	0	0

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**Climate Change, Leisure and Housing
Committee Report
Climate Emergency and Sustainability Action
Bi-Annual Update**

12/03/2025

**Climate Change, Leisure and Housing Committee
Wednesday 12th March 2025**

PART I

**Climate Emergency and Sustainability Action Plan Bi-annual Update March 2025
DoE**

1 Summary

1.0 This report provides an update on the council's performance against the Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy 2024 -2027 and associated Action Plan detailed at Appendix 1.

1.1 A revised Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy (Appendix 2) 2023 - 2027 (Appendix 2) was adopted by the Council on December 12th, 2023. This report presents the progress of actions since adoption and builds upon the previous report to Committee in October of 2024.

2 Details

2.0 Following a declaration of a climate emergency in May 2019, recognising the crucial role that Local Authorities play in delivering on national and international climate mitigation (and adaptation) policies and targets, a Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy and associated Action Plan was first produced in 2021. Since 2021, has been carrying out a wide range of projects and initiatives to lead the Council to net-zero carbon by 2030, and support the district in being net-zero carbon by 2045.

2.1 The Action Plan 2024-2027 adopted in March 2024 has two sections: one for addressing council emissions and another for district emissions.

2.2 Council Emissions

2.3 Council emissions have not changed since the last update in October 2024 as we only measure them annually

2.4 The recent decarbonisation programme at Three Rivers House, entailed a server room upgrade and replacement of the gas boiler with an Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP). Officers reported on this in October 2024 but have since completed a detailed examination of the utility bills and been able to assess the financial impact on utility cost. The energy bills increased in 23/24 and is forecast to fall back 22/23 figures for this financial year. See Figure 1 This installation coincided with an increase in standing order charges on electrical bills between '22/23 24/25.

2.5 Figure 1

Year	Gas	Electric	Total
2022/23	£18,009	£122,523	£140,532
2023/24 (ASHP installed April 23)	£0	£164,677	£164,677

Estimate 2024/25 (based on 6 months actual)	0	145,649.99	145,649.99
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2.6 This utility bill examination uncovered some inaccuracies, and in fact the carbon reduction arising from the ASHP was in fact 48t CO2e, an improvement on the 26t figure CO2e reported to committee in October 2024. See figure 2.

2.7 Figure 2

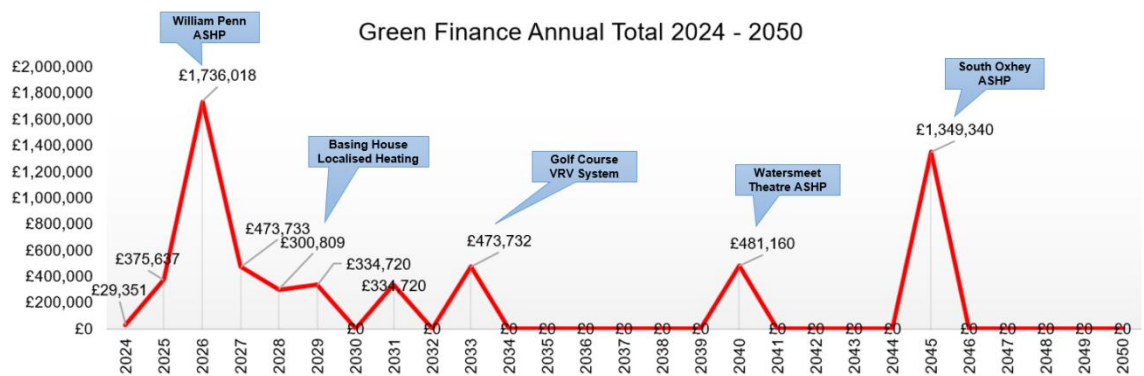
Tonnes CO2e	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
TRH Electric	132	79	90	74	108
TRH Gas	61	55	38	83	0
Total	193	134	127	156	108

2.8 The Fast Followers grant has enabled the Council to explore options on financing the decarbonisation of its' 6 core buildings: William Penn and South Oxhey Leisure Centres, Three Rivers House, Basing House, Watersmeet Theatre, and the Fairway Inn. The outcome of the study is that a blended finance approach including grants, borrowing and CIL would be required. Borrowing itself could be a blend of community energy funding, National Wealth Fund, council borrowing and private investment.

2.9 Grant funding is critical to most projects therefore it is availability of grant funding that has dictated the proposed timetable. The Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund (used for the ASHP at Three Rivers House) is expected to form the largest grant contributor but is only available once a boiler is over 15 years old. Basing House, Watersmeet and South Oxhey Leisure Centre all have relatively new boilers so have some time before they will be eligible. The following trajectory and the cost are therefore indicative only.

2.10 Figure 3 below shows the timetable and estimated costs of the key projects in the programme.

2.11 Figure 3



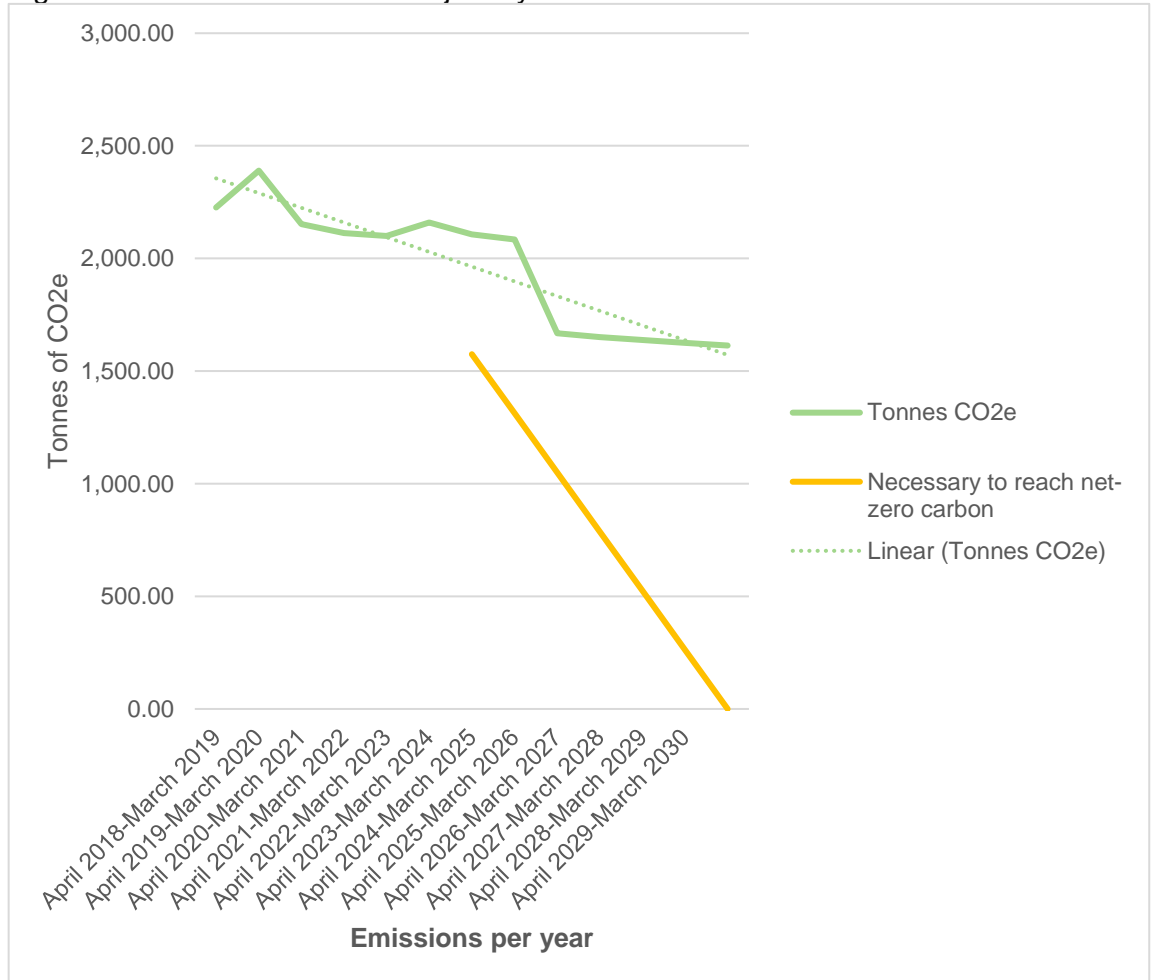
2.12 Figure 4 below shows the current net zero projects in progress. Each one is being managed individually with distinct business cases for each. The three projects shown as being at feasibility stage are presented with estimated costs only.

2.13 Figure 4

Building	Project	Year	Cost	Funding Source
Rooftop Solar PV	William Penn	April 2024-March 2025	£150,000	Sport England Grant
Cavity Wall Insulation	Watersmeet Theatre	April 2024-March 2025	£37,125	UKSPF, Existing Budget
Cavity Wall Insulation	Three Rivers House	April 2024-March 2025	£28,824	Borrowing - pending Business Case approval
Pipework & Valve Insulation	Watersmeet Theatre	April 2025-March 2026	£5,000	Existing Budget
Air Source Heat Pump	William Penn	April 2026-March 2027	£1,140,819	PSDS Grant + Borrowing (Feasibility underway)
Solar Canopy	William Penn Car Park	April 2026-March 2027	£923,167	PSDS Grant + Borrowing (community energy?) feasibility underway
Solar PV South Oxhey Leisure Centre	South Oxhey Leisure Centre	April 2025- April 2026	£110,000	Business case submitted to provide loan to SLM
Solar Canopy	Three Rivers House Rose Garden Car Park	April 2027-2028	£407,410	Feasibility Complete, business case required Borrowing
			Work complete	
			Funds Applied for	
Key			Feasibility studies underway to determine accurate costings to establish business case	

2.14 Further to the Fast Followers work, officers have been able to plot an estimated trajectory to net zero with some assumptions, to give an idea of the scale of carbon offsetting that may be required to meet net-zero by 2030. See figure 5 below.

2.15 Figure 5 Theoretical Net Zero Trajectory 2024-2030



2.16 The green line shows the carbon emission reduction arising from the projects which are financially feasible, and some assumptions described below. The yellow line shows the additional offsetting which will need to take place to achieve net zero by 2030, if the Council decides that it wishes to offset hard-to-treat/residual emissions.

2.17 The Council's emissions consist of three key areas – the core buildings, the small buildings (pavilions), and the fleet. Electrification of the fleet is challenging as the technology is still unreliable, particularly for HGV, and is prohibitively expensive at present. Officers have therefore assumed that improved efficiencies will deliver 10t of saving per annum.

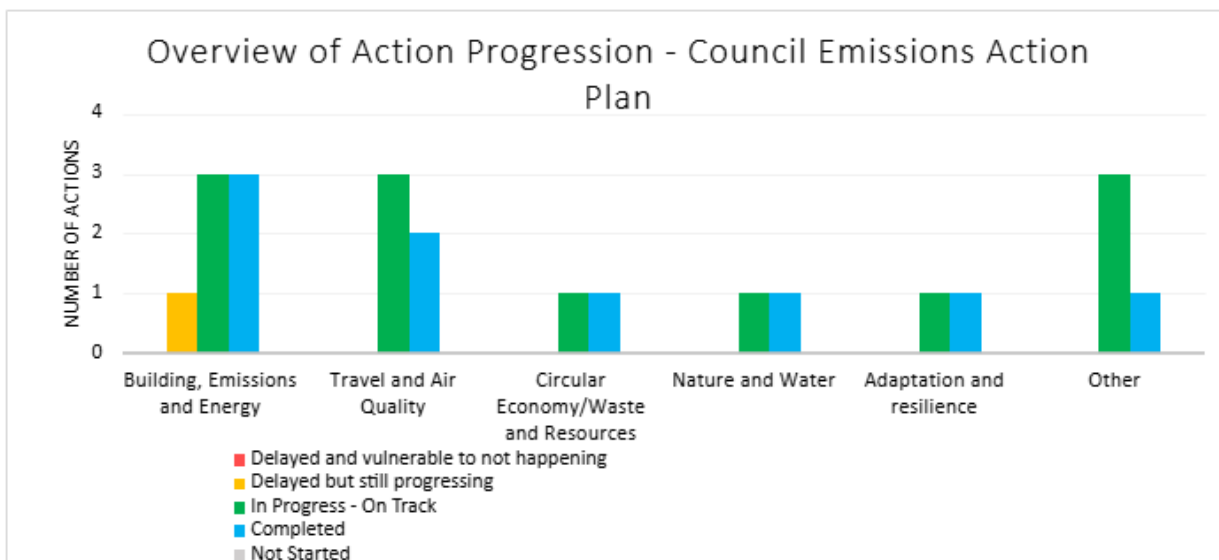
2.18 For the pavilions, through ongoing improvements and adjustments in use, officers have assumed an annual reduction of 2.26kg.

2.19 Officers currently forecast that by 2030, the Council will need to offset approximately 1600t CO2e if it wishes to reach net-zero by that year. The principles on which the council could do this in a meaningful way are currently

being developed collectively across Hertfordshire and in conjunction with the University of Hertfordshire.

2.20 The Council’s progress on delivering its Climate Emergency and Sustainability Action plan, can be seen in the Climate Action Plan at Appendix 1, and the summary shown in Figure 6.

2.21 Figure 6



2.22 Three new actions have been added to the council plan; produce a Heat Decarbonisation Plan for William Penn Leisure Centre and car park, install Solar Panels on William Penn Leisure Centre, and reduce food miles and encourage local food production and a sense of community for staff by developing a staff community garden for their own consumption and suppliers for the local food bank. (Rows 6, 7, and 19. Appendix 1). Of the 22 actions, 1 is delayed but still progressing, 12 are in progress and on-track, 9 have been completed, and 0 delayed and vulnerable to not happening, not started, or retired.

2.23 The delivery highlights for the past 6 months are:

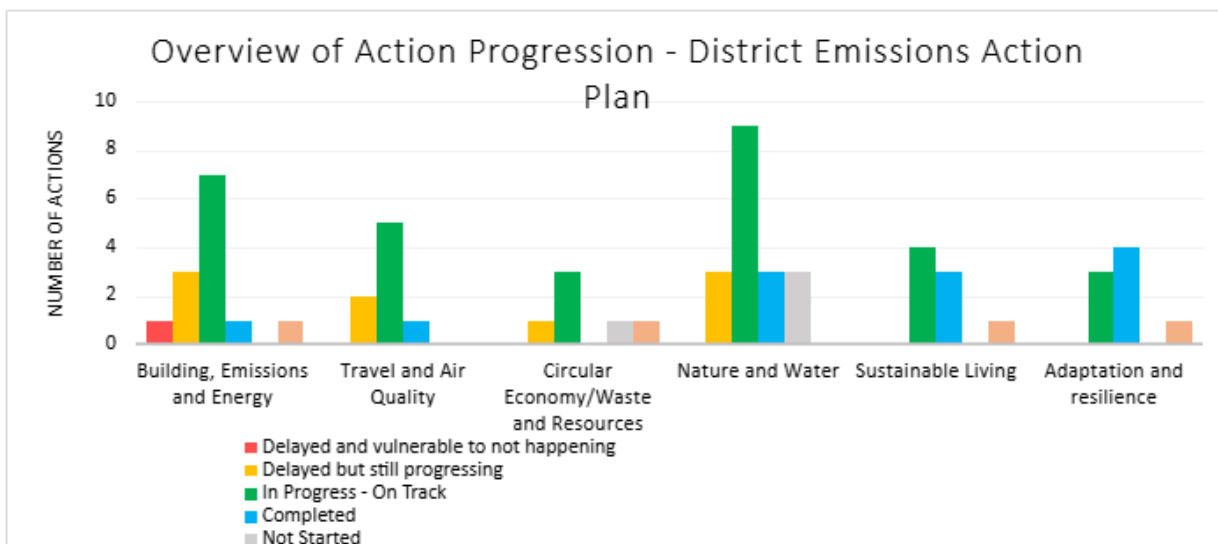
- Having secured external funding, 500 Solar Panels have been installed on William Penn Leisure centre, supplying 5% of energy requirement so far, with 25% expected over the year.
- Supported by TRDC, GUCE secured £40,000 feasibility funding to assess the suitability of William Penn Leisure Centre, South Oxhey Leisure Centre, Causeway House, Community Way, Three Rivers House, Three Rivers Rose Garden, and Rickmansworth Aquadrome car parks for community-funded solar canopies. The study concluded in December 2024 and the results of this study, and recommendations were taken to CMT on 4th February.
- Using OZEV funding 6 EVCP are currently being installed at Three Rivers House.

2.24 District Emissions

2.25 District emissions have not changed since the last update as they are measured annually.

2.26 Appendix 1 shows the detail on progress on district actions, with a summary below in Figure 7.

2.27 Figure 7



2.28 Two new actions have been added to the district plan; one to explore the potential to trial a Transition Streets group for TRDC staff members. The second, funded by the Fast Followers project, to undertake a "community conversations" exercise with Involve. This will provide a detailed understanding of the views of residents and produce a positive vision for how the Council can respond to climate change locally in a way that improves the district and aligns with local peoples' priorities. The exercise will seek to engage marginalised and under-represented communities in Three Rivers. (Rows 51 and 58. Appendix 1)). Of the 57 actions, 1 is delayed and vulnerable to not happening, 9 are delayed but still progressing, 3 in progress and on-track, 12 are completed, and 4 are not started, and 4 are retired.

2.29 The delivery highlights the past 6 months are:

- The third round of Solar Together has launched and is seeking registrations. Currently 248 residents have registered, and we are ranking 4th in Hertfordshire for applicants. To date on Solar Together round 1 and 2, 93 installations have completed totalling 868 panels, and 83 batteries with 71.6 tonnes of carbon dioxide saved.
- 12 local SMEs have been selected to receive £130,000 of UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) to improve sustainability of their buildings. Contracts are signed and work is underway. The projects focus on variety of approved measures including Solar PV, insulation, and LED lighting.
- SHDF (Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund) Wave 2 - 99 installs completed, with remainder due to complete by March 2025. Up to 121 socially rented homes owned by Thrive are being retrofitted with external wall insulation.

- Using funding secured from ORCS and CIL, work has begun to install Electric Vehicle Charging Points in 10 carparks across the district.
- Beryl Bike scheme launched in October 24 has reached over 1000 trips.
- A shared Repair Cafe is being established in the District by Sarratt, Chorleywood and Croxley Green. Volunteers are currently being sought and the Repair Cafe will rotate between the three areas on a monthly basis.
- 6 Inches of Soil documentary screening with a panel discussion was attended by over 250 people at Watersmeet Theatre
- £7960 has been awarded to community organisations through the Three Rivers Sustainability Grant for 2024/25 to date. Projects have included clearing litter at Hunton Bridge, improving biodiversity outside Kings Langley station, rainwater harvesting in South Oxhey allotments and Sarratt community garden, insulation and LED lighting at the Henderson Hub and the training of Home Energy Champions.
- Officers have submitted a Stage 1 bid for £1.5m funds from the National Lottery’s Climate Action Fund for projects in collaboration with Watford and Dacorum Borough Councils that aim to help communities tackle climate change and be environmentally sustainable. The outcome of the Stage 1 application is due Spring 2025, and if successful, we will be invited to apply to Stage 2. TRDC is the lead Authority on the bid.
- Funding has been secured and engagement commenced in relation to habitat improvements and bank enhancements on the River Chess at Scotsbridge, Rickmansworth. This section of the river is a former mill stream, raised above the level of the flood plain, which makes it particularly vulnerable to bank erosion. This project will help protect and restore this stretch of the riverbank. Plans include restoring the river using in-channel natural features, creating habitats along the bank and therefore preventing further erosion. Tree works will open the river to sunlight, allowing vegetation to thrive, and gravel augmentation areas will alleviate the pressure of the river on the bank.
- Completion of the Natural Heritage Networks project of the Aquadrome Programme, funded by the National Lottery Fund. This included the commencement of the Hydrological Study to understand how water moves around the site and how this can best be managed; a suite of ecological studies to understand the habitat mosaic and species diversity present on site with recommendations on how to manage the site accordingly.

2.30 At budget setting in February 2023 members agreed to support climate change activities with a further £75,000 in the current financial year. This funding has been invaluable in unlocking additional sources of funds, and for funding specialist consultancy support

2.31 Figure 8 is a table of expenditure and planned expenditure on the additional sustainability budget as at 9/09/24

Figure 8

	Expenditure	Funds secured/aiming for	Status
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Additional Budget	£75,000		
Support for Community Energy application for exploration of solar canopies on 7 council car parks	£2,700	£40,000	Secured
William Penn Low Carbon Skills Funds Application	£1,350	£49,995	Secured
Consultancy support funds to ensure Draft Local Plan Sustainability Funds are as robust as possible.	£24,871	N/A	Completed
Support for William Penn Decarbonisation plan - ultimately to submit application public sector decarbonisation scheme	£9,900	£500,000	Aim to apply Oct.'25
Support For National Lottery Application	£3,850	£1,500,000	Outcome expected spring '25
Application for Investment Readiness Scheme Grant to support William Penn Decarbonisation Plan	£1,350	£75,000	Outcome expected spring '25
Cavity Wall Insulation installation for Three Rivers House and Watersmeet - supported by UKSPF, OBC and Watersmeet budget	£18,350	£65,950	Outcome expected Feb'25
	£62,371	£2,230,945	

3 Options and Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.0 The Council declared a climate emergency and agreed a strategy in 2023 as noted above. This update is to advise the Council on the progress which is being made towards the delivery of the strategy.
- 3.1 The recommendations in this report relate to and support the achievement of the following objectives within the Corporate Framework 2023 – 2026:
- 3.2 Achieve net carbon zero and be climate resilient
- 3.3 Expand our position as a great place to do business
- 3.4 Support and enable sustainable communities
- 3.5 Provide responsive and responsible local leadership

4 Policy/Budget Reference and Implications

- 4.1 Most actions are achievable within existing budgets; however, some will require additional funding. In these instances individual business cases will be developed to seek the required funding, or where possible external grants applied for.
- 4.2 The recommendations in this report relate to the achievement of the following performance indicators.

- CP50 District carbon emissions reported as tCO_{2e} equivalent.
- CP52 Council Operations Carbon emissions reported as tCO_{2e} equivalent.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.0 All actions are either covered within existing budgets or will be managed by separate reports to committee, growth bids or external grants, subject to additional research and development.
- 5.1 The Net Zero Living programme for Fast Followers has enabled the exploration of multiple sources of funding for the decarbonisation of the core council buildings. This includes grants and borrowing arising from community funding, public-private partnerships, and more traditional sources such as the UK Infrastructure Bank loans.

6 Legal Implications

- 6.0 The recommendations in this report are fully in line with the expectations on local authorities to take local action on climate change contained in the Climate Change Act 2008.
- 6.1 Several projects involved in the delivery of the Action Plan will require contract preparation and approval.
- 6.2 All elements of the Action Plan will need to be considered alongside the Council's legal duties and powers.

7 Staffing Implications

- 7.0 As the plan indicates, all service areas across the Local Authority are and will be involved with the delivery of the Action Plan. Service areas are supported by the council's dedicated Climate Change and Sustainability Team who lead the overall strategy and plan.

8 Equal Opportunities Implications

- 8.0 A Short Equality Impact and Outcome Assessment has been completed and can be found at Appendix 3. There are no negative impacts identified as arising from the proposals within the Action Plan. Equality Impact Assessments will be carried out for specific actions and proposals on a project-by-project basis.

9 Climate Change and Sustainability Implications

- 9.0 The Climate Emergency and Sustainability Action Plan proposed in this report will support the Council and District to reduce emissions to net-zero carbon and increase sustainability across a wide range of areas. Furthermore, the Action Plan will support the mitigation the impacts of the Climate Emergency.
- 9.1 A sustainability impact assessment can be found at Appendix 4 resulting in a score of 3.8

Climate and Sustainability Impact Assessment Summary	
Homes, buildings, infrastructure, equipment, and energy	3.75

Travel	3.33
Goods and Consumption	4.00
Ecology	4.00
Adaptation	3.50
Engagement and Influence	4
Total Overall Average Score	3.8

10 Community Safety Implications

- 10.0 Achieving the actions in this Action Plan will improve community safety across the district through reducing the risks associated with the Climate Emergency, including wildfires, floods, and heatwaves.

11 Public Health implications

- 11.0 The Action Plan should contribute to a prevention of deterioration of health and well-being issues arising from the consequences of climate change such as overheating, skin cancers, decline in productivity, and respiratory illnesses. Improvements in Home Energy Efficiency through retrofit work will improve environmental quality within homes and reduce energy bills, thereby assisting in reduction of financial anxiety related to household bills and benefitting physical health by improving the warmth and air quality within homes and preventing damp and mould.

12 Customer Services Centre Implications

- 12.0 The customer service centre will be expected to answer straightforward questions regarding projects as they progress for which they will either receive training or be able to find answers on the website.

13 Communications and Website Implications

- 13.0 The website is crucial to this strategy as the repository for the information regarding all relevant projects and initiatives.
- 13.1 The district emissions ambition in the strategy demonstrates the need for sustained engagement with the residents, businesses, and communities in the district to encourage a shift to more sustainable behaviours. The climate change team works closely with the communications team and will continue to do so.
- 13.2 Briefings are held with members as required to optimise the chances of success of the various initiatives.

13.3 Active engagement will continue to be essential with the Local Strategic Partnership, parish councils, schools, resident associations, housing associations, activist, and conservation groups.

14 Risk and Health & Safety Implications

14.0 The Council has agreed its risk management strategy which can be found on the website at <http://www.threerivers.gov.uk> with the climate emergency listed as a strategic risk.

14.1 The subject of this report is covered by the Climate and Sustainability service plan. Any risks resulting from this report will be included in the risk register and, if necessary, managed within this/these plan(s).

Nature of Risk	Consequence	Suggested Control Measures	Response	Risk Rating
The Council fails to act to reduce its' CO2 emissions	The Council Net Zero target of 2030, Corporate Framework net zero carbon theme and requirements of the Climate and Emergency Sustainability Strategy are unlikely to be met unless a co-ordinated programme of activity is implemented. And importantly the Council will not be addressing the Climate Emergency and thus will contribute further to the increase in global warming and its' consequences.	For the Committee to note and continue to provide a mandate for officers to progress the actions identified.	Treat	6

14.2 In the officer's opinion the risk that the Council fails to act to reduce its emissions would seriously prejudice the achievement of the Strategic Plan and therefore presents a strategic risk.

14.3 Recommendation

14.4 That:

Climate Change, Leisure and Housing Committee note the progress being made towards the delivery of the Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy 2024-2027, and support officers to continue their progress in accordance with the Action Plan.

Report prepared by: Elen Dolder Climate Change, Sustainability and Recycling Officer, & Joanna Hewitson Climate and Sustainability Strategy Officer.

Background Papers

None

APPENDICES / ATTACHMENTS

Appendix 1: LIVE Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy Action Plan 2024 - 2027

Appendix 2: TRDC Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy 2023 - 2027

Appendix 3: Climate Emergency and Sustainability Action Plan 2024 - 2027 Short Equality Impact and Outcome Assessment

Appendix 4: Climate Emergency and Sustainability ACTION Plan 2024 - 2027 Climate and Sustainability Impact Assessment

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Three Rivers District Council Climate Emergency and Sustainability Action Plan 2024 -2027

Council's Operational Emissions

Theme	Action	Target	Lead department and partners	Budget	Completion date(s):	Progress	Status of Action
Buildings, Emissions and Energy	Monitoring and reporting progress of the climate action plan including the development a visual demonstration of progress on the Climate Action Plans for the District and Council	Net-zero emissions for council operations by 2030	Customer Service Centre , Climate Change Team, LASER, Wave and Utility companies	N/A	Visual demonstration April 2024. Monitoring and reporting to be done annually.	Have improved the accuracy of utility readings and developed a sustainable process for data collection. Reprocured water supplier to improve accuracy, cost and responsiveness of supplier. Action Plan tracker now on website. Action is complete and is now business as usual.	Completed
Buildings, Emissions and Energy	Produce building decarbonisation action plan with a timeline and agreed actions as to when the core council buildings will be decarbonised & how this could be financed, including Three Rivers House, Watersmeet Theatre, William Penn & South Oxhey Leisure Centres, and the Fairway Inn.	Net-zero emissions for council operations by 2030	Climate Change & Sustainability Customer and Community Property Phil Whiting Consulting Finance, Parking and Projects, Grand Union Community Energy (GUCE)	Fast Followers Funding, Existing budgets, Public Sector Decarbonisation Skills Fund (where possible)	Core Building finance decarbonisation plan completed June '25	Draft Decarbonisation Plan for the 6 TRDC core buildings was presented to senior leadership October '24. It proposed a blend of financing retrofits using grants, borrowing arising from community funds, and public / private agreements. The timeline was designed around the boiler replacement dates and stretches from 2025 through to 2045. The prgramme for WPLC is underway (see below) and we are reviewing the business case for a large solar installtion on South Oxhey Leisure Centre (January 2025 JH)	In Progress - On Track
Buildings, Emissions and Energy	NEW: Produce a Heat Decarbonisation Plan for William Penn Leisure Centre and car park. (This action is a key component of the above plan).	Net-zero emissions for council operations by 2030	Climate Change & Sustainability , Leisure & Natural Infrastructure, Appointed consultant Tomsons	£49,950 from Public Sector Decarbonisation Skills Fund	Mar-25	Technical design ready for review by 13/1/25. Review of technical design complete by 3/2/25. Draft HDP complete by 17/2/25. Final HDP report submitted and project complete by 28/2/25. Inestment Readiness Grant from the Net Zero Hub (max &75k) has bee applied for to take the output of this decarbonisation plan forward to investment grade businessplan. (January 2025 JH) https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/rbomwcvx74c41ajqb77qk/William-Penn-Solar-Panels-V1.mp4?rlkey=jy83xwh0shxebkm7gv2gfjuho&e=1&st=26se7urj&dl=0 (January '25 JH)	In Progress - On Track
Buildings, Emissions and Energy	NEW: Install Solar Panels on William Penn Leisure Centre	Net-zero emissions for council operations by 2030	Leisure & Natural Infrastructure ,	Externally funded by Sport England	December 2024	A 220kWp system consisting of 500 solar panels was installed and went live on 28/11/24. To date (December '24) the sytem has supplied 4% of the electrical requirement, and it is antcipated to prvide 25% over the year. Bills saving to date £630. https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/rbomwcvx74c41ajqb77qk/William-Penn-Solar-Panels-V1.mp4?rlkey=jy83xwh0shxebkm7gv2gfjuho&e=1&st=26se7urj&dl=0 (January '25 JH)	Completed

Buildings, Emissions and Energy	Establish the principles for carbon offsetting / inseting for the council.	Net-zero emissions for council operations by 2030	Climate Change & Sustainability, Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership (HCCSP), University of Hertfordshire (UH), Local Government Association (LGA)	In existing Budget	1st draft expected from UH in December '24 Aiming for October'25 to report to committee	TRDC have prepared a draft strategy and carbon calculator - this and other research papers are being reviewed by University of Hertfordshire. In parallel, officers are working with the Local Government Association to share ideas and develop protocols. Projet delayed slightly delayed as UH have not been presented at year end as planned.(January '25 JH)	Delayed but still progressing
Buildings, Emissions and Energy	Explore renewable energy projects on car parks owned by the council with consideration of using community energy financing.	Net-zero emissions for council operations by 2030	Climate Change & Sustainability, Grand Union Community Energy (GUCE) are the lead, TRDC Transport, Property, Leisure, Legal. Apointed technical and legal Consultants.	£40,000 Funding secured from the Greater South East Net Zero Hub's Community Energy Fund.	CEF Stage 1 completes March 2025. Draft report target date December 2024.	Supported by TRDC, GUCE secured £40,000 feasibility funding to assess the suitability of William Penn Leisure Centre, South Oxhey Leisure Centre, Causeway House, Community Way, Three Rivers House, Three Rivers Rose Garden, and Rickmansworth Aquadrome car parks for community-funded solar canopies. The study concluded in December 2024 and the results of this study, and recommendations will be taken to CMT on 4th February. (January 25 EN)	Completed
Buildings, Emissions and Energy	Require the integration of net-zero aligned design and construction methods and materials, including renewable energy, within any new council developments and existing assets, and (where possible) within public and private sector developments.	Enable and inspire the district to achieve net-zero emissions by 2045	Property, Development Management, Watford Community Housing	£4.5m from Local Authority Housing Fund	26-Dec	TRDC intends to use Local Authority Housing Fund to redevelop three former garage sites for affordable housing. The Council aims for the homes to be over 60% more effecient than the requirements set out in Part L Building Standards, with the intention that the properties will be net zero ready and utilise net-zero aligned construction methods where possible.	In Progress - On Track
Travel and Air Quality	Monitor staff travel trends through the staff survey and encourage change through internal newsletter	Net-zero emissions for council operations by 2030	Transport & Parking Projects	In existing budget	Sep-24	Questions were included in the staff survey 2024 and these will form the base line for subsequent years. Initial exploratory work to develop a Sustainable Travel Plan for council officers is underway. A further EV focussed staff questionnaire circulated in September 2024 helped officers understand demand for the installation of EV infrastructure on site. (January 25 TR)	Completed

Travel and Air Quality	Investigate and implement EV charging in selected Council owned car parks	Net-zero emissions for council operations by 2030	Regulatory Services, Property	External Government funding via ORCS and/or LEVI funding. Commerical model options. CIL monies identified.	Apr-25	HCC have been provided LEVI funding for on-street residential EVCPs and are working to identify locations and appoint the Charge Point Operator. The tender will be launched before the 24th February 2025. TRDC have been awarded OZEV funding to enable EVCP installation in town centre car parks. TRDC has appointed Blink Charging as the Charge Point Operator who will install, maintain and contribute to the cost of EVCPs in town centre and visitor destination car parks. Installations will begin January 2025 through to April 2025. Three Rivers House installation is underway with four 7.4kW chargers and two 50kW chargers.	In Progress - On Track
Travel and Air Quality	Embed anti-idling policy for council vehicles	Net-zero emissions for council operations by 2030	Environmental Protection, Leisure and Landscapes, Property	In existing budget	Apr-24	Information has been included in the revised driver hand book which was distributed to drivers in Autumn 2024. Messaging on anti-idling are scheduled annually to all drivers as part of a clean air day (June annually) as part of BAU. (December '24 TR)	Completed
Travel and Air Quality	Explore procuring Ultra-low Emission vehicle (ULEV) and Electric Vehicle (EV) salary sacrifice scheme	Net-zero emissions for council operations by 2030	HR	In existing budget	October '25	After thorough market evaluation, Octopus has been identified as the preferred supplier. WBC is the lead authority for HR and Payroll, a detailed proposal has been drafted and is currently under review by their Section 151 Officer and the Legal Department. Once approval received from both the Section 151 Officer and the Legal Department, the proposal will be reviewed by Corporate Management Teams (CMT) for final approval. Upon receiving the approvals, scheme can be fully operational within four weeks.(August 2024) - This has now been approved by WBC. The next step is to send to the S151 at TRDC for reveiw and to ensure the council is happy to agree to the checks required. If so, a paper will be taken to CMT on 4/2/25 for CMT approval. (January 25 LP)	In Progress - On Track

Travel and Air Quality	Establish a route to zero for the council fleet as part of a 5 year fleet procurement plan	Net-zero emissions for council operations by 2030	Environmental Protection, Facilities, Leisure and Landscapes	Existing facilities and climate change budgets.	Apr-25	<p>Electric charging points have been installed at the new Depot. The fleet contains four electric vans used by Enforcement and Animal Welfare Licensing Officers and the Leisure team. New refuse collection vehicles are Euro 6 which is the cleanest technology available. Carbon is embedded in vehicles we own, so only to be replaced with low carbon technology when replacements are needed. It is currently not feasible to change waste collection vehicles to electric as significant investment is needed in the depot and local grid infrastructure to accommodate the fleet. Onsite works will be progressed as part of the CIL funded works in Q3 and Q4 2024-5 but further investment will be needed to ensure local grid capacity and to cover the additional costs of electric refuse fleet which are significantly more expensive and more costly to maintain than their diesel equivalents. (August '24)</p> <p>External support also engaged to provide support in sourcing a new vehicle maintenance provider from July 2026. Options will also assess suitability of current depot to store alternative fuels.</p> <p>Any resulting tender for maintenance provision will include a requirement for most climate friendly plant and equipment such as electric lifting equipments etc. Options appraisal completed and is being considered. Meeting arranged with neighbouring authority to look a shared maintenance provision. (Jan 2025 CT)</p>	In Progress - On Track
Circular Economy/Waste and Resources	Increase recycling and reduce waste production by staff and visitors across the 6 core council buildings.	Improve circular economy	Facilities	In existing budgets	March 2025 for improved signage. Education and awareness ongoing	<p>Due to lack of officer resource, this project has been delayed and will be re-commenced in 2025.</p> <p>Waste and recycling signage is awaiting installation in Three Rivers House, The HIVE, Watersmeet Theatre staff areas and The Depot. (January 25 ED)</p>	In Progress - On Track
Circular Economy/Waste and Resources	Review the procurement and IT strategies to ensure IT and furniture reuse, repair and recycling are embedded.	Improve circular economy	Facilities, ICT	Existing facilities budget.	Mar-24	<p>When disposing of redundant ICT equipment, ICT use Stone computers, who are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ADISA Accredited - Cyber Essentials Plus Certified - Valpak Zero Waste to Landfill Certified <p>Through the procurement process it will be stated that no waste should go to landfill and that any recycling facilities owned or used by the vendor have relevant accreditations from the Environment Agency.</p> <p>This is an ongoing action and disposal of redundant equipment occurs throughout the year. (January '25 ET)</p>	Completed

Nature and Water	Compliance with Biodiversity Duty as per the Environment Act 2021	Improve biodiversity and/or water quality	Leisure & Landscapes, Herts County Council, Friends of Groups, Grounds Maintenance, Development Management & Planning	Existing budgets, Officer time, grant funding	First consideration made by Jan 2025, report due by January 2026 and then ongoing	Three Rivers Biodiversity Policy agreed at Full Council in July. This now transitions to business as usual fulfilling legislative obligations (August '24)	Completed
Nature and Water	NEW Reducing food miles and encouraging local food production and a sense of community for staff by developing a staff community garden for their own consumption and suppliers for the local food bank	Enable and inspire the district to achieve net-zero emissions by 2045	Digital Communications Dig Deep	None	Sept '25	Exploration of interest in the development of a staff allotment at Dig Deep South Oxhey to enable staff to grow their own vegetables with excess being donated to local food banks. Expressions of interest being requested to determine viability in January '25. (CH Jan '25)	In Progress - On Track
Adaptation and resilience	Implementation of the further actions arising from the risk register for adaptation and resilience against the impacts of climate change	Build a climate resilient council adaptable to climate change.	Strategy and Partnerships	N/A	Annually as part of Service Planning process	The adaptation and resilience risk register is currently being reviewed and updated in advance of final service plans being agreed at full council on 25th February 2025. All service plans have a link to the risk registers now which means registers can be updated and reviewed more regularly. (January 25 RY)	In Progress - On Track
Adaptation and resilience	Monitor progress of resilience in service plans	Build a climate resilient council adaptable to climate change.	Strategy and Partnerships all Service areas	In existing budgets	Bi-annual reporting	The adaptation and resilience risk register is reviewed annually in the service plans with the next update spring '25. This action has been marked as complete as it is BAU going forward (JH Jan '25)	Completed
Other	Implement Procurement Strategy which ensures purchasing decisions align with the Council's Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy.	Net-zero emissions for council operations by 2030	Procurement	N/A	Ongoing	Procurement Strategy was adopted by P&R Committee December 2023. Process will be embedded into forthcoming IT procurement as existing staff computers are coming to end of life.	Completed
Other	Review staff benefits package connected to sustainability and publicise.	Net-zero emissions for council operations by 2030	Human Resources, Strategy and Partnerships	N/A	July '25	After thorough evaluation, Octopus identified as preferred supplier for EV car salary sacrifice scheme. As WBC is the lead authority for HR and Payroll, a detailed proposal has been drafted and is currently under review by the Section 151 Officer and the Legal Department. Once approval from both the Section 151 Officer and the Legal Department, the proposal will be circulated to the respective Corporate Management Boards (CMB) and Corporate Management Teams (CMT) for final approval. Upon receiving the necessary approvals, we anticipate that the scheme can be fully operational within four weeks. Update - WBC have approved. Next steps will be for the S151 to review proposal and ensure compliance and governance meets the requirements for TRDC. The paper will then be shared with CMT on the 4/2/25 for approval. Bike to work scheme to be promoted to staff to encourage uptake in Autumn '24. (September '24) (January 25 LP)	In Progress - On Track

Other	Embed specialist staff training relating to climate change and sustainability, relevant to employee roles, into Performance Development Reviews.	Net-zero emissions for council operations by 2030	Climate Change & Sustainability, HR	Within existing budgets	Jul-26	Mandatory training now in place for all staff. Carbon Literacy training booked for all Heads of Service and relevant managers for March / April 2025. 8 planning officers attending specialist planning training 28/1/25 (December 24)	In Progress - On Track
Other	Review and prepare a plan to reduce emissions from power tools and other council owned machinery.	Net-zero emissions for council operations by 2030	Environmental Protection	In existing budget	Ongoing	Environment Protection has had a replacement cycle incorporating electric tools since 2022, however performance and cost effectiveness is under review and each new purchase will take these aspects into account. (January 2025)	In Progress - On Track

Three Rivers District Council

Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy 2023-2027

*Three Rivers
'enabling
and inspiring
sustainable
communities'*



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Foreword



Climate change and biodiversity destruction are the defining challenges of our time

Climate change and biodiversity destruction are the defining challenges of our time, posing an undeniable threat to communities, ecosystems, and economies across the world. The council's declaration of a "climate emergency" in 2019 recognised the urgent need to address the problem of a rapidly changing climate and avoid the dire consequences of inaction.

Since the council's original Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy was published in 2021, the effects of climate change have continued to manifest across the globe. The world's oceans were the hottest ever recorded in 2022, and arctic sea ice shrunk to its fifth-lowest maximum on record. Meanwhile, June 2023 was confirmed as the hottest June in the UK since records began in 1884, and July saw the world's hottest day with heatwaves across many parts of Europe, Asia, and the USA.

This year (2023), record-breaking wildfires have devastated parts of Greece, Spain, Portugal, Tenerife, Canada, Hawaii, Chile, and Russia exposing millions of people to toxic air pollution, while torrential rainfall, landslides, and deadly flooding impacted Italy, India, South Sudan, Libya, and the United States. We must take bold and decisive action to limit the extent of global heating and safeguard the

health of our planet and the wellbeing of all its inhabitants.

This update to the Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy renews the council's resolve to address the climate and ecological crises we face at a local level, and create a more sustainable, fair, and prosperous district for current and future generations.

Transitioning to a low-carbon, climate-resilient society is not without its challenges –volatile political landscapes, inconsistent national policy, economic austerity, technological uncertainties, infrastructure and supply chain constraints, resistance to behavioural change and misinformation, all hinder the attainment of net-zero. But it will also unlock a host of economic, technological, and societal opportunities which we must seize.

We cannot address a planetary scale, collective action problem alone. All of us – national and local government, business and industry, communities, voluntary organisations, households, and individuals – have a role to play in addressing a challenge of this magnitude and complexity.

The scale of the crisis can seem overwhelming, and we often hear that actions at the individual

Foreword



Climate change and biodiversity destruction are the defining challenges of our time

level are futile, or that the largest polluters should act first. However, the Office for National Statistics Environmental Accounts show that households are bigger emitters of greenhouse gases than any industry sector in the UK!

As my own blog has demonstrated on the smallest change to a weekly lifestyle such as the food we decide to put on our plate or the way we choose to travel, can have sizable impacts on our individual footprint yet do not diminish the quality of our lives at all.

Indeed, the things we consume account for more than 50% of household emissions, and what we choose to consume is frequently within our control as individuals and households. The updated Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy acknowledges that the council has a role to play in empowering and informing

residents to make more sustainable choices, but ultimately, the power to act rests with each of you.

By working together, we can realise a Three Rivers where clean energy powers our buildings and transport, homes are energy-efficient and comfortable, nature is respected, protected, and enhanced, resources are consumed consciously, and a circular economy is embraced, the air we breathe is clean and safe, and our food systems are regenerative and sustainable.

I hope you will join us at this critical juncture in rising to the challenge of net zero and creating a thriving low-carbon future.

Introduction



Net Zero

Can be achieved through a combination of emission reduction and emission removal

This document is the Three Rivers District Council (TRDC) Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy. The original strategy was written in 2021 in response to the council's declaration of a "climate emergency", and this updated version has been produced to reflect changes at an international, national, and local level, to policy, technology, and experience.

Since declaring a "climate emergency" in 2019, the council has worked to reduce its own emissions, whilst encouraging and enabling others to reduce their emissions, improve sustainability and resilience to the effects of climate change, to enable the council to achieve net-zero carbon for its own emissions by 2030, and support the district in reaching net-zero carbon by 2045.

This strategy focuses on what the council and its partners are doing and plan to do within the parameters of the current legal, financial, regulatory, and technological frameworks, under which we must operate to deliver substantial carbon emission reductions.

The Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy 2023-2027 is the detailed work behind the council's Corporate Framework where one of the council's four overarching objectives is to strive towards net-zero and be climate resilient.

The strategy is supported by an Action Plan which details quantifiable, short-, medium- and long-term actions needed to meet our aims and is updated continuously and reviewed bi-annually by the Climate Change, Leisure, and Community Committee. The Council's progress addressing the climate emergency can be followed on the website [here](#).

The need to reduce emissions, while adapting and building resilience to the effects of climate change, remain the most urgent tasks of our time. Mitigation is necessary to limit the extent of global temperature rise and the severity of its impacts, however it is also critical to adapt to the impacts of climate change that we are already experiencing.

Our ability to reach net zero is greatly dependent on national and international action and policy on climate change. Addressing the planetary scale problem of climate change requires urgent and strong top-down leadership, and global collective action.

Net zero refers to the balance between the amount of greenhouse gas that is produced and the amount that is removed from the atmosphere. Net Zero can be achieved through a combination of emission reductions and emission removal.

Measuring Emissions



Measuring emissions

Emissions can be divided into three “Scopes”, described below.

Scope 1

Direct emissions

Resulting from vehicles, fuel use, and/or chemical leakage (Which for council operations includes gas and emissions from council owned vehicles).



Scope 2

Indirect emissions

Are associated with purchased electricity.



Scope 3

Other indirect emissions

Other indirect emissions which occur in the value chain of a company and are not already included with Scope 2, such as those from purchased goods and services, transport, or business travel. (Which for council operations includes water, business miles, and leased leisure facilities).



Scope 3 emissions are complicated, extensive, far-reaching and are very difficult to measure accurately with no consistent methodology currently in use. Therefore, only limited Scope 3 emissions will be included in the council's emissions measurements, such as the leased-out leisure services, but not the wider supply chain, enabling the council to compare the emissions like-for-like each year. However, work continues to be done to reduce Scope 3 emissions and improve sustainability of the council and district despite only a limited range being included in council carbon targets.

Council operational emissions



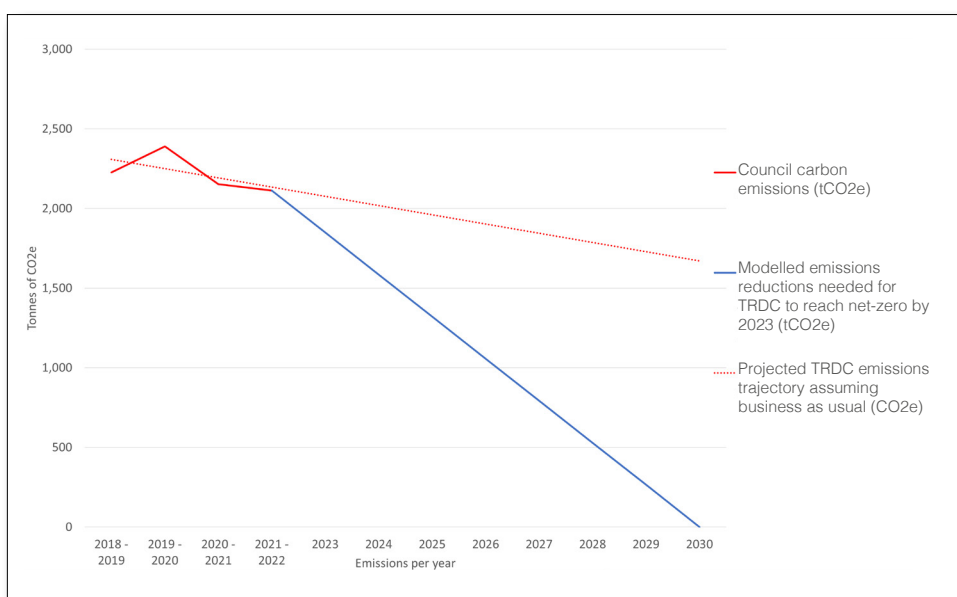
Net-zero carbon by 2030

A reduction of 264t CO₂e/year on average is needed.

Achieving net-zero CO₂e is a huge challenge and will require a reduction of 264t CO₂e/year on average. [The Association for Public Service Excellence](#) (APSE)'s Carbon Trajectory Report 2022 estimated the cost to decarbonise the Council would be £19million at 2022 prices, with an annual saving of £160,000 per year. This presents a significant financial barrier to achieving our 2030 net-zero ambition. To explore possible solutions the council has

secured funding from Innovate UK's Net Zero Living Programme to research the use of innovative sources of finance, including community and private finance, to fund decarbonisation activities. This is a two year project and will be explored fully during the course of the Action Plan which will run alongside this strategy.

Figure 1 Modelled trajectory of our ambition to achieve net zero by 2030



This Figure shows the measured emissions generated by the council between April 2018 – March 2020 with a trajectory showing emissions to 2030. The dotted line shows a business-as-usual trajectory, and the blue line demonstrates that active interventions are required to meet net zero by 2030.

The council measures and publishes its own emissions annually in accordance with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol and uses conversion factors for the carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e).

Three Rivers District Emissions

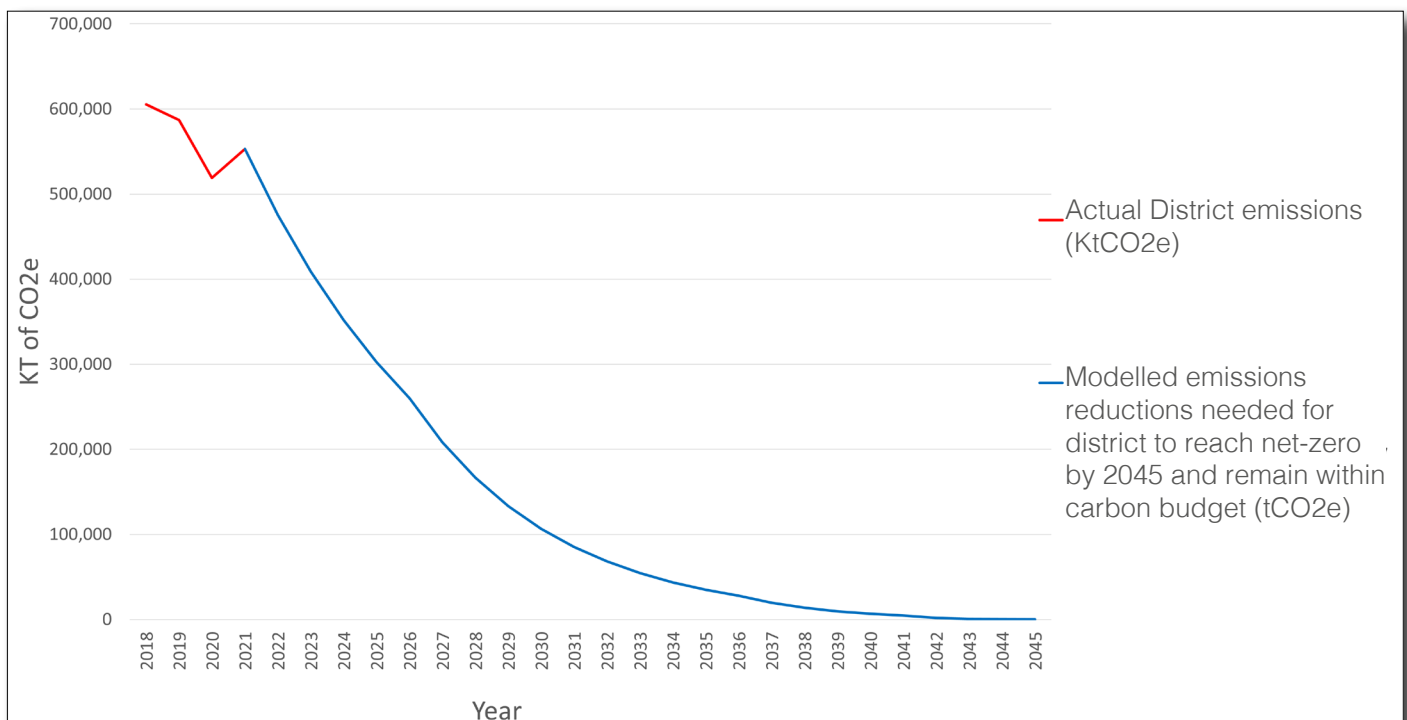


Net-zero carbon by 2045 for the district will require a reduction of 14% annually.

The district will need to reduce emissions by a minimum of 14% annually¹ for the next 5 years to make its fair contribution to the Paris Climate Change agreement.

The figure below shows measured carbon emissions for the District taken from ONS data from 2005 – 2021², and the estimated rate of emissions reductions needed to meet net-zero by 2045 and remain within our carbon budget.

Figure 2 Trajectory Ambition to achieve net zero for the district 2045



The council measures and publishes its own emissions annually in accordance with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol and uses conversion factors for the carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO2e). **Page 58**

Reaching net-zero together



Working together

Key stakeholders to lead, enable and inspire.

•GOV

Local Authorities and Government

Stakeholders

Central Government, Hertfordshire County Council, Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership, Three Rivers District Council.

Key roles

Lead by example by reducing emissions and changing internal practices to be more sustainable .

Enable all to reduce emissions through the policy framework and lobbying, accessing sources of funding, educational and networking support.

Inspire all to reduce emissions and change behaviours through knowledge sharing.

Key areas of influence

Own operations – Reduce emissions associated with the council's estate, fleet, and service provisions.

Policy and strategy – Planning, land management, waste and recycling, transport management, and community services.



Community and voluntary organisations

Stakeholders

Community and voluntary organisations such as conservation groups, community energy groups, environmental advocacy groups, faith groups, residents associations, and charities.

Key roles

Engagement – Trusted source to inspire behaviour change and deliver action and projects in the community.

Key influence areas

Community projects – Community projects with local social benefits that make use of economies of scale e.g. community energy and community gardens.

Reaching net-zero together



Working together

Businesses, organisations and residents.



Businesses and organisations

Stakeholders

NHS/healthcare providers, schools, independent businesses, national chains, suppliers, Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), Local Strategic Partnership, Parish and Community Councils, Greater South-East Net-Zero Hub, District Council Network, UK100, Local Enterprise Partnership, Innovate UK, Healthy Hubs

Key roles

Networks – share best practice and knowledge.

Sponsorship – Sponsoring, funding, and supporting community projects.

Engagement – Engage with staff, customers, and suppliers to inspire sustainable choices.

Key influence areas

Buildings – Improve energy efficiency and incorporate renewable energy technologies.

Travel – Use sustainable modes of transport for movement of goods and people.

Production/consumption – Reduce emissions associated with production of products.

Supply chain – Addressing and reducing supply chain emissions and waste.



Residents

Key roles

Behaviour change – Changes to consumption and lifestyle to reduce carbon footprint.

Lobbying – Vote, ask local representatives for change and engage with local decision making.

Engagement – Communicate and share knowledge and skills within your community/network and engage businesses, organisations and community groups to support and drive change.

Key influence areas

Home – Reduce energy, water and resource use at home and enhance nature.

Travel – Increase use of active travel or public transport.

Consumption – Reduce consumption and switch to more sustainable, low-carbon alternatives. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

Sustainable living



Consumption of goods and services

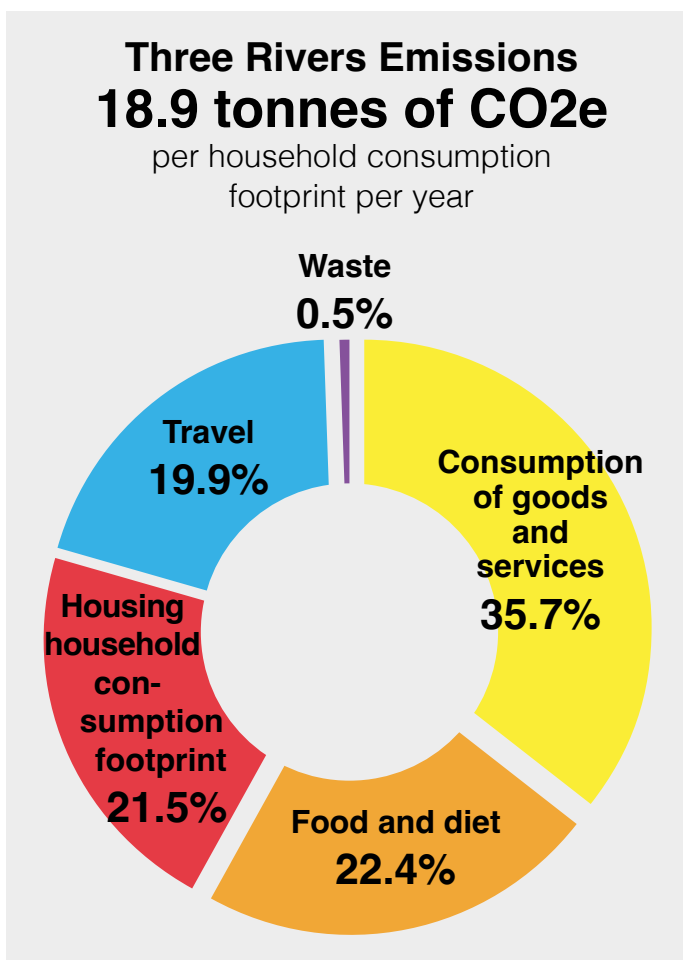
is responsible for the majority of household emissions in Three Rivers.

The average household in Three Rivers produces 18.9t of CO₂e per year compared to the GB average of 16t of CO₂e per year, with consumption of goods and services having the highest impact (Figure 3).

The emissions generated across Three Rivers vary considerably between local areas. The Community Carbon Calculator indicators³ the carbon footprint of different areas and is a useful tool for measuring your areas impact.

To avoid the worst impacts of the climate emergency, the carbon emissions associated with our lifestyles need to fall dramatically. Some positive movements have started through digital second-hand marketplaces, clothes swaps, high levels of recycling in the district, making more sustainable choices when shopping and reducing single-use plastic. However, more needs to be done – such as adopting low-carbon travel, sharing tools and equipment, repairing broken goods, insulating our buildings, and switching to electric heating systems. Active community groups can assist in these behavioural changes through a collective approach which enables shared learning, economies of scale, developing

libraries of things, community fridges and gardens, repair shops, and buying local goods and services.



³ <https://impact-tool.org.uk/report?regionId=E07000102&geography=local-authority>

Challenges



Challenges to net-zero

Outside influences and obstacles.

This strategy's ambition to achieve net-zero by 2030 for the council's own operations is an enormous challenge. Where possible, we will look for external funding and work with our partners to address this.

The strategy sets out our direction of travel and overarching ambitions. Some of the challenges we face for delivery include:

Lack of readily available funding to support emissions reductions for council operations and the wider district.



The high cost of: finance, retrofitting buildings, and transitioning to low-carbon transport.



Skills shortages such as accredited retrofit professionals and suitably qualified professionals for installing retrofit technologies.



Lack of long-term direction on net zero policies and finance from central government



Uncertainty over "low carbon" technologies such as hydrogen, electric vehicles and heat pump installation and operation.



Lack of awareness among residents and stakeholders of the benefits of adopting: new methods of heating, sustainable travel, incorporating sustainability into decision making, and Page 62 consumption habits.



Offsetting



Ways to reach net-zero

Prioritising emissions avoidance and reduction.

There are a variety of ways to reach net-zero, and not all of them are equal. The council will follow the carbon management hierarchy; this means the council will prioritise emissions avoidance and reduction, and only replace or compensate our hard-to-treat emissions as a last resort.

The council will consider the opportunities for tree planting and other nature based solutions in the district (and county where applicable). Developers will be encouraged to consider carbon absorption opportunities alongside nature enhancements in delivering their Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) obligations.

Given the geographical limitation for extensive tree planting in Three Rivers, we will be working across the County to identify opportunities for large scale woodland planting in Hertfordshire for carbon offsetting.

Additionally, a review of renewable energy generation opportunities on council owned sites such as car parks will be undertaken.

Achievements since 2021



Reaching net-zero carbon emissions

for our own operations by 2030

- ✓ **Replaced** depot building and now includes an air source heat pump, radiant heating, solar panels electric vehicle charging points, bat bird boxes, an otter holt, insect pile in and fruit trees.
- ✓ **Retrofit** of Three Rivers House including the installation of air source heat pump and energy efficient cooling systems in the server room saving 335,170 kilowatt hours per annum.
- ✓ **Started** electrifying the council's fleet with three electric vans
- ✓ **Adopted** an Environmental Impact Assessment tool which embeds consideration of climate change and sustainability in to the council's decision-making processes.
- ✓ **Upgraded** all Three Rivers District Council owned streetlights to energy efficient LED or solar.
- ✓ **Introduced** climate change training for all council staff, with senior leadership benefiting from advanced training on climate change and adaptation.

Achievements since 2021 in the district



Supporting Three Rivers District

to reach net-zero carbon by 2045:

- ✓ **Joined Solar Together** scheme with at least 76 homes in the district installing solar panels and a new round launched in August 2023.
- ✓ **Retrofitted** 117 private homes saving 161.2 tonnes of CO₂e annually and 82 social homes.
- ✓ **Supported** energy efficiency improvements for the least efficient homes in the district through the delivery of Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) and Social Housing Decarbonisation fund.
- ✓ **New independent Home Energy Support Service** helpline provided free advice to over 250 residents.
- ✓ **Resurfaced** a significant section of the Ebury Way trail for walkers and cyclists.
- ✓ **Improved** the northbound link in the Grand Union Canal towpath (Three Rivers) route.
- ✓ **Inspired** sustainable behaviour change at events discussing issues with over by over 2000 residents.
- ✓ **Published** "Guide to Greening Your Home" and 'Greener Living Guide'.
- ✓ **Provided** 2,920 free trees to residents in 2022, with a further 7,086 trees reserved by residents in 2023.
- ✓ **Adopted the Biodiversity Opportunities Audit (BOA)**, Nature Recovery Strategy, and Alternative Grassland Management (AGM) Initiative throughout the District.
- ✓ **Creation of two new woodlands**, made up of 750 trees in Leavesden County Park and Denham Way Playing Fields.
- ✓ **Planted** 59 street (standard) trees throughout the district.
- ✓ **Conservation grazing introduced** to the Horses' Field at Leavesden Country Park.
- ✓ **Developed** and approved the management plan for the Rickmansworth Aquadrome.
- ✓ **Hosted** 50 wildlife themed events attended by over 850 local people.

Achievements since 2021 in the district



Supporting Three Rivers District

to reach net-zero carbon by 2045:

- ✓ **Commissioned reports** to improve active travel in our key centres.
- ✓ **Installed** wayfinding signage in Croxley Green to encourage active travel.
- ✓ **Developed** and consulted on the district's Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan.
- ✓ **Installed** Real Time Information signs at 15 district bus stops.
- ✓ **Established** the Three Rivers Water Partnership to help protect and improve water quality.
- ✓ **Awarded community grants** for 14 low-carbon and sustainable projects totalling £19,438 since April 2022.
- ✓ **Delivered a Sustainable Business Programme**, helped 12 SMEs develop climate action plans.
- ✓ **Secured** £300k funding unding from Innovate UK to deliver projects with our partners Grand Union Community Energy and the National Energy Foundation, to overcome barriers to net-zero. The projects include:
 - The development of a retrofit fit one-stop shop (ROSS)*
 - Assessment of green finance options for Three Rivers District Council premises*
 - A community energy project*
 - A pilot Transition Streets programme*

Reaching net-zero by 2030



What must the council do to reach net-zero by 2030 and improve sustainability?

The council has embedded consideration of the climate emergency into its culture and decision-making processes. Our ambition is to achieve an average annual reduction of 264t CO₂e to reach net-zero by 2030.

Buildings

Integrate net-zero design and renewable energy into new council and joint venture developments.

Assess opportunities to reduce emissions from council-owned buildings and identify cost-effective finance solutions to fund the decarbonisation of council-owned buildings.

Develop the business case for solar PV on council buildings, sites, and car parks.

Reduce carbon emissions from existing council buildings through retrofit and energy demand reduction.



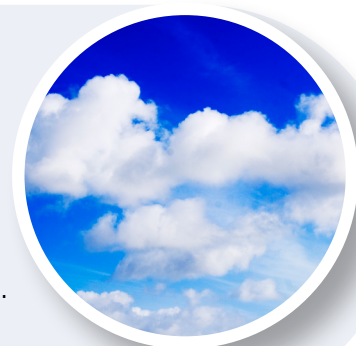
Travel and Air Quality

Where suitable, progress switching the fleet to low-emission or electric vehicles.

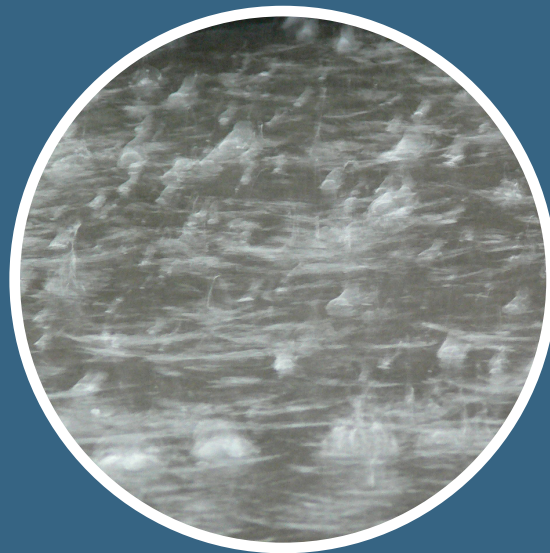
Continue to encourage remote working and virtual meetings to reduce staff travel.

Install electric charging points at council buildings for staff and fleet.

When staff travel is necessary encourage sharing, and low carbon forms of transport.



Reaching net-zero by 2030



What must the council do to reach net-zero by 2030 and improve sustainability?

Circular economy/ waste and resources

Reduce waste and increase the proportion of composting, reuse, and recycling within council operations.

Consider all suitable technology when replacing waste collection vehicles to reduce their carbon footprint.

Continue to use fleet vehicles to promote reduction, reuse, and recycling.



Nature and water

Ensure that all TRDC-owned land is managed sustainably and for the benefit of biodiversity, soil health, public education, responsible recreation and climate resilience.

Reduce the council's water consumption across its estate.



Adaptation and resilience

Ensure our emergency and public health plans account for more severe weather and its impacts on infrastructure and communities.

Ensure the council's infrastructure, landscapes, and services are built, maintained, and managed to be resilient to the impacts of climate change.



Supporting the district to reach net-zero



How is the council supporting the district to reach net-zero by 2045 and improve sustainability?

The council will inspire, enable and support everyone in the district to reduce emissions, and adopt sustainable, climate resilient behaviours to achieve net zero emissions by 2045.

Progression and adoption of a new Local Plan is critical to secure the highest standards of environmental performance and sustainability in development.

Housing and buildings

Encourage developers to adopt net zero design standards including the integration of renewable energy and low-carbon heat technologies.

Require all major developments to submit an adaptation strategy and sustainability statement to demonstrate how the development will mitigate and adapt to climate change over its lifetime.

For major non-residential developments, proposals should achieve BREEAM 'Excellent' as a minimum with the ambition to achieve "Outstanding."

Require new development to install flood mitigation measures and facilitate optimum water and wastewater efficiency aiming for water neutrality.

Refuse development if it is subject to unacceptable flood risk or if it would exacerbate flood risk on site or elsewhere.

Develop and implement a decarbonisation action plan to reduce emissions from residential properties.

Encourage community led approach approach to retrofit and sustainability.

Support residents and businesses to reduce their energy use and improve the efficiency of their homes and buildings.

Work in partnership to support the development of the local retrofit supply chain to increase skills and capacity for retrofit in the district and wider county.



Supporting the district to reach net-zero



How is the council supporting the district to reach net-zero by 2045 and improve sustainability?

Circular economy/ waste and resources

Continue to play an active role in the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership to produce and promote campaigns, resources, and support.

Consult on and comply with the Government's Resources and Waste Strategy.



Travel and Air Quality

Promote and encourage the use of public transport and active travel.

Adopt and implement a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.

Increase the availability of community services in neighbourhoods to reduce the need for travel.

Support our partners and stakeholders in the development and promotion of strategic sustainable passenger transport and infrastructure.

Develop a county-wide programme that supports a transition to low-carbon private hire vehicles and taxis.

Maximise opportunities in new developments to increase sustainable low- and zero-carbon transport infrastructure.

Ensure Air Quality Management Plans are successfully delivered.

Encourage behavioural change on vehicle idling through education and partnership working.

Expand public electric vehicle charging infrastructure within Three Rivers .



Supporting the district to reach net-zero



How is the council supporting the district to reach net-zero by 2045 and improve sustainability?

Nature and water

Enforce Biodiversity Net Gain requirements under the Environment Act (2021) and encourage the net-gain to be achieved in-situ on development sites or within the district.

Work in partnership on a catchment-scale with key stakeholders to protect and enhance local rivers and the habitats and wildlife supported by them.

Promote reductions in water consumption in the district.

Actively encourage Thames Water to invest in their wastewater catchments and the Maple Lodge Sewage Treatment Works to ensure sufficient capacity and eradication of untreated sewage discharges into the chalk streams.



Sustainable living

Adopt a community-led approach to encouraging sustainable behaviours and energy reduction.

Encourage and enable renewable energy generation in the district.

Encourage and inspire local landowners to increase biodiversity and climate resilience and explore options for renewable energy production.

Encourage and inspire local, sustainable food producers to connect food retailers, the hospitality sector, and residents.

Encourage local food production through the development and stewardship of community gardens, allotments, and orchards.

Engage with local businesses, community groups, and residents to adopt sustainable food consumption and reduce food waste.



Supporting the district to reach net-zero



How is the council supporting the district to reach net-zero by 2045 and improve sustainability?

Adaptation and Resilience

Adopt a community-led approach to encouraging sustainable behaviours and energy reduction.

Understand the value of trees in the district and the role they will play in tackling the climate emergency locally.

Encourage ecologically resilient and varied landscapes to ensure that habitats remain diverse and adaptable to the impacts of climate change, thereby safeguarding local flora and fauna.

Prioritise climate adaptation efforts that explicitly help our most vulnerable populations.

Inspire and support stakeholders, partners, community groups, businesses, and residents to be resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Encourage landowners in the district to enhance biodiversity through proactive land management to incorporate climate resilience, adapt to a changing climate, and contribute to carbon storage.



How can residents and businesses help



How can residents and businesses help contribute to a sustainable, net-zero district by 2045?

We have a range of information on our website including a 'Greener Living' guide and 'Guide to Greening Your Home' with lots of helpful hints and tips on living sustainably.

Housing and Buildings

Optimise insulation, install renewable energy, give nature a home, install water saving appliances, and explore smart home technology - home renovations are an ideal opportunity to incorporate these changes.

Reduce your energy use, and switch to a renewable energy provider where installing renewable energy is not possible.



Travel and Air Quality

Increase use of public transport and active travel.

Turn vehicle engines off when not in use to reduce pollution from idling.

Businesses to review active travel plans to encourage use of public and active transport, increase cycling facilities and electric vehicle infrastructure.

Install electric charging points on private property.



How can residents and businesses help



How can residents and businesses help

contribute to a sustainable, net-zero district by 2045?

Circular economy/waste and resources

Prioritise reduction and reuse of waste over recycling.

When buying goods, consider if it is really needed, whether it can be purchased second hand, borrowed or shared, and if new is required consider optimal sustainable choices.

Businesses to have clear reduction, reuse, recycling policies to minimise excess consumption and reduce waste to landfill.

Reduce food waste and increase composting.



Nature, water and food

Reduce water consumption in homes and workplaces.

Maximise space for nature in homes, businesses and on farmland and open spaces.

Consider volunteering on projects that support nature conservation.

Choose in-season, local foods, and look for food items which have a lower carbon impact, such as plant proteins.

Consider options for growing food either in your garden, allotment, or a community space.



Adaptation and resilience

If you have a garden or community space, improve soils, utilise diverse native plant species in landscaping, and plant new trees/hedges.

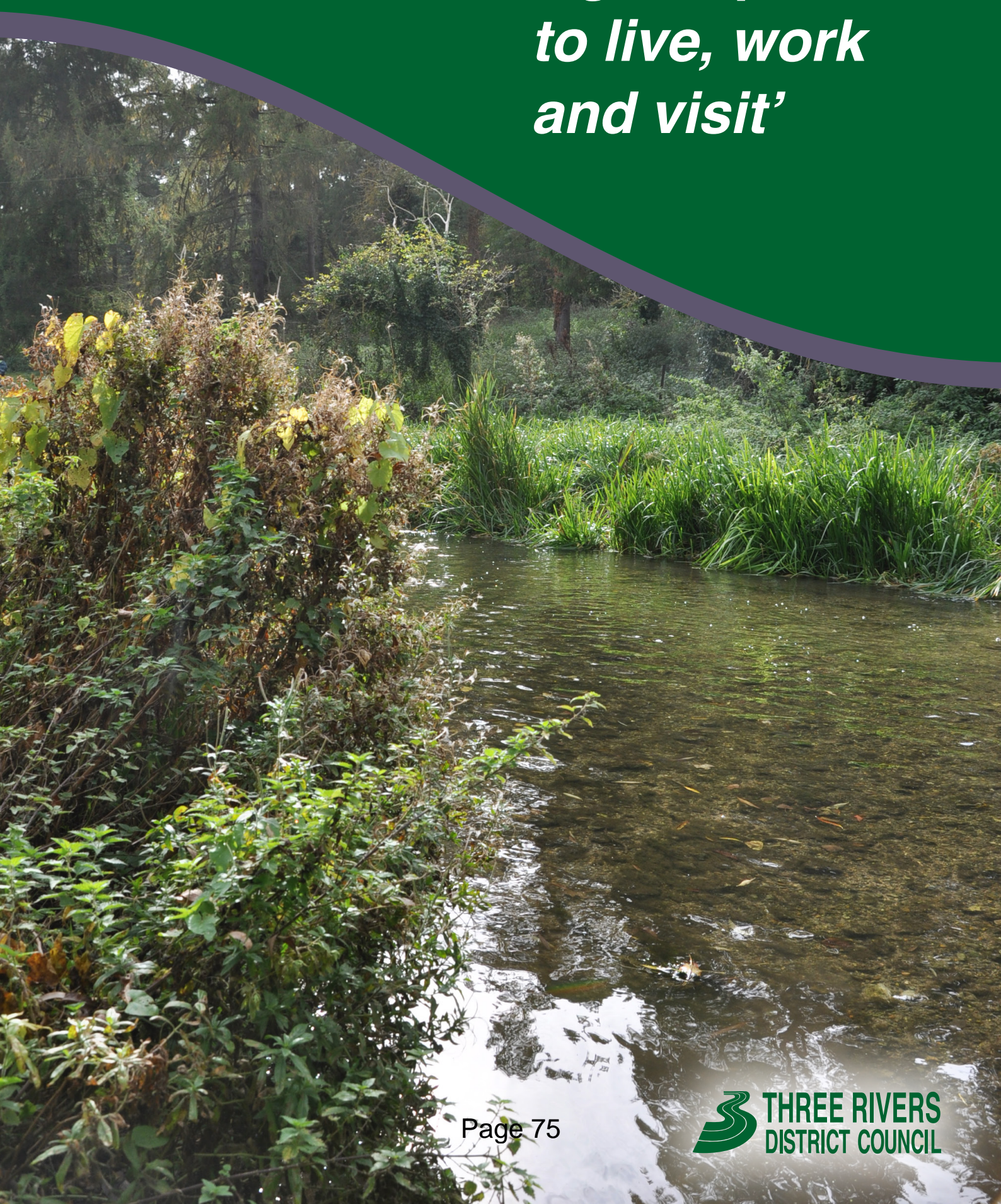
Help prevent flooding and pollution of our rivers by disposing of waste responsibly and using the sewerage system correctly.

Ensure driveways and outdoor spaces have permeable surfaces and incorporate planting to reduce flood risk.

Retrofit houses and buildings to keep cool in the summer and warm in winter.



*Three Rivers
'a great place
to live, work
and visit'*



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Short Equality Impact and Outcome Assessment (EIA)

EIAs make services better for everyone and support value for money by getting services right first time.

EIAs enable us to consider all the information about a service, policy or strategy from an equalities perspective and then action plan to get the best outcomes for staff and service-users¹. They analyse how all our work as a council might impact differently on different groups²

They help us make good decisions and evidence how we have reached these decisions.³

See end notes for full guidance. For further support or advice please contact the Community Partnerships Team

Equality Impact and Outcomes Assessment (EIA) Template

First, consider whether you need to complete an EIA, or if there is another way to evidence assessment of impacts, or that an EIA is not needed⁴

Title ⁵	Climate Emergency and Sustainability Action Plan Update 2024 - 2027	ID No ⁶	CC004
Team/Service ⁷	Environment (Climate Change and Sustainability)		
Focus of EIA ⁸	<p>A core objective of the Corporate Framework is to achieve net zero carbon and be climate resilient. This update to the Climate Emergency and Sustainability Action Plan 2024-27 sets out how the Council is working to achieve this overarching objective across all service areas.</p> <p>Stakeholders at all levels will have a role to play in the delivery of the action plan – for residents this may include being a recipient of funded retrofit measures, taking part in a group purchasing scheme for renewable energy, volunteering at a community garden, participating in Transition Streets etc.</p> <p>The principle focus of the Action Plan is for the Council and the District to make substantive reductions in carbon emissions to support the achievement of carbon neutrality.</p>		
Assessment of overall impacts and any further recommendations ⁹			
<p>The Action Plan spans all service areas of the Council, detailing individual projects / tasks. Many of the actions create co-benefits such as improving health and wellbeing, promoting social inclusion, addressing economic and health inequalities, reducing energy bills and associated fuel poverty, and improving community resilience to adverse impacts such as flooding and overheating.</p> <p>The grant funded retrofit projects typically focus on more economically deprived areas as they are more likely to meet the eligibility criteria of poor EPC ratings and receipt of means-tested benefits or low household income. If issues are found which could hinder inclusion e.g. hoarding or anxiety, then support is provided to enable participation in the scheme/event.</p>			

<p>The Home Energy Support Service offers all residents free, independent advice. Funding opportunities and relevant discounts/benefits are signposted and in-person home visits are offered to vulnerable/elderly residents.</p> <p>Piloting the Transition Streets programme in Three Rivers is an inclusive community-led approach to household carbon emissions reductions – there is no eligibility criteria to participate and participation is free, so open to everyone.</p>	
<p>Potential Issues</p> <p>There are no known negative equalities impacts identified as arising from the proposals within the Action Plan.</p> <p>Individual projects will review their impact on residents with protected characteristics and take mitigating actions if required.</p>	<p>Mitigating Actions</p> <p>Equality Impact Assessments will be carried out for specific actions and proposals on a project-by-project basis.</p>
<p>Actions Planned ¹⁰</p> <p>The updated Action Plan includes a wide array of actions which cover numerous services and community demographics within Three Rivers, with many of the major initiatives positively impacting the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, who are most likely to benefit from grant-funded house retrofits and are most at risk from the impacts of the Climate Emergency. We will ensure that due regard is given to any potential impact of specific proposals on protected characteristics by conducting Equality Impact Assessments for specific actions and proposals as required. This process is designed to help maximise positive impacts and ensure we are thoughtful and intentional about designing inclusivity and equity in to our work. It also helps us identify potential negative impacts and how we can eliminate, minimise or mitigate these.</p>	

EIA sign-off: (for the EIA to be final an email must sent from the relevant people agreeing it or this section must be signed)

Equality Impact Assessment officer: Elen Dolder

Date: 27/01/25

Equalities Lead Officer: Shivani Davé

Date: 29/01/2025

Guidance end-notes

¹ The following principles, drawn from case law, explain what we must do to fulfil our duties under the Equality Act:

- Knowledge: everyone working for the council must be aware of our equality duties and apply them appropriately in their work.
- Timeliness: the duty applies at the time of considering policy options and/or before a final decision is taken – not afterwards.
- Real Consideration: the duty must be an integral and rigorous part of your decision-making and influence the process.
- Sufficient Information: you must assess what information you have and what is needed to give proper consideration.
- No delegation: the council is responsible for ensuring that any contracted services which provide services on our behalf can comply with the duty, are required in contracts to comply with it, and do comply in practice. It is a duty that cannot be delegated.
- Review: the equality duty is a continuing duty. It applies when a policy is developed/agreed, and when it is implemented/reviewed.
- Proper Record Keeping: to show that we have fulfilled our duties we must keep records of the process and the impacts identified.

NB: Filling out this EIA in itself does not meet the requirements of the equality duty. All the requirements above must be fulfilled or the EIA (and any decision based on it) may be open to challenge. Properly used, an EIA can be a tool to help us comply with our equality duty and as a record that to demonstrate that we have done so.

² Our duties in the Equality Act 2010

As a council, we have a legal duty (under the Equality Act 2010) to show that we have identified and considered the impact and potential impact of our activities on all people with 'protected characteristics' (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, and marriage and civil partnership).

This applies to policies, services (including commissioned services), and our employees. The level of detail of this consideration will depend on what you are assessing, who it might affect, those groups' vulnerability, and how serious any potential impacts might be. We use this EIA template to complete this process and evidence our consideration

The following are the duties in the Act. You must give 'due regard' (pay conscious attention) to the need to:

-
- avoid, reduce or minimise negative impact (if you identify unlawful discrimination, including victimisation and harassment, you must stop the action and take advice immediately).
 - promote equality of opportunity. This means the need to: – Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by equality groups – Take steps to meet the needs of equality groups – Encourage equality groups to participate in public life or any other activity where participation is disproportionately low – Consider if there is a need to treat disabled people differently, including more favourable treatment where necessary
 - foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. This means: – Tackle prejudice – Promote understanding

³ EIAs are always proportionate to:

- The size of the service or scope of the policy/strategy
- The resources involved
- The numbers of people affected
- The size of the likely impact
- The vulnerability of the people affected

The greater the potential adverse impact of the proposed policy on a protected group (e.g. disabled people), the more vulnerable the group in the context being considered, the more thorough and demanding the process required by the Act will be.

⁴ When to complete an EIA:

- When planning or developing a new service, policy or strategy
- When reviewing an existing service, policy or strategy
- When ending or substantially changing a service, policy or strategy
- When there is an important change in the service, policy or strategy, or in the city (eg: a change in population), or at a national level (eg: a change of legislation)

Assessment of equality impact can be evidenced as part of the process of reviewing or needs assessment or strategy development or consultation or planning. It does not have to be on this template, but must be documented. Wherever possible, build the EIA into your usual planning/review processes.

Do you need to complete an EIA? Consider:

- Is the policy, decision or service likely to be relevant to any people because of their protected characteristics?
- How many people is it likely to affect?
- How significant are its impacts?
- Does it relate to an area where there are known inequalities?

How vulnerable are the people (potentially) affected? If there are potential impacts on people but you decide not to complete an EIA it is usually sensible to document why.

⁵ **Title of EIA:** This should clearly explain what service / policy / strategy / change you are assessing

⁶ **ID no:** The unique reference for this EIA. This will be added by Community Partnerships

⁷ **Team/Service:** Main team responsible for the policy, practice, service or function being assessed

⁸ **Focus of EIA:** A member of the public should have a good understanding of the policy or service and any proposals after reading this section. Please use plain English and write any acronyms in full first time - eg: 'Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)'

This section should explain what you are assessing:

- What are the main aims or purpose of the policy, practice, service or function?
- Who implements, carries out or delivers the policy, practice, service or function? Please state where this is more than one person/team/body and where other organisations deliver under procurement or partnership arrangements.
- How does it fit with other services?
- Who is affected by the policy, practice, service or function, or by how it is delivered? Who are the external and internal serviceusers, groups, or communities?
- What outcomes do you want to achieve, why and for whom? Eg: what do you want to provide, what changes or improvements, and what should the benefits be? • What do existing or previous inspections of the policy, practice, service or function tell you?
- What is the reason for the proposal or change (financial, service, legal etc)? The Act requires us to make these clear.

⁹ **Assessment of overall impacts and any further recommendations**

- Make a frank and realistic assessment of the overall extent to which the negative impacts can be reduced or avoided by the mitigating measures. Explain what positive impacts will result from the actions and how you can make the most of these.

-
- Countervailing considerations: These may include the reasons behind the formulation of the policy, the benefits it is expected to deliver, budget reductions, the need to avert a graver crisis by introducing a policy now and not later, and so on. The weight of these factors in favour of implementing the policy must then be measured against the weight of any evidence as to the potential negative equality impacts of the policy,
 - Are there any further recommendations? Is further engagement needed? Is more research or monitoring needed? Does there need to be a change in the proposal itself?

¹⁰ **Action Planning:** The Equality Duty is an ongoing duty: policies must be kept under review, continuing to give 'due regard' to the duty. If an assessment of a broad proposal leads to more specific proposals, then further equality assessment and consultation are needed.

TRDC Climate and Sustainability Impact Assessment

Score / Colour Code	Impact and Recommendation
Dark green (4)	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.
Light green (3)	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.
Yellow (2)	Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.
Red (1)	Considerable inconsistency with the council's sustainability objectives. Strong recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations.
Grey (0)	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.

Guidance for use

Please answer all questions from the drop-down options in the 'impact' column (C), including 'not applicable' as needed.

Please email your completed copy of the form to Joanna.Hewitson@threeivers.gov.uk.

Key to the colour coding of answers is given at the top of the page.

Name of project/policy/procurement and date	Climate Emergency and Sustainability Action Plan update
Brief description (1-2 sentences):	Update to the Action Plan 2024-2027

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Homes, buildings, infrastructure, equipment and energy					
Question	Impact (select from list)	Score (1 to 4)	Justification or mitigation	Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (1-4)
1 What effect will this project have on overall energy use (electricity or other fuels) e.g. in buildings, appliances or machinery?	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	Purpose of action plan is to reduce energy use	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
2 What effect will this project have on the direct use of fossil fuels such as gas, petrol, diesel, oil?	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3	Fleet replacements will be low carbon when the technology is suitable and affordable. Use of fossil fuels in buildings will also be reduced through retrofitting.	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3
3 Does this project further maximise the use of existing building space? E.g. co-locating services; bringing under-used space into use; using buildings out-of-hours	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
4 Will any new building constructed or refurbished be highly energy efficient in use? (e.g. high levels of insulation, low energy demand per sq. m., no servicing with fossil fuels such as gas heating, EPC "A" or BREAM "excellent").	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	Maple Cross Pavilion will be constructed to optimum standards	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
5 Does this make use of sustainable materials / unputs in your project? E.g. re-used or recycled construction materials; timber in place of concrete	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
6 Does this use more sustainable processes in the creation of the project? E.g. modular and off-site construction; use of electrical plant instead of petrol/diesel,	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
7 Will this increase the supply of renewable energy? e.g. installing solar panels; switching to a renewable energy tariff	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
8 Do any appliances or electrical equipment to be used have high energy efficiency ratings?	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4		Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
Average Score		3.75			3.75

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net zero carbon:

- Insulate buildings to a high standard.
- Include energy efficiency measures when carrying out refurbishment to deliver improvement in EPC ratings.
- Replace gas boilers with renewable heating, such as heat pumps. Consider District Heat Networks where appropriate.
- Construct new buildings to Passivhaus standard.
- Design and deliver buildings and infrastructure with lower-carbon materials, such as recycled material and timber frames.
- Use construction methods that reduce overall energy use, such as modular, factory-built components, or use of electrical plant on-site.
- Install solar panels or other renewable energy generation, and consider including battery storage.
- Switch to a certified renewable energy provider e.g. utilise power purchase agreements (PPA)
- Use energy-efficient appliances.
- Install low-energy LED lighting.
- Install measures to help manage building energy demand, such as smart meters, timers on lighting, or building management systems.

Travel					
Question	Impact	Score (0-4)	Justification or mitigation	Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)
9	Reducing travel: what effect will this project have on overall vehicle use?	3	Through engagement and promotion of active travel in new walking and cycling strategy a reduction in car travel should be achieved	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3
10	Will this project use petrol or diesel vehicles or EV, hybrid?	0	Difficult to answer as not a specific project	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
11	Will this support people to use active or low-carbon transport? <i>E.g. cycling, walking, switching to electric transport</i>	4	Comprehensive Electric Vehicle Strategy and roll-out of EV charging points will support residents to switch to EV vehicles from fossil-fuel vehicles. New cycling infrastructure and routes, and trial of bike loan scheme will support residents to cycle.	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
12	Will it be easily accessible for all by foot, bike, or public transport, including for disabled people?	0	Difficult to answer as not a specific project	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
13	Has the project taken steps to reduce traffic? <i>Using e-cargo bikes; timing activities or deliveries to be outside peak congestion times</i>	3	Overall aim of the sustainable travel section is to reduce unnecessary car use and therefore traffic.	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3
Average Score		3.33			3.33

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net zero carbon:

- Reduce the need to travel e.g. through remote meetings, or rationalising routes and rounds.
- Share vehicles or substitute different modes of travel, rather than procuring new fleet.
- Specify electric, hybrid, or most fuel efficient vehicles for new fleet or for services involving transport.
- Support users and staff to walk, cycle, or use public transport e.g. with cycle parking, training, incentives.
- Use zero-emission deliveries
- Model and mitigate the project's effect on traffic and congestion e.g. retiming the service or deliveries

Goods and Consumption					
Question	Impact	Score (0-4)	Justification or mitigation	Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)
14	Has this project considered ways to reuse existing goods and materials to the greatest extent possible, before acquiring newly manufactured goods?	4	Engagement activities will strongly encourage re-use	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
15	Does it reduce reliance on buying newly manufactured goods? <i>E.g. repair and re-use; sharing and lending goods between services or people; leasing or product-as-a-service rather than ownership</i>	4	Engagement activities will strongly encourage re-use, repair, share	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
16	Does it use products and resources that are re-used, recycled, or renewable?	4		Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
17	Does it enable others to make sustainable choices within their lifestyles, or engage people about this?	4	Transition Streets engages residents in sustainable behavioural change across a range of key topics including Energy, Travel, Water, Food, and Resources.	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
18	Is there a plan to reduce waste sent to landfill in manufacture?	4	A number of the actions are focused on reduce overall waste in the district, and increasing recycling and composting - therefore reducing waste sent to landfill.	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
19	Is the material used able to be re-used, re-purposed, or recycled at end of its life?	0		Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area.	0
20	Has it taken steps to ensure any food it offers is more sustainable? <i>E.g. less and high-quality (high welfare) meat and dairy; minimises food waste;</i>	4	Major food waste campaign within action plan - #WorthSaving	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
Average Score		4.00			4.00

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net zero carbon:

- Procure goods through sharing, leasing, or product-as-a-service models rather than ownership.
- Use pre-owned and reconditioned goods, and reduce reliance on procuring new goods.
- Use recycled materials, and procure items that can be reconditioned or recycled at end-of-life.
- Use lifecycle costing in business cases to capture the full cost of operation, repair and disposal of an item.
- Ensure meat and dairy is high-quality, high-welfare.
- Design waste, including food waste, out of business models e.g. separating (and composting) food waste; replacing single-use items with reusable items.
- Use contact points with residents, community groups and businesses to engage and enable them to adopt low-waste, low-carbon behaviours.

Ecology					
Question	Impact	Score (0-4)	Justification or mitigation	Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)
21	What effect does this project have on total area of non-amenity green/blue space? (Amenity green space = playing fields, play areas, sporting lakes)	4	Continuation of grassland management programme and engagement with landowners is all driven to this aim.	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
22	Does the project create more habitat for nature? <i>E.g. native plants, trees, and flowers</i>	4	Continuation of grassland management programme and engagement with landowners is all driven to this aim.	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
23	Does it make changes to existing habitats and have a negative impact on nature? <i>E.g. use of pesticides, reduced extent and variety of plants,</i>	4	Actions included aim to improve nature and biodiversity across the District.	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
24	Does it help people understand the value of biodiversity, and encourage residents to support it in their private and community spaces?	4	Strong engagement programme and encouragement of community involvement	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
Average Score		4			4

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net zero carbon: (Seek advice from Landscapes Team if required)

- Avoid converting green space to hard surfacing.
- Use underutilised space for planting, such as green roofs and walls.
- Plant native plants and perennials, rather than non-native ornamental species, to encourage biodiversity.
- Reduce trimming of grass and hedges, and avoid use of synthetic pesticides.
- Provide space for animals e.g. long grass areas, bird boxes, bat boxes, 'insect hotels', ponds, hedgehog hides and passages, log piles
- Consider the ecological impacts from manufacture and use of procured goods, e.g. water pollution; water consumption; land use change for farming; pesticide use; organic/regenerative farming methods

Adaptation					
Question	Impact	Score (0-4)	Justification or mitigation	Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)
25 Does any planned project, construction or building use include measures to conserve water?	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3	By embedding this assessment into council decision making this will ensure this is at least considered.	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where	3
26 Does anythe project , consider how to sustainably protect people from extreme weather?	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3	Action Plan includes a risk register and actions to improve resilience to the impacts of climate change.	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where	3
27 Has any planned building work or infrastructure considered how to mitigate flood risk? E.g. Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS); de-paving	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	Engagement activities and SUDS retrofit, and flood risk assessments for new build will all work to improve resilience to flooding.	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
28 Does any planned infrastructure or building work increase the overall footprint of hard surfacing? (as opposed to green or permeable surfacing)	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area.	0	This action plan is not connected to a specific project so difficult to answer.	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	0
29 Has the project considered its own resilience to future extreme heat, flood risk, or water shortage?	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	This action plan aims to make council services resilient to the impacts of climate change.	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
Average Score		3.50			3.50

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net zero carbon:

- Install water-saving devices in taps, showers and toilets
- Re-use grey water in new developments
- Capture and re-use rainwater where possible e.g. water butts for use in car washing, watering garden, toilets
- Ensure all new building or refurbishment (especially of homes) models and mitigates future overheating risk, with adequate ventilation and shading
- Avoid increasing areas of hard surfacing.
- Convert hard surfacing to green and permeable surfacing where possible, and install Sustainable Drainage systems (SUDS).
- Plant drought-tolerant plants and mulch landscapes to avoid water loss through evaporation.

Engagement and Influence					
Question	Impact	Score (0-4)	Justification or mitigation	Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)
30 Does this project raise awareness and understanding of the climate and ecological emergency, and the steps that people can take?	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	Regular community engagement on sustainability topics is outlined in the Action Plan.	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
Average Score		4			4
Total Overall Average Score		3.76			3.8

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net zero carbon:

- 'Make every contact count', by using contact points with residents, businesses and community groups to promote understanding of the climate emergency.

Now assesment is compelete copy and paste box into your business case, committee report. (under environmental implications 6). Whole assesment can be an appendix. Procurement tenders are expected to submit complete report with application.

Climate and Sustainability Impact Assesment Summary	
Homes, buildings, infrastructure, equipment and energy	3.75
Travel	3.33
Goods and Consumption	4.00
Ecology	4.00
Adaptation	3.50
Engagement and Influence	4
Total Overall Average Score	3.8

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Three Rivers District Council

**Climate Change, Housing, Leisure
Committee Report
Solar Canopy Feasibility Study Results Summary**

Date: 12/03/25

CLIMATE CHANGE, LEISURE AND HOUSING COMMITTEE
Wednesday, 12 March 2025

SOLAR CANOPY FEASIBILITY STUDY RESULTS SUMMARY REPORT

(DoE)

1 Summary

- 1.1 In April 2024, Grand Union Community Energy (GUCE), in partnership with Three Rivers District Council (TRDC), was awarded a £40,000 grant from the Greater South East Net Zero Hub's Community Energy Fund (CEF) to assess the feasibility of installing solar canopies in council-owned car parks funded by community investment.
- 1.2 A team of technical, legal, financial and community engagement experts collaborated to evaluate the feasibility of installing solar canopies in seven TRDC-owned car parks
- 1.3 Please note that a requirement of the CEF grant was that the completed Feasibility Study is submitted to CEF who will make it available to other Local Authorities considering solar canopy projects. Therefore, our study has the legacy benefit of supporting other councils exploring solar canopies as a route to net zero.
- 1.4 Because the Feasibility Study is long and technically complex, this report provides a high-level overview which is supported by a more detailed summary in Attachment 1.
- 1.5 This report also identifies the next steps and recommendations for the Council to consider.

2 Findings:

- 2.1 The study concluded that installing solar canopies in council-owned car parks is technically and legally feasible in all seven car parks. Some locations were more financially viable and better overall candidates (facing fewer barriers) than others, but solar canopies are unlikely to be funded through community investment alone, due to the high cost of the canopy structure.
- 2.2 The study recommended TRDC explore a blended funding strategy utilising third-party finance, potentially augmented by community investment for the solar PV panels themselves.
- 2.3 The study recommended that TRDC should develop business cases for each of the top three candidate sites. The business cases will enable the council to identify the available and optimal funding sources and model the financial and commercial implications in more granular detail and will also enable the council to better de-risk the installation of solar canopies where they are deemed most suitable.
- 2.4 The study was written by GUCE from a GUCE/community investment perspective. However, because of the conclusions and recommendation above, this report and Attachment 1 is written from a TRDC/third-party finance perspective. Therefore, the ranking, constraints scoring and financial indicators

(but not the technical solar PV detail) below may differ from the study in Attachment 2.

- 2.5 The car parks were scored according to their technical, financial and legal constraints to highlight the best candidate locations for solar canopy installation (please see Table 1 for the top-ranking sites NB: A lower score is a better score).

Site	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank3
	South Oxhey Leisure Centre	William Penn Leisure Centre	Rose Garden
Technical Constraints Score	8	8	8
Financial Constraints Score	10	15	10
Legal Constraints Score	8	6	14
Overall Constraints Score	26	29	32

Table 1: Constraints Score For The Best Candidate Locations

- 2.6 An optimised solar canopy design was created for each of the seven car parks. The technical designs were used to forecast the financial costs and savings of the solar canopies (please see Table 2 for the top-ranking sites).

Site	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank3
	South Oxhey Leisure Centre	William Penn Leisure Centre	Rose Garden
Solar Capacity (kWp)	143	437	205
Annual Generation (MWh)	134.7	421.1	180.9
No. Panels	318	972	456
Total Local Demand (MWh)	546.4	874.5	703.4
Local Consumption (% Generation)	93.8%	41.0%	89.0%
Indicative Capital Cost (£)	£287,868	£923,167	£407,410

Project IRR (%)	12.7%	8.5%	11.6%
Net Present Value (£, 30-year)	£290,998	£262,786	£328,093
Breakeven Year	9	14	10
Cumulative Net Income (£, 30-year)	£664,835	£1,005,186	£798,399
Carbon Savings (lifetime, tCO₂e)	815	2,548	1,095

Table 2 Technical and Financial Summary For The Best Candidate Locations

- 2.7 William Penn Leisure Centre and Three Rivers House (Rose Garden) already have rooftop solar PV installed. South Oxhey Leisure Centre does not. To provide a more complete evidence base on which to make decisions, a feasibility study was completed for rooftop solar PV on South Oxhey Leisure Centre.
- 2.8 The study found that the South Oxhey Leisure Centre was a good candidate for rooftop solar and should be prioritised over a solar canopy (but does not negate the need for a solar canopy). Concurrently, a rooftop solar PV business case will be submitted for consideration.
- 2.9 This report recommends that the South Oxhey Leisure Centre business case is considered and that officers are given permission to pursue the development of further business cases for solar canopies at William Penn Leisure Centre car park and the Rose Garden car park, utilising a blend of grant funding, and internal budgets.

Conclusions:

- 2.10 Solar canopies are technically and legally feasible in all seven TRDC owned car parks evaluated, but the financial viability of solar canopies on each site was variable. Of the seven sites investigated, the top three candidate car park locations for solar canopies are South Oxhey Leisure Centre, William Penn Leisure Centre and Rose Garden. Each of those locations have a nearby council-owned building that could purchase, or consume, the electricity (depending on who owns/funds the canopy) and benefit from low-cost, low-carbon electricity.
- 2.11 Having completed the feasibility study and reviewed the results, GUCE and TRDC mutually agreed that community funding was unlikely to be capable of funding solar canopies in any of the sites by itself, due to the high capital cost of the canopy structure compared to the limited sales revenue from selling the electricity generated. The project also engaged with other bigger community energy organisations e.g. Big Solar Coop, who concluded the same.
- 2.12 On the 13th of December 2024 the UK Government published their Clean Power 2030 Action Plan.¹ The Action Plan emphasises the importance of solar canopies to decarbonisation and promises to assess the potential to drive the construction of solar canopies on outdoor carparks over a certain size through a call for evidence in 2025.
- 2.13 From the outset of the feasibility study, it was suspected that community investment alone could not wholly fund solar canopies. Therefore, throughout the study the opportunity for TRDC to fund the project from more conventional funding sources was considered and included in our analysis. A full overview of the different potential funding sources for solar canopies can be found on pages 46-48 of Attachment 2.
- 2.14 TRDC officers have also completed a feasibility assessment for the installation of a rooftop solar system at South Oxhey Leisure Centre and are currently in discussions with Everyone Active on how to fund its installation. However, rooftop solar does not negate the need for a solar canopy at the South Oxhey Leisure Centre, as combined, they are forecast to still only generate ~50% of the leisure centre's electricity demand.
- 2.15 Therefore, while car park solar canopy projects cannot be delivered using community investment alone, the feasibility study recommends that TRDC explore funding solar canopies to William Penn Leisure Centre and the Rose Garden car park, through a blended finance strategy utilising third-party finance (potentially augmented by community investment), while focusing on installing less costly, and logistically simpler rooftop solar panels to South Oxhey Leisure Centre before progressing further investigations of a solar canopy for that site.
- 2.16 It is worth noting that where TRDC choose to fund a solar canopy directly, the council would take on the associated financial and technical risks (as opposed to a community energy project where GUCE would assume those risks). Therefore, it is vital that if the council decide to progress solar canopies for any of its sites using conventional funding sources, a detailed and comprehensive business case for each site is developed.

¹ <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/677bc80399c93b7286a396d6/clean-power-2030-action-plan-main-report.pdf>

- 2.17 To support the development of these comprehensive business cases, the Greater South-East Net Zero Hub (GSENZH) has launched The Investment Readiness Scheme (IRS). It aims to support public sector organisations to create business cases with grants of up to £75,000 to attract the investment needed to deliver net-zero projects. We have made two applications to the scheme but are aware it is a competitive process, and they have received 26 applications for the 10 available awards. We hope to hear the outcome in early Spring 2025.
- 2.18 The proposed next steps following this study are:
- 2.18.1 South Oxhey Leisure Centre Car Park: pursue rooftop solar – business case to be submitted to Policy and Resources committee for consideration.
- 2.18.2 The Rose Garden car park solar canopy should be explored through a detailed business case.
- 2.18.3 William Penn Car Park: this will form part of the William Penn Heat Decarbonisation Plan, currently under assessment by Tomson Consulting.
- 2.19 While we have applied to the GSENZH for IRS funding, if unsuccessful various options are available to develop the solar canopy business case. GSENZH Capacity Support and/or council budget could be used to fund the business case, prioritising the Rose Garden.

3 Policy/Budget Reference and Implications

- 3.1 To develop the business cases using a combination of IRS funding if successful, Capacity support from the GSENZH, free support from our Fast Followers programme, and existing climate change budgets.
- 3.2 Under new planning guidance, if the solar canopy is within certain parameters regarding the size and/or design of the canopy, it falls under the permitted development right Class OA.
- 3.3 The recommendations in this report relate to the achievement of the following performance indicators.
- CP50 District carbon emissions reported as tCO_{2e} equivalent.
 - CP52 Council Operations Carbon emissions reported as tCO_{2e} equivalent.

4 Community Safety, Public Health, Customer Services Centre, Communications & Website, Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications

- 4.1 None as a result of this report.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 All actions are either covered within existing budgets or will be managed by separate reports to committee, growth bids or external grants, subject to additional research and development

6 Legal Implications

- 6.1 None as a result of this report.

7 Staffing Implications

- 7.1 None as a result of this report. Business case development for viable solar canopy sites will be led by the Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy Officer with support from consultants where funding allows.

8 Equal Opportunities Implications

- 8.1 None as a result of this report.

9 Equality Impact Assessment

- 9.1 An Equality Impact and Outcome Assessment has not been completed as this report recommending the Council develop business cases for viable solar canopies on car parks does not propose to develop, review, end, or change a service, policy, or strategy which would impact people or groups with protected characteristics.
- 9.2 Equality Impact Assessments will be carried out for specific actions and proposals on a project-by-project basis.

10 Climate Change and Sustainability Implications

- 10.1 The recommendations proposed in this report will support the Council to progress the decarbonisation of its estate, helping to reduce emissions to net-zero and mitigate the Council's contribution to climate change.
- 10.2 A sustainability impact assessment has been undertaken resulting in a score of 3.4. See Appendix 2 for detail.

Climate and Sustainability Impact Assessment Summary	
Homes, buildings, infrastructure, equipment and energy	3.75
Travel	3
Goods and Consumption	0
Ecology	0
Adaptation	4
Engagement and Influence	3
Total Overall Average Score	3.4

11 Communications and Website Implications

- 11.1 The Feasibility Study (Attachment 2) will be shared with the GSENZH, and HCCSP.

12 Risk and Health & Safety Implications

12.1 The Council has agreed its risk management strategy which can be found on the website at <http://www.threerivers.gov.uk>. In addition, the risks of the proposals in the report have also been assessed against the Council's duties under Health and Safety legislation relating to employees, visitors and persons affected by our operations. The risk management implications of this report are detailed below.

12.2 The subject of this report is covered by the Climate Change and Sustainability service plan. Any risks resulting from this report will be included in the risk register and, if necessary, managed within this/these plan(s).

Nature of Risk	Consequence	Suggested Control Measures	Response <i>(tolerate, treat, terminate, transfer)</i>	Risk Rating <i>(combination of likelihood and impact)</i>
The Council fails to prepare business cases for solar canopies on viable sites.	The Council does not have investable business cases prepared for viable sites and therefore cannot attract external funding or finance to support the installation of these technologies, hindering progress on council net-zero targets.	For the Committee to approve the recommendations.	Treat	6
The Council fails to act to reduce its' CO2 emissions.	The Council 2030 pledge is unlikely to be met unless a co-ordinated programme of activity is implemented. The Innovate UK Net Zero Living Programme should be fully supported to ensure the council benefits from external help whilst it is available and may lead to further funding opportunities. This will lead to	For the Committee to approve the recommendations, allowing the climate change team to progress the development of investment-grade business cases for solar PV technology at the most viable sites.	Treat	6

	reputational damage. And importantly the Council will not be addressing the Climate Emergency and thus will contribute further to the increase in global warming and its' consequences.			
--	---	--	--	--

12.3 The above risks are scored using the matrix below. The Council has determined its aversion to risk and is prepared to tolerate risks where the combination of impact and likelihood scores 6 or less.

Very Likely	Low 4	High 8	Very High 12	Very High 16
	Low 3	Medium 6	High 9	Very High 12
	Low 2	Low 4	Medium 6	High 8
	Low 1	Low 2	Low 3	Low 4
Likelihood ↓ Remote	Impact Low -----> Unacceptable			

Impact Score
4 (Catastrophic)
3 (Critical)
2 (Significant)
1 (Marginal)

Likelihood Score
4 (Very Likely (≥80%))
3 (Likely (21-79%))
2 (Unlikely (6-20%))
1 (Remote (≤5%))

13 Recommendations

13.1 That Members agree to:

Agree to officers pursuing the development of business cases for solar canopies at William Penn Leisure Centre car park and the Rose Garden car park, and rooftop solar for South Oxhey Leisure Centre utilising a blend of grant funding, and internal budgets.

Note that the Feasibility Study detailed in Attachment 2 will be shared with the GSENZH, and neighbouring authorities in Hertfordshire.

Report prepared by: Joanna Hewitson, Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy Officer

Data Quality

Data sources:

GUCE – Solar Canopy Feasibility Study Summary

Attachment 1.GUCE Technical Report v1.6

Attachment 2. GUCE – CEF 118 Solar TRDC Report FINAL

Data checked by:

Joanna Hewitson, Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy Officer Data rating:

1	Poor	
2	Sufficient	
3	High	X

APPENDICES / ATTACHMENTS

Appendix 1. Acronyms & Jargon Buster

Appendix 2: Climate Change and Sustainability Impact Assessment

Attachment 1. Solar Canopy Feasibility Study Summary

Attachment 2. GUCE – CEF 118 Solar TRDC Report FINAL

APPENDIX 1

Acronyms & Glossary

Acronyms

CEF	Community Energy Fund
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide
tCO ₂	Tonnes of carbon dioxide
GUCE	Grand Union Community Energy
IRR	Internal Rate of Return
IRS	Investment Readiness Scheme
kW	Kilowatt
kWh	Kilowatt Hours
kWp	Kilowatt Potential
kVa	Kilovolt Amperes
MVA	Megavolt Amperes
MW	MegaWatt
MWh	MegaWatt hours
NPV	Net Present Value
TRDC	Three Rivers District Council

Glossary

- **Annual Generation:** The predictive volume of electricity produced by the solar array on an annual basis, reported in watt hours (Wh), kilowatt hours (kWh) and megawatt hours (MWh).
- **Breakeven year:** The year at which cumulative net income becomes positive, where accrued profits surpass the initial capital costs.
- **Carbon Savings:** The total greenhouse gas emissions avoided through replacement of grid supplied electricity at local demand sites and via reducing the carbon intensity of the national grid through electricity export. Reported as tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e), encompassing the climate forcing impact of all greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Local Demand:** The amount of electricity generated by the solar array that is used by local demand, i.e., the leisure centre.
- **Net Present Value (NPV):** The present value of the cumulative net income over the project lifetime (year 30). The present value uses a discount rate to account for the time value of money.
- **Project Internal Rate of Return (IRR):** The expected internal rate of return generated by the project's cash flows before financing costs (debt interest) over the project lifetime. An indicator of profitability which accounts for the timing of cash flows.
- **Power Purchase Agreement:** A Power Purchase Agreement is a financial arrangement where a third-party developer owns, operates, and maintains the PV system, while a customer agrees to purchase the electricity generated by the system for a predetermined period.
- **Self-Sufficiency:** The percentage of local demand which is met by the solar array's electricity generation.

- **Solar Capacity:** This is the maximum amount of electricity that the full system can produce under ideal conditions. This is measured in watts, kilowatts (kW) and megawatts (MW).
- **Total Local Demand:** The anticipated annual electrical demand of the site and adjacent properties. Full details of the anticipated demand can be found in Chapter **Error! Reference source not found.** This is also referred to as 'local demand'.

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Three Rivers District Council

Attachment 1
Solar Canopy Feasibility Study
Results Summary

Date: 14/01/2025

SOLAR CANOPY FEASIBILITY STUDY RESULTS SUMMARY

1 Summary

- 1.1 In April 2024, Grand Union Community Energy (GUCE), in partnership with Three Rivers District Council (TRDC), was awarded a £40,000 grant from the Greater South East Net Zero Hub's Community Energy Fund (CEF) to assess the feasibility of installing solar canopies in council-owned car parks funded by community investment.
- 1.2 A team of technical, legal, financial and community engagement experts collaborated to evaluate the feasibility of installing solar canopies in seven TRDC-owned car parks
- 1.3 Because the Feasibility Study is long and technically complex, this summary has been created as Attachment 1 to support the Climate Change, Leisure and Housing Committee Report.

2 Details

- 2.1 Solar photovoltaic (PV) is a proven renewable energy technology and solar canopies have already been successfully installed across the UK, including by Local Authorities (please see Table 1).



	<p>Northumberland County Council</p> <p>Council HQ car park</p>
	<p>North Norfolk District Council</p> <p>Reef leisure centre car park</p> <p>Owned by the council and operated by Everyone Active</p>



Table 1: Local Authority Solar Canopy Examples

- 2.2 In 2019, TRDC commissioned APSE Energy to create a trajectory showing what actions the council must take to achieve its aim of becoming net-zero carbon by 2030.¹ The trajectory showed that the council must install 800kWp of solar PV to achieve its net-zero targets. That presents a challenge because the council does not have enough available roof space or greenspace for rooftop solar or a solar farm of that magnitude. Installing solar canopies in council-owned car parks is a potential solution to that challenge. However, solar canopies are complex and costly infrastructure projects. So, it was important that the council fully explored the feasibility of installing solar canopies and how they could be financed.
- 2.3 In April 2024, Grand Union Community Energy (GUCE), in partnership with Three Rivers District Council (TRDC), was awarded a £40,000 Stage 1 grant from the Community Energy Fund (CEF) to assess the viability of community-funded solar canopies in council owned car parks.
- 2.4 GUCE is a community benefit society dedicated to enhancing local resilience against rising energy costs and the challenges of climate change. GUCE has funded solar panels for the Rudolf Steiner School through a £70,000 share offer and is run by a volunteer Board of Directors, with all those that invest in their community energy projects becoming members. GUCE are separately working with TRDC on the Innovate UK Fast Followers project to trial Transition Streets in the district.
- 2.5 Under the CEF project, the technical, legal, and financial feasibility of solar canopies was studied in the seven TRDC-owned car parks identified in Table 2. The locations were chosen because they allowed the feasibility to be studied in a range of different scenarios which would have different constraints and opportunities.

Causeway House Car Park, Abbots Langley	The Aquadrome Car Park, Rickmansworth
Community Way Car Park, Croxley Green	Three Rivers House, Rickmansworth

¹ Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE)

South Oxhey Leisure Centre, South Oxhey	Rose Garden Car Park, Rickmansworth
William Penn Leisure Centre, Rickmansworth	

Table 2 Car Park Locations

Findings:

- 2.6 To enable the feasibility of the potential solar canopies to be considered, renewable energy experts Scene Connect created an optimised solar canopy design for each car park. The full technical report is available on request.
- 2.7 Table 3 below shows a technical summary of the optimised solar canopy designs for each car park. Please refer to Appendix 1 for definitions of key terms.

Site	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Causeway House	Community Way	South Oxhey LC	William Penn LC	Aquadrome	Three Rivers House	Rose Garden
Solar Capacity (kWp)	76	147	143	437	599	155	205
Annual Generation (MWh)	63.2	146.5	134.7	421.1	511.3	126.4	180.9
Capacity Factor	9.5%	11.4%	10.7%	11.0%	9.7%	9.3%	10.1%
No. Panels	168	327	318	972	1,330	345	456
Total Local Demand (MWh)	57.7	57.7	546.4	874.5	224.8	703.4	703.4
Local Consumption (% Generation)	45.4%	23.4%	93.8%	41.0%	25.3%	95.8%	89.0%
Self-Sufficiency (% demand met)	49.8%	59.5%	23.1%	19.7%	57.5%	17.2%	22.9%
Carbon Savings (lifetime, tCO_{2e})	383	887	815	2,548	3,094	765	1,095

Table 3: Optimised Solar Canopy Design Technical Summary

- 2.8 The technical designs were used to forecast the financial implications of the solar canopies. Table 4 provides an overview of the results.

Site	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Causeway House	Community Way	South Oxhey LC	William Penn LC	Aquadrome	Three Rivers House	Rose Garden
Indicative Capital Cost (£)	£157,930	£312,719	£287,868	£923,167	£1,005,375	£311,256	£407,410

Project IRR (%)	6.9%	7.2%	12.7%	8.5%	8.5%	10.8%	11.6%
Net Present Value (£, 30-year)	£4,713	£28,477	£290,998	£262,786	£276,959	£203,707	£328,093
Breakeven Year	16	16	9	14	13	11	10
Cumulative Net Income* (£, 30-year)	£98,255	£233,803	£664,835	£1,005,186	£1,059,375	£528,981	£798,399

Table 4: Financial Forecast Overview

**NB Includes financial savings, export revenue, less CAPEX costs in year 0, debt interest, and taxes.*

- 2.9 Please note that to create the financial forecast above, Scene Connect had to assume a £/ Kilowatt cost based on their experience of installing solar canopies. Their baseline assumption was £2000/KW except for William Penn Leisure Centre and Community Way where the high cost of a grid connection dictated a £4000/KW cost.²
- 2.10 Feedback from the National Wealth Fund (formerly known as the UK Infrastructure Bank) who were third party advisors to the study, suggested that £2000/KW was a conservative assumption. Therefore, we undertook sensitivity testing to identify the indicative capital cost, internal rate of return and net present value at £2.5k, £3k, £4k and £5k/KW. Please see pages 38 and 39 of Attachment 2 for more detail.
- 2.11 To consider the legal feasibility of the solar canopies, legal consultants from Spencer West reviewed the land title ownership and lease agreements for each site, including an analysis of any legal covenants or restrictions. Table 5 summarises their findings.

Site	RAG Status / Comments
Aquadrome	Amber – primarily due to the Green Belt restrictions
Causeway House	Green – no concerns.
Community Way	Amber – primarily due to the restrictive covenants of the two title deeds covering the car parks.
Rose Garden	Amber – due to the car park not being registered at the land registry (please note that land registration is underway).
South Oxhey Leisure Centre	Amber – primarily due to the complex land ownership and lease agreement situation.

² UKPN grid connection cost guidance = £150k William Penn Leisure Centre, £45k Community Way.

Three Rivers House	Amber – due to the car park not being registered at the land registry (please note that land registration is underway).
William Penn Leisure Centre	Green – no concerns.
NB: while some of the car parks were given an Amber rating, none of the legal issues relating to land title ownership/lease agreements would prevent the installation of a solar canopy at any of the sites. Some legal costs would be associated with resolving the issues (if installation proceeds), but the cost is not anticipated to be significant or meaningful when compared to the overall cost of the project. Please note the RAG rating above <u>does not</u> include planning permission constraints which have been treated separately and included in the constraints scoring exercise (see points 2.12–2.14 & Table 6).	

Table 5 Legal Constraints Summary

- 2.12 In addition to the work completed by Spencer West, the TRDC Planning Team (as the local planning authority (LPA)) was engaged to help identify any planning permission restrictions that should be considered as part of our feasibility study. Under new planning guidance, if the solar canopy is within certain parameters regarding the size and/or design of the canopy, it falls under the permitted development right Class OA. Class OA is defined as “*The installation, alteration or replacement of a solar canopy within an area lawfully used as off-street parking other than for a dwellinghouse or a block of flats*” and “*must be open on all sides or in the case of development adjoining a building on three sides*”.³
- 2.13 Permission to install a solar canopy under permitted development right Class OA is granted through a prior approval application. The prior approval application process is a streamlined process which is simpler than a full planning application. Solar canopy installers are required to submit applications for “prior approval” to the LPA, where the LPA determines whether the LPAs “prior approval” is sufficient, or if full planning permission is required, with respect to:
- the canopy’s siting, design and external appearance, in particular the impact of glare on occupiers of neighbouring premises; and
 - if within a conservation area, the impact of the appearance of the canopy on the conservation area.
- 2.14 At this stage of the project, it was impossible for the LPA to provide a formal opinion on whether the solar canopies in TRDC-owned car parks would require full planning permission or prior approval under permitted development, or the likelihood of securing permission through either route. However, the engagement established that a solar canopy design that fell within the parameters of permitted development under Class OA was the optimum planning and design route. As such, we included the Class OA permitted development parameters in our scoring of the legal constraints (see Table 6).
- 2.15 Following the evaluation described above, we concluded that installing solar canopies in council-owned car parks is feasible at all seven car parks, but some locations were better candidates than others. Therefore, each car park was scored

³ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/596/schedule/2/part/14/crossheading/class-oa-installation-etc-of-a-solar-canopy-on-nondomestic-offstreet-parking/data.xht?view=snippet&wrap=true>

according to their technical, financial and legal constraints to solar canopy installation. This enabled us to highlight the best candidate locations on which to focus our efforts.

2.16 Table 6 provides an overview of the key constraints to solar PV canopy development. It includes a constraint severity score where a lower score is better:

2.16.1 0 = Unconstrained, no constraint at the site.

- 1 = Slightly constrained, may limit viability or require mitigation measures.
- 2 = Constrained, may limit viability and will require mitigation measures.
- 3 = Highly Constrained, will limit viability and require mitigation measures.
- 4 = Very Highly Constrained, viability is poor and requires significant mitigation measures.
- 5 = Completely constrained, site unviable due to constraint.

#	Constraint	Type	Site						
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			Causeway House	Community Way	South Oxhey Leisure Centre	William Penn Leisure Centre	Aquadrome	Three Rivers House	Rose Garden
1	Construction	Technical	1	2	1	2	4	4	1
2	Shading	Technical	2	1	1	1	3	2	1
3	Access	Technical	2	3	2	1	2	3	2
4	Energy Networks	Technical	1	2	1	1	3	1	1
5	Annual Generation (MWh)	Technical	4	2	2	1	0	3	2
6	Local Consumption (% Generation)	Technical	2	4	1	2	4	0	1
7	Capital Cost (CAPEX)	Financial	1	2	2	4	4	2	3
8	Breakeven Year (ROI)	Financial	4	3	2	3	3	2	1
9	Carbon Savings (Lifetime, tCO2e)	Financial	2	3	2	0	0	3	2
10	Cumulative Net Income (30-year)	Financial	4	3	1	2	0	2	2
11	Internal Rate of Return (IRR)	Financial	3	2	1	3	2	1	1
12	Net Present Value (NPV)	Financial	5	4	2	3	2	2	1
13	Glare impact on neighbours	Legal	3	3	2	1	0	3	3
14	Proximity to neighbours	Legal	3	3	2	0	0	3	3
15	Highways alteration	Legal	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
16	Cultural Heritage	Legal	2	0	0	0	1	2	3
17	Environmental Heritage	Legal	2	2	1	1	4	1	1
18	Title Issues \ Legal Covenants	Legal	0	3	3	1	2	4	4

Table 6 Constraints Score Overview

Table 7 summarises the constraints score for each car park:

	Causeway House	Community Way	South Oxhey LC	William Penn LC	Aquadrome	Three Rivers House	Rose Garden
Technical Score	12	14	8	8	16	13	8
Financial Score	19	17	10	15	11	12	10
Legal Score	10	11	8	6	7	13	14
Total Score	41	42	26	29	34	38	32

Table 7 Constraints Score Summary

2.17 Based on the constraints scores shown above, the car parks were then ranked from best candidate to worst candidate for solar canopy installation (Table 8):

Rank	Car Park	Constraints Score
1	South Oxhey LC	26
2	William Penn LC	29
3	Rose Garden	32
4	Aquadrome	34
5	Three Rivers House	38
6	Causeway House	41
7	Community Way	42

Table 8 Car Park Rankings Based On Constraints Scores

2.18 The top three ranked car parks are South Oxhey Leisure Centre, William Penn Leisure Centre and the Rose Garden at Three Rivers House (i.e. not the multistorey car park where installing a solar canopy on the top deck is technically challenging and therefore constrained).

2.19 The top three ranked car parks benefit from being relatively unconstrained from a technical and legal perspective. They also benefit from having a neighbouring council-owned building which could consume the electricity generated by a solar canopy, meaning they are lower risk from a financial perspective as they have a pre-existing consumer of the energy.

2.20 While relatively unconstrained from a financial perspective, the installation of a solar canopy can incur a significant capital cost as shown in Table 9. Please note that the capital cost is indicative and not based on a fully costed technical design or supplier quotations.

Site	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank3
	South Oxhey Leisure Centre	William Penn Leisure Centre	Rose Garden
Indicative Capital Cost (£)	£287,868	£923,167	£407,410
Breakeven Year	9	14	10
Cumulative Net Income (£, 30-year)	£664,835	£1,005,186	£798,399

Table 9 Financial Summary For Best Candidate Locations

- 2.21 It should be noted we have concurrently reviewed the potential for installing solar panels on the roof of SOLC as the cost of installation is less than half of a car park canopy, with an estimated ROI of 4 years. The business case for this is straightforward and in development.
- 2.22 As the solar canopy study was funded by the Community Energy Fund, and delivered by GUCE (a community energy organisation) it focuses on funding the solar canopies through community investment. A community energy project generates capital funding through a share offer (or bond) to investors who are typically local residents.
- 2.23 Under a community funded scenario, TRDC would be the landlord and give permission to GUCE (through a lease or a licence) to install and maintain the solar canopies in the council's car parks. GUCE would own the solar canopies and sell the electricity generated. GUCE would use sale revenue to repay their investors. Ideally the low-cost and low-carbon electricity would be purchased by nearby council buildings e.g. William Penn or South Oxhey Leisure Centre in order to reduce the council's Scope 3 (indirect) carbon emissions.
- 2.24 Resident feedback from the community engagement events GUCE completed revealed that community energy as a concept was unfamiliar to most people, and that solar PV or heat networks were the most appealing form of renewable energy locally. Residents viewed the use of "unattractive" multi-use land areas like car parks for renewable development favourably, though some residents did share concerns over potential anti-social behaviour and vandalism of solar canopies, as well as any loss of car parking spaces. More details of the community engagement programme and the feedback gained can be found on pages 28 to 30 of Attachment 2.
- 2.25 The feasibility study also produced a Decision Tree tool, standardised constraint scoring table and risk register document which will be made publicly available to enable other councils to perform an initial evaluation of their car parks for solar canopies in a simple and low-cost way. Therefore, this project has provided a legacy benefit, that will not only help TRDC assess the suitability of its other car park sites for solar canopies but also enable other councils across the country to do the same.
- 2.26 For conclusions and recommendations please see the committee report.

APPENDIX 1

Acronyms & Glossary

Acronyms

CEF	Community Energy Fund
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide
tCO ₂	Tonnes of carbon dioxide
GUCE	Grand Union Community Energy
IRR	Internal Rate of Return
IRS	Investment Readiness Scheme
kW	Kilowatt
kWh	Kilowatt Hours
kWp	Kilowatt Potential
kVa	Kilovolt Amperes
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MW	MegaWatt
MWh	MegaWatt hours
NPV	Net Present Value
TRDC	Three Rivers District Council

Glossary

- **Annual Generation:** The predictive volume of electricity produced by the solar array on an annual basis, reported in watt hours (Wh), kilowatt hours (kWh) and megawatt hours (MWh).
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- **Local Demand:** The amount of electricity generated by the solar array that is used by local demand, i.e., the leisure centre.
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- **Solar Capacity:** This is the maximum amount of electricity that the full system can produce under ideal conditions. This is measured in watts, kilowatts (kW) and megawatts (MW).
- **Total Local Demand:** The anticipated annual electrical demand of the site and adjacent properties. Full details of the anticipated demand can be found in Chapter **Error! Reference source not found.** This is also referred to as 'local demand'.

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Grand Union Community Energy Solar Car Parks Study



Community Energy Fund Feasibility Stage 1 Report



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Acronyms

ASHP	Air Source Heat Pump
BenCom	Community Benefit Company
CAPEX	Capital Expenditure
CEF	Community Energy Fund
CH	Causeway House
CIBSE	Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide
CW	Community Way
DEVEX	Development Expenditure
DNO	Distribution Network Operator
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPC	Energy Performance Certificate
EV	Electric Vehicle
GUCE	Grand Union Community Energy
GSENZH	Greater South East Net Zero Hub
HDP	Heat Decarbonisation Plan
HoT	Heads of Terms
IRR	Internal Rate of Return
kW	Kilowatt

kWh	Kilowatt Hours
kWp	Kilowatt Potential
LED	Light Emitting Diode
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LPA	Local Planning Authority
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
kVa	Kilovolt Amperes
MVA	Megavolt Amperes
MW	MegaWatt
MWh	MegaWatt hours
NPV	Net Present Value
OPEX	Operating Expenditure
PPA	Power Purchase Agreement
PSDS	Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme
PV	Photovoltaic
PWN	Private Wire Network
REPEX	Replacement Expenditure
ROI	Return on Investment
SNPV	Social Net Present Value
SOLC	South Oxhey Leisure Centre

TA	The Aquadrome
TRG	The Rose Garden
TPO	Tree Protection Order
TRDC	Three Rivers District Council
TRH	Three Rivers House
TRH	Three Rivers House Car Park
UKPN	UK Power Networks
WPLC	William Penn Leisure Centre

1. Executive Summary

1.1. Project summary

Grand Union Community Energy (GUCE) undertook a Stage 1 Feasibility Study to assess the viability of installing community-funded (ground-mounted) solar canopies across seven Three Rivers District Council (TRDC) owned car parks with the funding from Community Energy Fund (CEF).

This study focused on solar photovoltaic (PV) panels which are a proven technology with car park solar already being used in the UK and across Europe to increase renewable energy supplies for energy-intensive end-users like leisure centres, supermarkets and office buildings, and creating a second use for the land. Though Solar PV technology itself is not innovative, community funded and owned solar canopies on car parks are an innovative model of deploying mature and reliable technologies, advancing progress on net-zero locally by leveraging private investment from the community. The study looked at how existing technology could be utilised with an innovative funding model - benefiting the local community on a larger scale than with rooftop solar alone.

Within the baseline assessment each car park was assessed for its suitability for solar generation (via canopies) through assessments of the sites:

- available open/ not shaded area
- construction for canopy footings
- access to energy networks (local substations/ potential direct wire end users)

Further details on the sites' assessment can be found in Section 2.2 and Appendix 1.

The financial assessment then analysed the sites:

- potential generation (from optimal solar arrays) against the identified end user energy demand
- potential challenges (cost and timeframes) for securing grid connections

Further details on the sites' financial assessment can be found in Section 7 and Appendix 1.

As this study's focus was on the financial model behind the proven technology the core findings of the report are contained within Section 7.

Organisations involved

Grand Union Community Energy

GUCE is a community benefit society dedicated to enhancing local resilience against rising energy costs and the challenges of climate change. GUCE's mission is to empower residents to take meaningful and lasting action to address these issues. As energy prices continue to rise, GUCE is focused on protecting residents from future fluctuations by providing affordable, clean, and reliable energy to community members.

GUCE began as a project of Transition in Kings in 2012, launching a successful £70,000 share offer that funded solar panels for the Rudolf Steiner School, achieving their goal within just eight weeks. GUCE is run by a volunteer Board of Directors and all those that invest in our community energy projects are members and have voting rights at our annual general meeting once a year. We currently have 41 members, the majority of whom became members by investing in our Rudolf Steiner Solar project. All members and volunteers are part of our local community of South-West Hertfordshire.

GUCE project managed the study.

Three Rivers District Council

TRDC is the local authority governing the Three Rivers district in Hertfordshire, England. It serves a diverse area, including urban, suburban, and rural communities. TRDC's climate strategy focuses on reducing carbon emissions, enhancing energy efficiency, and promoting sustainable practices. TRDC aims to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2030 for council operations and enable and inspire the District to achieve net-zero by 2045, through initiatives on retrofit, renewable energy, sustainable transport, and biodiversity. TRDC is the owner and operator of all car parks considered within this study and owner of several of the potential local electricity customer properties and sites. The Council views this project as a potentially valuable contributor to reducing Council and/or District carbon emissions, whilst reducing TRDC operational costs and providing energy services to Three Rivers residents and businesses.

The Council's involvement in the project as land owner and planning authority has been crucial in the development of the assessments of constraints and feasibility. It will also enable learnings on process and outputs to be shared widely via the GSENZH, the Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability partnership, the national Fast Followers project cohort, and UK100 group.

Study contractors

GUCE contracted:

- Scene Connect Ltd. (Scene) to carry out the technical and financial assessment for this study.
- Spencer West to carry out the land ownership and legal/ contractual assessments for this study.
- APHS Herts Ltd and Just1Action Ltd to deliver the community engagement and project management of the project.

1.2. Feasibility summary

The Stage 1 Feasibility Study has:

- developed outline technical reports and optimal solar coverage designs for the car parks,
- identified a range of potential end-users for the electricity generated, drafted a direct wire Power Purchase Agreement template, and begun initial engagement with potential energy buyers
- assessed a wide range of constraints per car park, including technical, financial, legal and planning permission constraints
- developed a detailed financial model for each car park sufficient for indicative assessment of viability,
- undertaken an appraisal of the relevance of sites to community energy and the potential ownership and maintenance structures,
- developed a scoring framework to prioritise the seven sites in order of viability,
- developed a decision tree to capture the step-by-step process taken and make it easier for other stakeholders to undertake the same process in the future,
- completed multiple reviews with the National Wealth Fund (formally UK Investment Bank) who acted as a "critical friend" to quality assure the financial and commercial modelling,
- completed sensitivity testing to identify acceptable thresholds to GUCE,

- completed an assessment of various funding sources and their availability, benefits and limitations,
- published an Expression of Interest to identify a short-list of experienced suppliers that could support the development of a business case (if awarded Stage 2 funding),
- engaged with senior officers within Three Rivers District Council (the landlord),
- engaged with the local community to gather their feedback and ensure it shapes and informs any potential project going forward,
- commissioned artistic impressions showing what the solar canopies could look like in the car parks, and
- created a short technical report to compare the feasibility of rooftop solar PV in comparison with a car park solar canopy for South Oxhey leisure Centre.

The seven sites were selected as archetypes of car parks across the district to enable the study to develop a robust decision tree tool which would allow GUCE and TRDC to assess the feasibility and viability of other car parks/ land within Three Rivers for potential solar canopies, including whether these would be viable as community-funded sites. This tool is applicable outside the district as a legacy benefit which would expedite and enable the assessment of ground mounted solar community energy schemes across England, providing clarity of actions and minimum requirements.

Having successfully completed our Stage 1 feasibility study we are now looking at our options for Stage 2. With solar canopies not viable via community energy without significant infrastructure investment, we need to open discussions with TRDC as to possible options for infrastructure funding and how these could work alongside a community energy model. Once this is clarified we can look to move to Stage 2 and to create investment-grade business cases for the most feasible car park locations. We have already started engagement with Three Rivers District Council as the car park owner and with the relevant identified end-users (Sports and Leisure Management, Blink Charging and TRDC). In addition to this Stage 2 could potentially support the one-to-many option and the funding models needed to make that viable. Given that many car parks in the UK don't have the luxury of a heavy end user next door, solving the one-to-many conundrum could open up renewable energy to a greater number of sites.

1.3. Case study statement

The Community Energy Fund (CEF) enabled Grand Union Community Energy (GUCE) to undertake a Stage 1 Feasibility Study to assess the viability of installing community-funded (ground-mounted) solar canopies across seven Three Rivers District Council (TRDC) owned car parks. Working closely with TRDC, the study has highlighted the legal, technical, environmental, regulatory, logistical, and community-related constraints and opportunities associated with each of the sites, resulting in a prioritised ranking. The Study identified 3 sites as having high potential for solar canopies. However, the study highlighted the significant financial challenges of solar canopies, over rooftop solar, for a community energy funded model. Further research is needed on potential options for funding the canopy structures themselves to make solar canopy car parks attractive for community energy.

Across the study community feedback endorsed a model of utilising existing “unattractive” multi-use land, such as car parks, for solar canopies, instead of Green Belt sites.

Additionally, the study developed a unique Decision Tree tool to help organisations, whether community, local authorities or businesses, nationwide to evaluate in an efficient way the suitability of their car parks and land for ground mounted solar canopies. This tool will be made publicly available to facilitate broader roll out and quicker uptake of solar technology.

“We are thrilled to be part of this solar project. Working with TRDC has been an exceptional experience, as their dedication and expertise have been instrumental in creating a scalable

framework for solar canopies across the district and potentially the entire country. This initiative not only paves the way for sustainable energy solutions but also brings significant benefits to our community, fostering a greener and more resilient future for all.” John Bell, Chair, GUCE

“The CEF Stage 1 funding has empowered the Council to collaborate with Grand Union Community Energy (GUCE) to assess the viability of installing solar canopies to key council-owned car park sites using community funding, and facilitated the development of a standardised decision-making tool, allowing the Council to assess the suitability of its remaining car parks, but also serving as a valuable resource for Local Authorities nationwide.

We are proud to have worked with GUCE on this Study which represents a significant milestone towards Three Rivers harnessing clean, locally produced renewable energy in everyday spaces. We look forward to taking viable sites forward to a Stage 2 study, to drive the district closer to achieving net-zero while delivering meaningful benefits to our residents and businesses.” - Joanna Hewitson, Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy Officer, Three Rivers District Council

“We at Scene are delighted to have been involved in this community-led solar project. From a technical perspective, solar canopies are an emerging trend in the UK energy sector and offer a great opportunity for local and community-led decarbonisation, as well as a means of delivering community development and impact. From a governance perspective, it is fantastic to see Three Rivers District Council working with GUCE to develop this project. Collaboration between communities and local authorities will be critical in delivering local energy systems which meet the needs of local people, whilst enabling the public sector to meet decarbonisation targets. We are excited to see the next steps for this project and similar projects across the UK.” Sandy Robinson, Co-Director, Scene

2. Statement of Need and Location

2.1. Statement of Need

The drive for this project came from local Councillors who saw solar canopies on car parks as a better use of their land assets and as a way to move the district closer to their net zero targets. This led to discussions with Officers where additional sites were added to the list and the goal of creating a usable framework for assessing solar canopies was decided upon. GUCE took ownership of the idea as it was clear that the wider community needed more locally generated renewable energy to provide energy bill security for the end users and to build energy resilience in the area.

The project has enabled GUCE to normalise community energy and local generation via the multiple community engagement events we ran, in turn enabling residents, Councillors, and Officers to ask more questions about what is possible to deliver net zero and how they can utilise existing spaces to drive down the cost and carbon footprint of electricity for key stakeholders.

2.2. Locations

This study considered the potential for solar PV canopies to be installed across seven car parks (across six sites) in Three Rivers. All seven car parks are owned and operated by TRDC which would agree a lease arrangement for the car parks with GUCE for those sites identified as suitable for community-funded energy. In addition to the analysis of the seven car parks for solar canopies a short feasibility study was also undertaken on rooftop solar at one of the sites (see Appendix 2 for full details).

The seven car parks were selected as archetypes of Three Rivers car parks – ranging from large recreational car parks, visitor destination car parks, leisure centre car parks and office car parks. A description of each site, its potential and its relevant constraints is set out in this Section with financial modelling within Section 7. More in-depth information can be found in Appendix 1.

The study sites are displayed in Figure 1 and include:

1. Causeway House Car Park, Abbots Langley (potential one to many system)
2. Community Way Car Park, Croxley Green (potential one to many system)
3. South Oxhey Leisure Centre, South Oxhey (potential one to one with single end user)
4. William Penn Leisure Centre, Rickmansworth (potential one to one with single end user)
5. The Aquadrome Car Park, Rickmansworth (potential one to many system)
6. Three Rivers House, Rickmansworth (potential one to one with single end user)
7. Rose Garden Car Parks, Rickmansworth (potential one to one with single end user)

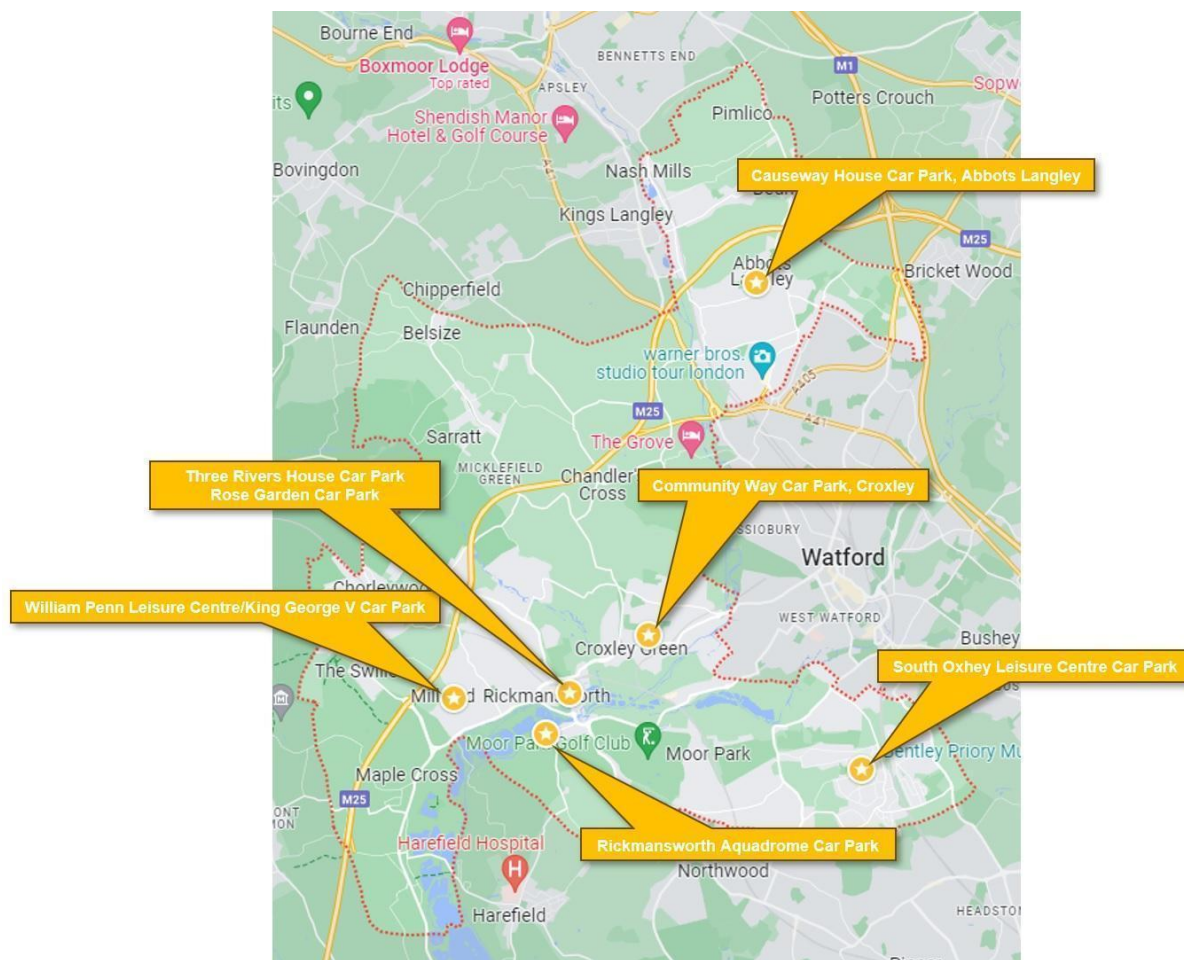


Figure 1– Study Sites Overview

Site 1: Causeway House (CH)

Description:

Causeway House Car Park is in Abbots Langley, to the north of Watford. The site is a square layout, with a tarmac surface which largely comprises car parking spaces (100) and a small number of larger spaces for vans (5). Site use is understood to be relatively high, due to the proximity to Abbots Langley High Street and the main retail areas along this road.

Area suitable for solar development:

The site is relatively unconstrained for solar canopy development as a large, open site with space for canopy installation and suitable surfacing and mostly unshaded site, giving good year-round solar exposure, although there is significant shading around the perimeter from mature trees, particularly along the south-eastern and south-western edges of the site. There are several trees within the car park itself, as well as pole-mounted lighting on the edge and centre of the car park.

Restrictions to site usage:

There is a public footpath and designated right of way (Abbots Langley 023) running along the south eastern edge of the car park. Abbots Langley conservation area is situated to the south eastern boundary of the site and some of the entrance road sits within the conservation area. Anecdotal evidence suggests potential for flooding at this site.

Potential end users:

There are few opportunities for direct local supply at the Causeway House site. The opportunities primarily comprise small retail units and domestic properties which are less

suitable for direct supply of electricity due to regulatory constraints on the supply of electricity to multiple users.

One opportunity which may be viable is Causeway House, located to the south of the site. Causeway House comprises 18 residential units which are owner-occupied or tenanted, which are managed by Thrive Homes. Whilst multi customer electricity supply is challenging in the current regulatory environment, it is possible that Causeway House could act as a single supply customer from a proposed solar PV array. This would require a single supply point at Causeway House, with the property owner / manager supplying individual properties from this single point. The existing supply arrangements – including metering and billing – at Causeway House are required to understand the viability of direct supply. A similar approach and requirements are relevant to the nearby “The Grange” retirement village, which comprises 38 flats and is owned and managed by the Anchor Hanover Group.

Virtual supply of nearby residential and / or retail properties in aggregate may be feasible at the site. This would require implementation of a local supply arrangement such as a virtual PPA, community tariff (e.g. Yonunity) or Local Energy Club model of operation. Whilst potentially viable, such a model is complex from engagement, contractual, ownership and management perspectives in comparison to private wire or other forms of single customer direct supply.

As of August 2024, TRDC is in the process of developing EV charging points at the retail units on the High Street, comprising 6 bays across 2 twin socket Fast EV chargers and 1 twin socket Rapid EV charger.

Site 2: Community Way (CW)

Description:

Community Way Car Park is in Croxley Green. The car park has 70 car parking spaces, with a mixture of short-term parking (up to 2 hours) and long-term (up to 36 hours) parking spaces. The Parish Council also owns and operates a storage building on the site. Site use is very high due to the proximity to the retail area.

Area suitable for solar development:

The site is moderately constrained for solar canopy development. It has a suitable surfacing for canopy installation and has areas of minimal shading, giving moderate year-round solar exposure.

Restrictions to site usage:

The site has relatively small parking spaces and tight turning areas to access the rear of the site, including the allotment entry, community club and parish council offices.

There are Tree Protection Orders (TPO) to the west of the car park.

Potential end users:

There are few opportunities for local supply at the Community Way site. The opportunities primarily comprise small retail units and domestic properties, as well as community and public sector sites to the rear of the site.

The two direct supply opportunities close to the site are the Croxley Green Community Club and Croxley Green Parish Council Office space. Whilst near to the generation site and with potentially simple integration into the project, both buildings are anticipated to have low and variable electricity use, which will reduce the viability of direct supply. The largest energy user in the site's vicinity is the Co-operative supermarket and adjacent Co-operative funeral care building. These sites would be suitable electricity customers with high and consistent electricity demand, albeit with the constraint of being located on the other side of New Road. Lastly, Croxley Green Library – owned by Hertfordshire County Council – may be a suitable energy customer, albeit with relatively low electricity demand.

Virtual supply of nearby residential and / or retail properties in aggregate may be feasible at the site. This would require implementation of a local supply arrangement such as a virtual PPA, community tariff (e.g. Yonunity) or Local Energy Club model of operation (Appendix A). Whilst potentially viable, such a model is complex from engagement, contractual, ownership and management perspectives in comparison to private wire or other forms of single customer direct supply.

As of August 2024, TRDC is in the process of developing EV charging points at Community Way, comprising 4 bays across 2 twin socket Fast EV chargers.

Site 3: South Oxhey Leisure Centre (SOLC)

Description:

South Oxhey Leisure Centre (SOLC) is located on Gosforth Lane, South Oxhey and is owned by TRDC and operated by Sports and Leisure Management Ltd. The site has 52 parking bays, including 4 blue badge spaces. The site is well used, primarily by visitors to the leisure centre, and the car park is anticipated to be in higher demand in future as TRDC plans stricter enforcement of on-street parking restrictions.

This site was also assessed for rooftop solar.

Area suitable for solar development:

The site is relatively unconstrained for solar canopy development, with relatively large parking bays and surfaces in good condition. There is minimal shading from off-site trees and the leisure centre itself, giving moderate year-round solar exposure across much of the site.

Restrictions to site usage:

Access is required to the rear of the property for deliveries, including chemical deliveries for maintenance of the swimming pool.

The Lease to Three Rivers prohibits or restricts alienation – this means that any lease to GUCE would need the specific consent of Hertfordshire County Council.

There is a covenant in the lease which prevents additions to the property, whilst this is intended to stop development work this would also catch the solar car park and require additional consents.

Potential end users:

The leisure centre has high and consistent energy demand which would make it a suitable off taker for locally generated solar energy. The leisure centre has a projected demand for electricity imports of 546.4 MWh per year, which includes the current metered demand (440.0 MWh per year) and the prospective demand from 3 new fast charging points (106.4 MWh per year).

Three 7/22kW dual charging points are planned to be installed at the site. Energy demand modelling has been based on annual site attendance of 323,616 individuals in 2023/24 and average visit duration of 1.5 hours.

SOLC currently has a 14.25 kW rooftop solar PV array, which generates an estimated 17.4 MWh per year based on the local solar irradiation profile (13.9% capacity factor). Technical modelling indicates that 100% of this generation is self-consumed by the Leisure Centre, behind-the-meter. Therefore, reducing the site's total future electricity import requirements to 546.4 MWh per year.

Two further direct supply opportunities close to the site are All Saints Church and the adjacent Oxhey Chapel, to the north of the site, and the Hertfordshire County Council owned South Oxhey Family Centre, to the west. Whilst the church site is close to the northern boundary of the generation site, both buildings are anticipated to have low and variable

electricity use, meaning poor viability for direct supply. The family centre is larger and anticipated to have higher and more consistent electricity demand, meaning it may be a suitable electricity customer. It is recommended that both sites are considered as secondary options to the leisure centre, offering an additional energy off taker where solar generation is greater than leisure centre demand.

TRDC intends to install three twin socket Fast EV chargers, creating 6 EV charging bays, adjacent to the south wall of the property.

Site 4: William Penn Leisure Centre (WPLC)

Description:

William Penn Leisure Centre (WPLC) is located on Shepherd's Lane, Rickmansworth and is owned by TRDC and operated by Sports and Leisure Management Ltd. There are 3 disabled parking bays located near the site entrance and there is a large car park on the opposite side of Shepherd's Lane, comprising ~151 parking bays, including 2 blue badge spaces and 7 larger family spaces. Adjacent to the car park is a 5-a-side football pitch with floodlighting, Mill End Bowling Club, and the King George V playing field and play area. The site is well used, primarily by visitors to the leisure centre.

Area suitable for solar development:

The site is relatively unconstrained for solar canopy development, with relatively large parking bays and surfaces in good condition. There is minimal shading from trees to the north east of the car park. Ongoing low carbon development at the site may be aligned with solar canopy development to reduce costs.

Restrictions to site usage:

Parking area has several uses beyond leisure centre access.

There are restrictive covenants on the area and it needs to be determined from the records held by the Council if this affects the car park area.

Potential end users:

The leisure centre has high and consistent energy demand which would make it a suitable off taker for locally generated solar energy, although the need to cable across the highway may constrain development.

WPLC has a projected baseline electricity consumption of 1,135 MWh per year, which includes the current metered demand (533.9 MWh per year), the prospective demand from 5 new charging points (188.3 MWh per year from 4 fast, 1 rapid charger), and an anticipated ground-source heat pump (GSHP) system that will provide the heating and cooling needs for the site (413.2 MWh per year).

Four 7/22kW dual charging points and one 50 kW charging point are planned to be installed, with the rapid charging point accounting for a projected 24% of charging demand. Energy demand modelling has been based on annual site attendance of 420,9446 individuals in 2023/24 and average visit duration of 1.5 hours.

In 2024 TRDC has been rolling out a Heat Decarbonisation Plan (HDP) for the leisure centre. This includes the installation of solar panels (230 kilowatt) on the leisure centre roof in October, as well as a planned low carbon heating system, potentially using boreholes to capture thermal energy from the car park and play field areas in the near future. Based on the outputs from this study, it is projected that electricity consumption will consist of 326.7 MWh per year for space heating, 12.2 MWh for hot water, and 74.3 MWh for cooling.

The newly installed additional rooftop solar PV array would generate an estimated 268.2 MWh per year based on the local solar irradiation profile (13.9% capacity factor). Technical modelling implies that 97% (linked to times of use) of this generation would be self-consumed by the Leisure Centre, behind-the-meter.

Therefore, reducing the site's future electricity import requirements to 874.5 MWh per year.

There are two further direct supply opportunities close to the site, which are the bowls club and LED lighting for the sports pitches. The bowls club has low and inconsistent energy demand so is a secondary option. LED lighting has low demand but is situated very close to the solar generation site. Storage would be required to enable solar PV generation to be used for lighting loads (as lighting is required when there is no solar generation). It is recommended that both sites are considered as secondary options to the leisure centre, offering an additional energy off taker where solar generation is greater than leisure centre demand.

TRDC also intends to install 4 twin socket Fast EV chargers and 1 twin socket Rapid EV charger in the main car park.

Site 5: The Aquadrome (TA)

Description:

The Aquadrome Car Park is a large, gravel car park situated near to the centre of Rickmansworth in the Colne Valley Regional Park. The car park has approximately 360 parking spaces. The Aquadrome and car park are owned and managed by TRDC. Both residents and visitors use the car park, with greater use throughout summer months.

Area suitable for solar development:

The site has significant shading as it is surrounded by tree cover, with some trees located within the site, between parking areas. However, it is a very large site with potential for extensive solar generation capacity.

Restrictions to site usage:

The car park is adjacent to and provides access to a 41-hectare Local Nature Reserve (LNR). The nearby LNR houses several protected and endangered species, including 4 bat species, may be impacted by any development at the site, including potential ecology, biodiversity, and visual impacts.

The site has an Asbestos Management Plan in place due to historic disposal of asbestos in the area, including cement board, insulation materials and textiles. Whilst asbestos levels are considered safe, this is a major constraint on any form of intrusive works at the site, such as drilling piles for canopy foundations.

There are certain areas which are covered by restrictive covenants pertaining to the land being Green Belt (under the Green Belt Act 1938), full designation should be available from the Council.

Potential end users:

There are few large electricity users in the vicinity of the Aquadrome site, with small on-site demand at the Café and significantly larger energy users around 250m from the site (e.g., Tesco Superstore, Thames Water).

The Aquadrome on site demand consists of the main Aquadrome meter for the Café in the Park and adjoining toilet block (215.9 MWh per year), and a small ski hut within the nature reserve (8.9 MWh per year). The café is situated 65m from the main car parking area, with the ski hut located ~450m to the north within the nature reserve. On this basis, the ski hut is not a viable electricity supply option.

There are no charging points or additional loads planned for this site, meaning the projected baseline electricity demand is 224.8 MWh per year.

With such a large site and therefore high electricity generation potential, potential supply opportunities further from the site have been investigated. These are the Tesco Superstore, located around 250m to the east of the site and accessible via Harefield Road; the Affinity

Water storage depot located 150m to the south of the site and Juniper Hill Water Pumping Station, 230m to the south of the site. Energy modelling for these sites has been conducted although detailed metering and billing will be required to fully appraise viability. All sites would require relatively long cable routes as well as requiring cabling to cross the Grand Union Canal, therefore increasing project complexity and cost.

Sites 6: Three Rivers House Car Park (TRHCP)

Description:

The multi-storey Three Rivers House Car Park and comprises 124 parking bays across two levels (61 upper, 63 lower), of which several are reserved for Three Rivers District Councillors. The car park is very well used by the public due to its location in the centre of Rickmansworth, as well as by staff and the council use during the week.

Area suitable for solar development:

The site is regularly shaded by Three Rivers House and Watersmeet Theatre, as well as being adjacent to the first floor of domestic properties to the north and east.

Restrictions to site usage:

There are public footpaths and a cycle path through the site which are heavily used, particularly by school children during the week.

The car park is relatively challenging to access, with tight turning circles for vehicles, including large TRDC vans which use the upper level regularly. The architectural designs and loading conditions of the upper level are unknown.

The site is constrained by site construction, access, and complex use requirements.

Potential end users:

TRDC intends to install 4 single socket Fast EV chargers and 1 twin socket Rapid EV charger in the lower level of the car park, creating 6 EV charging bays.

See Site 7 End user.

Site 7: The Rose Garden (TRG)

Description:

The Rose Garden Car Park comprises 37 spaces available for public parking (of which 4 are blue badge spaces); with a further 18 spaces enclosed at the north side of the car park by a barrier, this latter area is for use by the Police. This car park adjoins the Three Rivers House car park.

Area suitable for solar development:

Minimal shading except from TRH in winter months. TRDC preference is to avoid any impacts on the Rose Garden, meaning canopies are unlikely to be viable for the west side of the Rose Garden car park.

Restrictions to site usage:

To the west, the car park is bordered by the Rose Garden and Community Garden, both of which will constrain development of the western half of the Rose Garden car park.

The site is constrained by access, and complex use requirements.

Potential end users sites 6 and 7:

The car parks benefit from high vehicle usage and proximity to high energy users (as potential energy off takers).

The Three Rivers site has projected electricity demand of 727.1 MWh per year, which includes the current metered demand (634.4 MWh per year), self-consumption of solar PV

generation (23.7 MWh), and the prospective demand from 3 new fast charging points (69.0 MWh per year). The site consists of three buildings of interest with current metered electricity demand totalling 634.4 MWh per year. These buildings are the main TRH office building (430.3 MWh per year); the Watersmeet Theatre (189.4 MWh per year); and Basing House (14.7 MWh per year). There are five charging points planned at this site – four single 7 kW points and one 50 kW point – which have a projected electricity demand of 69.0 MWh per year. A further local supply opportunity would be connection to Rickmansworth Library, which is located 60m from the car park sites (225.0 MWh per year).

Total annual solar PV generation at the site is 23.7 MWh from two rooftop arrays on TRH (10.0 MWh) and Watersmeet Theatre (13.7 MWh). Technical modelling indicates that 100% of this generation is self-consumed by the TRH, behind-the-meter. Therefore, reducing the site's total electricity import requirements to 703.4 MWh per year.

Table 1 provides an overview of energy demand and generation from buildings adjacent to each car park site.

Table 1 - Overview of car park baseline data

#	Site Name	Megawatt Hours / Year					
		Current Electricity Demand*	Future EV Charging Demand*	Future Heat Pump Demand	Solar PV Generation*	Future Electricity Demand*	Future Energy Demand (Import)*
1	Causeway House	-	57.7	-	N/A	57.7	57.7
2	Community Way	-	57.7	-	N/A	57.7	57.7
3	South Oxhey Leisure Centre	440.0	106.4	-	17.4	563.7	546.4
4	William Penn Leisure Centre	533.9	188.3	413.2	268.2	1,135.3	874.5
5	The Aquadrome	224.8	N/A	-	N/A	224.8	224.8
6 & 7	Three Rivers House / Rose Garden	634.4	69.0	-	23.7	727.1	703.4

*Note:

- Current Electricity Demand is the current metered demand for imported electricity, so does not include the self-consumption from rooftop solar PV generation at TRH and SOLC.

- Future EV Charging Demand takes account of EV charging infrastructure, which is planned, but not yet installed at the sites. Blink Charging has been approached and are in principle interested in further discussions on linkages to the SOLC and WPLC solar canopies. The assumption is that Blink will buy some of the electricity developed.
- Solar PV Generation includes solar PV already installed (TRH, SOLC) and planned (WPLC).
- Future Electricity Demand is the total electricity consumption requirement for each building including current metered electricity demand and self-consumption of existing rooftop PV generation, alongside future EV charging and electrical heating loads.
- Future Energy Demand (Import) accounts for solar PV already installed (TRH, SOLC) and planned (WPLC), which reduces electricity import requirements at these sites.

Technical Development Constraints

Table 2 provides an overview of the key constraints for the seven sites to solar PV canopy development. It includes a constraint severity score:

0 = Unconstrained, no technical constraint at the site.

1 = Slightly constrained, may limit viability or require mitigation measures.

2 = Constrained, may limit viability and will require mitigation measures.

3 = Highly Constrained, will limit viability and require mitigation measures.

4 = Very Highly Constrained, viability is poor and requires significant mitigation measures.

5 = Completely constrained, site unviable due to constraint.

In addition to the technical constraints identified, financial constraints have been appraised in relation to the viability of the site resulting from scale and suitability of local energy demand. In this instance, high and consistent electricity demand is likely to confer positive financial viability, whilst low and less suitable electricity demand is likely to mean poor financial viability at the site.

Table 2 - Technical and Financial constraints assessment

#	Constraint	Critical Path	Type	Site						
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7
				CH	CW	SOLC	WPLC	TA	TRHCP	TRG
1	Construction	Yes	Technical	1	2	1	2	4	4	1
2	Shading		Technical	2	1	1	1	3	2	1
3	Access	Yes	Technical	2	3	2	1	2	3	2
4	Energy Networks	Yes	Technical	1	2	1	1	3	1	1
5	Annual Generation (MWh)		Technical	4	2	2	1	0	3	2
6	Local Consumption (% Generation)		Technical	2	4	1	2	4	0	1
7	Capital Cost (CAPEX)	Yes	Financial	1	2	2	3	4	2	3
8	Breakeven Year (ROI)	Yes	Financial	4	3	2	2	3	2	1
9	Carbon Savings (Lifetime, tCO2e)		Financial	2	3	2	0	0	3	2
10	Cumulative Net Income (30-year)	Yes	Financial	4	3	1	0	0	2	2
11	Internal Rate of Return (IRR)		Financial	3	2	1	1	2	1	1
12	Net Present Value (NPV)		Financial	5	4	2	1	2	2	1
13	Glare impact on neighbours	Yes	Legal	3	3	2	1	0	3	3
14	Proximity to neighbours	Yes	Legal	3	3	2	0	0	3	3
15	Highways alteration		Legal	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
16	Cultural Heritage		Legal	2	0	0	0	1	2	3
17	Environmental Heritage		Legal	2	2	1	1	4	1	1
18	Title Issues \ Legal Covenants	Yes	Legal	0	3	4	1	2	4	4

0 = Unconstrained, no constraint at the site.
1 = Slightly constrained, may limit viability or require mitigation measures.
2 = Constrained, may limit viability and will require mitigation measures.
3 = Highly Constrained, will limit viability and require mitigation measures.
4 = Very Highly Constrained, viability is poor and require significant mitigation measures.
5 = Completely constrained, site unviable due to constraint.

LOWER is BETTER

Technical Feasibility Score	12	14	8	8	16	13	8
Financial Feasibility Score	19	17	10	7	11	12	10
Legal Feasibility Score	10	11	9	6	7	13	14
Unweighted Feasibility Score	41	42	27	21	34	38	32

3. Options Assessed and Preferred Solution

This study focused on solar photovoltaic (PV) panels with the viability of ground mounted solar funded by community energy being investigated rather than different technologies. As described in our project summary the following were used to come up with optimal solutions for each of the seven sites:

- available open/ not shaded area
- construction for canopy footings
- access to energy networks (local sub-stations/ potential direct wire end users)
- potential generation (from optimal solar arrays) against the identified end user energy demand
- potential challenges (cost and timeframes) for securing grid connections

Further details on the sites' assessments can be found in Section 2.2 and Appendix 1.

Further details on the sites' financial assessment can be found in Section 7 and Appendix 1.

As this study's focus was on the financial model behind the proven technology the core findings of the report are contained within Section 7 and 8.

4. Land Rights, Connection, Planning, Permits and Consents

4.1. Consents

The car parks are owned and operated by TRDC and a full assessment of site titles has been undertaken to identify any risks or required consents with sufficient due diligence to take these sites forward to Stage 2 of their development. Some of the car parks have covenants and lease agreements that would need to be taken into consideration for any solar canopy development. See Appendix 3 for full site title report.

GUCE, through Spencer West, has undertaken a review of the current EV contract that TRDC has with Blink Charging and, with sufficient amendments, this could be the template contract between a council landlord and a solar canopy provider. TRDC used the standard Kent County Council EV Framework contract template (which was slightly amended) and can be found here: [Electric Vehicle Charging Points and Associated Services](#).

As part of the study, we have also developed a checklist of Legal Documents Required for Solar Canopy Lease/ PPA, see Appendix 4.

4.2. Planning Permission

GUCE has worked with TRDC, as both the landowner and local planning authority (LPA), prior to the CEF application and throughout the feasibility study, to ensure the constraints and implications of the planning requirements are built into the feasibility analysis of the 7 car parks.

Under new planning guidance, if the solar canopy is within certain parameters regarding the size and/or design of the canopy, it falls under the permitted development right Class OA.

Class OA is defined as “The installation, alteration or replacement of a solar canopy within an area lawfully used as off-street parking other than for a dwellinghouse or a block of flats” and “must be open on all sides or in the case of development adjoining a building on three sides”.

Permission to install a solar canopy under permitted development right Class OA is granted through a prior approval application. The prior approval application process is a streamlined process which is simpler than a full planning application.

For solar canopies developers are required to submit applications for “prior approval” to the LPA, where the LPA determines whether the LPAs “prior approval” is sufficient, or if full planning permission is required, with respect to:

- the canopy’s siting, design and external appearance, in particular the impact of glare on occupiers of neighbouring premises; and
- if within a conservation area, the impact of the appearance of the canopy on the conservation area.

The LPA will assess the information and determine if the site aligns with the permitted development rights or, if the solar canopy is outside these parameters, require the developer to submit a full planning application.

To support in the analysis of the seven car parks, as well as to feed into the development of the decision tree, the following planning process flow, Figure 2, has been developed in partnership with TRDC.

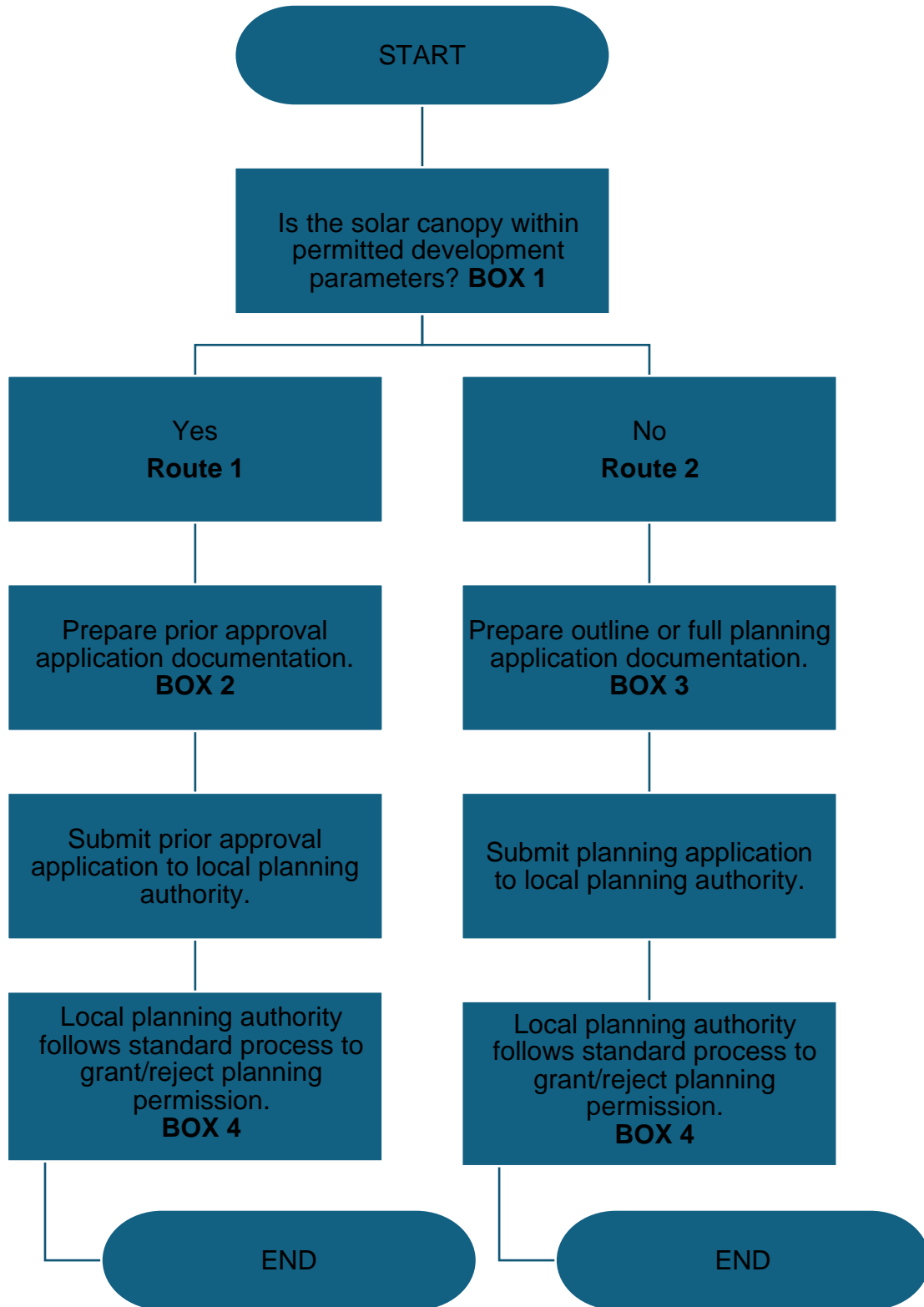


Figure 2 - Planning Process Flow

BOX 1: If the answer is **NO** to **ALL** of the questions below a prior approval application should be submitted via **Route 1**. If the answer is **YES** to **ANY** of the questions below an outline or full planning application should be submitted via **Route 2**.

- Does any part of the solar canopy exceed 4 meters in height above the ground?
- Is any part of the solar canopy within 10 meters of the curtilage (an area of land around a house and forming one enclosure with it) of a dwellinghouse or a block of flats?
- Is the solar canopy within the curtilage of a dwellinghouse or a block of flats?
- Is the land on which the solar canopy will be installed designated as a scheduled monument or land within the curtilage of a scheduled monument?
- Is the solar canopy within the curtilage of a listed building?
- Will the solar canopy be used to display an advertisement?
- Will the solar canopy be installed in an off-street parking area in use by virtue of a Class B (temporary use of land) of Part 4 (temporary buildings and uses)?

BOX 2: The following documentation must be provided for prior approval application:

- A completed prior approval application form -this includes a written description of the proposed development and the developers contact address and email address
- A plan indicating the site and showing the proposed development, and sufficient drawings to show where the development will go and what it will look like
- Fee
- [beneficial to include a covering letter to explain what is proposed and why, any panel and location of any plant/machinery required design rational etc.]
- [A prior approval application may require a glint and glare assessment in cases where receptors are close to roads/ homes]

Note: the project has to be completed 3-years from prior permission approval.

BOX 3: In addition to the documentation outlined in BOX 2 the following may be required depending on if outline (*permission that requires further engagement with local planning authority on specified conditions*) or full planning permission (*permission that does provides all required information on submission therefore not needing further engagement with local planning authority post approval*) is sought:

- A complete planning application form
- Additional plans and drawings.
- Alignment with Local Planning Policy (e.g., Local Plan, Infrastructure Plan, Parking Strategy)

BOX 4: The process underpinning a prior approval application, and an outline or full planning application is the same. But the prior approval process requires the local planning authority to consider a smaller number of parameters and is less likely to require planning committee approval, so it often takes less time to receive a decision.

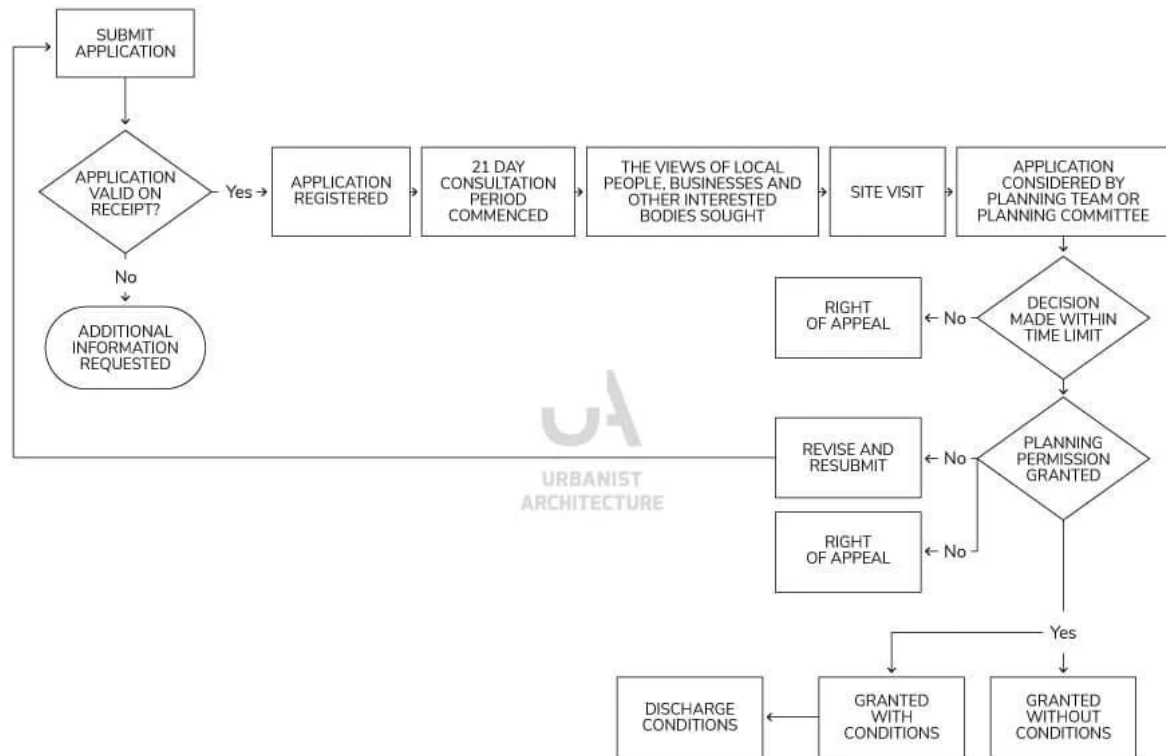


Figure 3 - Planning Approval Process. Source: Urbanist Architecture

The final designs for the car parks will be finalised at Stage 2 where the appropriate planning route for each viable car park will be identified. The only two items from Box 1 that are foreseen to be relevant to these sites is the height and distance within the curtilage. Depending on the Return on Investment (ROI) of a particular site the designs may be adapted to remain within permitted development rights given the additional costs involved in full planning applications may impact ROI and Breakeven Year.

4.3. Grid connection

For all sites, it is anticipated that a connection to the electricity grid will be required. Engagement with the Distribution Network Operator (DNO), UK Power Networks (UKPN), was conducted on the 12th December 2024. The point of connection for all sites was reviewed in the context of local grid layouts and capacity constraints and connection costs agreed with UKPN network designers. The next steps for connection would be submission of a budget estimate for final scheme designs, followed by a grid connection application (G.99 submission). There were changes to costs following the DNO call which affected some of the financial analysis with higher than originally modelled costs for grid connection, and therefore slightly reduced the financial viability of some sites. This report contains the final financial analysis including the DNO costings. It did however not affect the site prioritisation and recommendations.

5. Community Engagement

The study carried out comprehensive stakeholder engagement – as stakeholder views could make or break each car park's business case. The study engaged:

- District and Parish Councils – Councillors and Officers
- Local communities/ residents surrounding car parks – as users, interested parties and potential investors
- Potential end-users of energy generated i.e. local businesses

5.1. Council – officers and councillors

The Council has an appetite for local community renewable energy, at all levels, so much so that the Council asked us to include two additional sites into this feasibility study. GUCE, via the study working group, has worked side by side with TRDC officers on the project via weekly coordination meetings with the core team members, and additional meetings with senior officers at key points in the studies progress.

Initial feedback from District and Parish Councils has been positive and demonstrated significant interest. To kick start the councillor engagement a 45-minute session was held on the 28th August 2024 to which all Ward, Parish, District and three Herts CC Councillors were invited (via an email from the Leader of Three Rivers Council). The session was attended by six Councillors and the recording and minutes circulated to all invitees.

GUCE provided a presentation outlining the project and answered a number of questions from attendees. The response to the project and its aims was very favourable and GUCE committed to feedback to the Councillors on the project outcomes in November. Following the meeting a Frequently Asked Question document was developed to provide answers to the questions raised during the meeting for those unable to attend, see Appendix 5.

GUCE continued its communication with councillors via circulating a project update and the presentation used at the November community events to TRDC councillors in November via the Members Bulletin.

5.2. Community and resident engagement

Introductory events

A series of introductory events took place across several local communities to generate interest (in both the project and to gain a sense of interest in share offer) and feedback (both challenge and support) for the project. Five community engagement events were held to initiate discussions on community energy more widely and then specifically test the solar canopy car park project. The events were:

- Croxley Green (Community Way Car Park) Thursday 5th September (45-minute slot within wider Local Area Forum (LAF) agenda)
- Watford Rural (South Oxhey Car Park) 7th September 10am-11am
- Abbots Langley (Causeway House Car Park) 12th September 7pm-8pm
- William Penn (William Penn Car Park) 16th September 7pm-8pm
- Batchworth (Three Rivers House, Rose Garden, Rickmansworth Aquadrome Car Parks) 18th September 7pm-8pm

The events were publicised via the GUCE and TRDC mailing lists, press releases, social media (Facebook and Instagram channels) and websites, and were also promoted via posters on all relevant TRDC notice boards and on notice boards within each venue and emails to relevant resident associations.

At each event participants were provided with background information on what is community energy, asked for their vision of their area over the next 10-20 years (in terms of landscape and energy) and asked for feedback on the potential use of car parks as an option for a ground mounted solar canopy for local energy generation.

In addition to the events specifically for the project, GUCE attended the Abbots Langley Autumn Fest on the 14th September and used this opportunity to raise awareness and gather feedback on potential interest in community energy projects.

Attendance at the events was variable:

- Croxley Green at Croxley Green Baptist Church – approximately 50 residents (as part of the LAF)
- Watford Rural at Oxhey Library – no attendees
- Abbots Langley at the Henderson Hub – 11 attendees
- William Penn at Mill End Community Centre – 1 attendee
- Batchworth at Our Ladies Parish Hall – 2 attendees

Summary of feedback from introductory events:

- Community energy as a concept was typically not well known by the audiences at events. The majority of attendees were interested in looking at what community energy could look like in their areas and requested more information on what community energy is, what it could look like locally, and how the investment model (and returns) work.
- Consensus on solar/ heat networks as the most appealing, with more negativity towards wind power.
- Protection and care of landscape elements that “made” the community clearly described and to be protected in any future community energy project.
- The use of “unattractive”/ multi-use land areas for renewable development, i.e. car parks, was acceptable across the board with attendees. Though concerns were raised on vandalism, youths gathering under the shelter, potential loss of car parking spaces and space for mobile cancer screening units and canopies increasing flooding issues on site (namely for Causeway House).

There has been no definitive feedback from community members on wishing to invest or purchase energy – a general level of interest on both elements but a wish to know more on what any investment returns or energy cost savings would look like before individuals willing to show more concrete interest.

Wrap up events

GUCE held five further sessions in November (4 in person and 3 online) as light touch drop-in sessions for members of the public. These events were not well attended, though promoted through the same channels as the introductory meeting with increased social media coverage.

As in the Introductory meetings GUCE found that the most effective engagement event was attending another Local Area Forum - this time for Abbots Langley in early December, with over 40 attendees - some of whom had attended the previous meeting. There was positive engagement and reinforcement from those present that the idea of solar canopies on car parks was a good use of space, and they look forward to engaging further as the project progresses.

5.3. End users

Within the CEF grant application direct and indirect engagement with potential end users was planned i.e. local businesses directly or through the Chamber of Commerce. However, though a number of methods of outreach have been used to contact these groups there has been a reluctance by them to engage at this early feasibility stage – with business and end users wishing the project to be further forward in its development before committing time to engage/ respond.

A number of high consumption end users were identified and discussions with these end users are ongoing – there is in principle interest but no firm commitments until further progress is made on the proposed operating model and potential financial arrangements for the end user. Conversations continue with Everyone Active Ltd (regarding car parks adjacent to Leisure Centres), Blink Charging (regarding EV charging points in the car parks), and Thrive Homes and Anchor Housing (regarding Causeway House which is adjacent to their social housing and older people's homes respectively).

5.4. Police

Sarah Burgess from GUCE arranged an interview with Sergeant Andrew Blackwood of the Neighbourhood Policing Team for Hertfordshire Police to get more detailed information on any issues that might need to be addressed with regards to safety and vandalism if solar canopies are installed in the local car parks. From the outset Sergeant Blackwood said that none of the sites struck him as areas of high risk or concern. The community has brought up safety during the community events we had run in September, and this was also raised by Shivani Dave, Community Partnerships Officer for Three Rivers District Council. Sgt Blackwood was in agreement that lights would definitely help to deter any vandalism and possible anti-social behaviour. We explored the possibility of motion sensor lights to stop large groups gathering as the lights would keep turning off. He also highlighted that EV charging helps to reduce crime due to a high footfall rate and presence of the general public. One of the possible sites is next to the police station so would definitely not be popular with anyone looking to do damage or harm.

CCTV has also been discussed, particularly at the members briefing in October as the cost of monitoring it can be high with no council budget to cover it. When talking about damage Sgt Blackwood also mentioned anti climb paint so we will feed these suggestions into any future design plans.

6. Community Benefits

The study identifies the following benefits to the local community:

- **End Users**
 - “Clean” low carbon sustainable energy supply to residents and local businesses
 - Energy discounts and subsidies (specifically for those in close proximity to the project)
 - Bill security (potential fixed rates/ rates fixed below market rates)
 - Locally produced, removing volatility in pricing due to international events
- **Community**
 - A percentage of funds generated would be allocated to GUCEs Community Fund for projects which help improve local community resilience in the face of increasing energy costs and climate change. For example this could fund a team of Energy Champions to provide free information and small energy saving measures for local residents.
- **Car Park Users**
 - Shading for vehicles
 - Covered space that could be leveraged for other uses (market days, community events etc)
- **Community Funded - Energy Investors**
 - Opportunity to buy shares to fund investable solar canopy projects and have a say in the management of the assets via GUCE Annual General Meeting
 - Capital repayment plus dividend payments typically around 3% interest a year

In addition, the project would:

- 1) Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through implementing low carbon electricity generation and EV charging infrastructure.
- 2) Reduce energy costs for TRDC owned and commercial properties, including TRDC offices, leisure centres etc. enabling savings to be spent on other community priorities.
- 3) Generate revenue for community and public sector benefit via supply of electricity to local businesses and through export of renewable electricity to the national grid.

The scale of these benefits will be dependent on the final number of solar canopies developed, with some benefits relevant across all car parks regardless of the funding model and others tied to the community energy funding model.

Any car parks that move forward where a community energy model is deemed viable will be managed by GUCE, whose members are based in the local community. As a non-profit community benefit society, all members have an equal vote on projects and the management of assets through communications and the AGM. Any GUCE profits (outside of return to investors) will be reinvested in future community projects like energy advice, thermal imaging services, and other community solar options, thereby amplifying the positive impact of the project in the area. The project aligns with GUCE's strategy to grow its local impact and advance community energy in the area.

Wherever possible GUCE will use local contractors and providers to maximise the local economic benefits of these projects and ensure they are felt by the whole community.

7. Financial Projections

Following the baseline site assessments a technical appraisal was undertaken using industry standard modelling tools and Scene's bespoke techno-economic model for each car park. The appraisal considers two design options at each site, including:

1. **Maximised scenario:** This scenario builds on the technical constraints assessment to propose a maximum extent of solar canopy development, therefore maximising solar capacity, generation potential, and relative impact. In most cases this scenario meets financial viability thresholds and is also the optimised, and therefore recommended, solution.
2. **A) Optimised scenario:** In those sites where the maximised scenario does not meet financial viability thresholds or there is a clear opportunity for improved performance, this scenario proposes an optimised development extent which aligns with the financial prospects for the site. Simply, this scenario scales the solar PV capacity to maximise the supply of electricity to local users in a financially viable manner.
B) Alternative scenario: In those sites where the maximised scenario meets financial viability thresholds, this scenario presents a downgraded option which is less capital intensive but would still provide positive impact at the site.

The recommended scenario is that which maximises cumulative net income and carbon impact over the project lifetime given the following financial thresholds are met:

- A project Internal Rate of Return (IRR) greater than 7%.
- A positive Net Present Value (NPV) by year 30.

Table 3 sets out the development prospects for each car park. It highlights that:

- The sites with the greatest solar development potential are the Aquadrome (Site 5) and WPLC (Site 4) sites, due to the potential to install a significant number of canopies, and therefore panels, at these large car parks.
- The sites with the optimal orientation for high solar generation are Community Way (Site 2) and WPLC (Site 4).
- The sites with the least solar development potential are Causeway House (Site 1) and TRHCP (Site 6) due to the orientation of these sites delivering lower capacity factors (<9.5%) than other sites.

Table 3 also sets out the financial prospects for each car park. It highlights that:

- The sites with the largest total returns are the WPLC (Site 4), Aquadrome (Site 5) and Rose Garden sites (Site 7). These sites each provide NPV greater than £250,000, and cumulative income over £750,000 over the project lifetime.
- The sites with the lowest IRR are the Causeway House (Site 1) and Community Way (Site 2) sites.
- The sites with the highest IRR are the Rose Garden site (Site 7) and SOLC (Site 3).

Table 3 - Technical and Financial Overview

	Site	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		CH	CW	SOLC***	WPLC***	TA	TRHCP**	TRG**
R e c o m m e n d e d S c e n a r i o	Scenario	<i>Optimal</i>	<i>Optimal</i>	<i>Optimal</i>	<i>Maximum</i>	<i>Maximum</i>	<i>Maximum</i>	<i>Maximum</i>
	Solar Capacity (kWp)	76	147	143	437	599	155	205
	Annual Generation (MWh)	63.2	146.5	134.7	421.1	511.3	126.4	180.9
	Capacity Factor	9.5%	11.4%	10.7%	11.0%	9.7%	9.3%	10.1%
	No. Panels	168	327	318	972	1,330	345	456
	Total Local Demand (MWh)	57.7	57.7	546.4	874.5	224.8	703.4	703.4
	Local Consumption (% Generation)	45.4%	23.4%	93.8%	41.0%	25.3%	95.8%	89.0%
	Self-Sufficiency (% demand met)	49.8%	59.5%	23.1%	19.7%	57.5%	17.2%	22.9%
	Indicative Capital Cost (£)	£157,930	£312,719	£287,868	£923,167	£1,005,375	£311,256	£407,410
	Project IRR (%)	6.9%	7.2%	12.7%	8.5%	8.5%	10.8%	11.6%
	Net Present Value (£, 30-year)	£4,713	£28,477	£290,998	£262,786	£276,959	£203,707	£328,093
	Breakeven Year	16	16	9	14	13	11	10

	Cumulative Net Income (£, 30-year)	£98,255	£233,803	£664,835	£1,005,186	£1,059,375	£528,981	£798,399
	Carbon Savings (lifetime, tCO₂e)	383	887	815	2,548	3,094	765	1,095

Notes:

** Though on the same site and adjoining all figures above for THR and TRG car parks are mutually exclusive.

***SOLC and WPLC are both operated by Sports & Leisure Management (SLM) , a leisure management company under the Everyone Active brand. SLM operates more than 220 leisure facilities, working with over 60 local authority partners, and are a key stakeholder as the prospective purchaser of electricity at the two leisure centre sites. The organisation has developed a net zero strategy which includes a target to become operationally net zero by 2030, included within this strategy is the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure at all facilities. The financial analysis works on the assumption SLM will buy the electricity generated in their sites. Discussions with them are ongoing and currently indicating they'd be open if the price point was right.

Scene's bespoke techno-economic models were utilised for all sites to enable matching of local energy demand and the solar PV generation potential of each site.

The definition of financial metrics used to assess performance of each site are as follows:

- **Project Internal Rate of Return (IRR):** The expected internal rate of return generated by the project's cash flows before financing costs (debt interest) over the project lifetime. An indicator of profitability which accounts for the timing of cash flows.
- **Lifetime Net Present Value (NPV):** The present value of the cumulative net income over the project lifetime (year 30). The present value uses a discount rate to account for the time value of money.
- **Return on Investment (ROI):** A profitability metric that compares the lifetime (30-year) cumulative net income (includes interest and taxes) to the initial costs. Compounded to produce an annualised growth rate.
- **Return on Capital Employed (ROCE):** Measures the efficiency with which capital is employed. A profitability ratio that compares the lifetime (30-year) earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) to the initial costs. Compounded to produce an annualised growth rate.
- **Financial Savings:** The financial savings from consuming self-generated electricity instead of importing electricity from the grid. The saving is the current cost of importing electricity.
- **Export Income:** The revenue generated by exporting excess electricity to the grid.
- **Operating Cash Flow:** The balance of cash in and cash out over a given year. Includes all financial savings and revenues, and all costs (OPEX, capital repayments, interest repayments).
- **Cumulative Net Income:** The cumulative net income over the project lifetime. Includes financial savings and export revenue, less CAPEX costs in year 0, and cumulative OPEX, debt interest, and REPEX in subsequent years.

- **Breakeven year:** The year at which cumulative net income becomes positive, where accrued profits surpass the initial capital costs.
- **Carbon Emissions Reduction:** The reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (tonnes CO₂e) from producing zero carbon electricity for self-consumption and export purposes. Compared to the current carbon intensity of the grid.
- **Levered Internal Rate of Return (IRR):** The expected internal rate of return generated by the project's cash flows including financing costs (debt interest) over the project lifetime. An indicator of profitability which accounts for the timing of cash flows and cost of finance.

Several assumptions have been made within this financial assessment, listed in Table 4 below.

Table 4 – Financial Assumptions

Summary of Financial Assumptions		
	Assumption / Metric	Notes
CAPEX	£1550 / kWp And Fixed Costs	Cost of all generator materials, carport frame & construction. Fixed costs include design, legal, procurement, PM.
Grid Connection Costs	£200 / kW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contestable and non-contestable costs. UKPN has provided guidance for each site. This results in increased budgeting for WPLC (£150k) and Com. Way (£45k).
Contingency	10%	Added to all CAPEX and Connection Costs.
OPEX	£10 / kW / year	Including maintenance, repair, insurance, and other operating costs.
REPEX	Year 25	Replacement of generation equipment, including associated costs.
PV Degradation Rate	0.27% / year	Annual degradation of PV panels up to replacement year.
Funding Approach	Local Authority Borrowing	Preferential Rates, e.g. via PWLB.
Debt Finance Interest Rate	4.4%	20-year term, fixed interest.
Grant Funding	0%	No capital grant funding assumed.
Electricity Price	£0.2752 / kWh	Current blended price paid by TRDC.
Discount Electricity Price	£0.20 / kWh	Discounted rate for direct end users via PPA
Export Price	£0.15 / kWh	Market export tariff projection.
Inflation	2%	Bank of England target rate. Applied to all revenues, OPEX and REPEX.
Discount Rate	3.5%	Nominal rate.
Tax Rate	0%	No taxes due on project income.

Summary of Financial Assumptions		
	Assumption / Metric	Notes
Carbon Intensity of Imported Electricity	0.20705 kgCO ₂ e / kWh	2024 UK Government GHG Conversion Factor

TRDC worked with the National Wealth Fund (NWF) to test the technical and financial models developed. The assumption above of on average £2,000 per kW for the cost of the canopies was challenged by the NWF with other authorities they are supporting receiving quotes ranging from £2,500/ kWp to £3,800/kWp. Given this GUCE and TRDC carried out additional sensitivity testing and modelling across CAPEX, IRR and NPV across all sites from both a TRDC and a community energy viewpoint. A summary of this sensitivity analysis can be viewed in Table 5.

Table 5 - Sensitivity Testing

Sensitivity Thresholds	
CAPEX	£500,000
IRR	6.0%
NPV	£1,000

The maximum CAPEX that GUCE is willing to invest in one location.

The minimum Internal Rate of Return (IRR) % that GUCE will accept.

It was felt that the capex and IRR were the key determiners for GUCE so this wasn't really applicable. For the sake of this report though the minimum Net Present Value (NPV) that GUCE will accept has been set at this level.

Note:

The CAPEX £/KW consists of solar PV system, canopy frame, construction & labour, grid connection, consultancy fees and a 10% contingency.

WPLC and TRH sensitivity analysis starts at the £4k point as, given DNO costs, these car parks initial capital costs start above £4k.

S = Scene estimate of Indicative Capital Cost

Causeway House				
	CAPEX £/KW	Indicative Capital Cost (£)	IRR	NPV
S	£2,000	£157,930	4.1%	-£43,685
	£2,500	£190,000	2.3%	-£73,103
	£3,000	£228,000	0.5%	-£108,004
	£4,000	£304,000	-2.2%	-£177,806
	£5,000	£380,000	-4.0%	-£247,607

Community Way				
	CAPEX £/KW	Indicative Capital Cost (£)	IRR	NPV
S	£2,000	£312,719	5.5%	-£44,935
	£2,500	£367,500	3.7%	-£95,823
	£3,000	£441,000	1.7%	-£164,100
	£4,000	£588,000	-1.1%	-£237,440
	£5,000	£735,000	-3.0%	-£371,323

South Oxhey Leisure Centre				
	CAPEX £/KW	Indicative Capital Cost (£)	IRR	NPV
S	£2,000	£287,868	8.1%	£28,576
	£2,500	£357,500	5.4%	-£36,616
	£3,000	£429,000	3.3%	-£103,558
	£4,000	£572,000	0.3%	-£237,440

£5,000	£715,000	-1.7%	-£371,323
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William Penn Leisure Centre			
CAPEX £/KW	Indicative Capital Cost (£)	IRR	NPV
S £4,000	£923,167	-0.7%	-£435,877
£5,000	£1,085,000	-2.1%	-£587,165

Aquadrome			
CAPEX £/KW	Indicative Capital Cost (£)	IRR	NPV
S £2,000	£1,005,375	6.7%	-£47,974
£2,500	£1,497,500	2.1%	-£506,191
£3,000	£1,797,000	0.3%	-£785,055
£4,000	£2,396,000	-2.3%	-£1,342,783
£5,000	£2,995,000	-4.2%	-£1,900,511

Three Rivers House Car Park			
CAPEX £/KW	Indicative Capital Cost (£)	IRR	NPV
S £4,000	£311,256	-0.2%	-£383,848
£5,000	£375,000	-1.9%	-£575,115

Rose Garden			
CAPEX £/KW	Indicative Capital Cost (£)	IRR	NPV
S £2,000	£407,410	7.2%	£1,103
£2,500	£512,500	4.4%	-£96,947
£3,000	£615,000	2.4%	-£192,581
£4,000	£820,000	-0.4%	-£383,848
£5,000	£1,025,000	-2.4%	-£575,115

7.1. Community Energy Commercial Case

The above financial appraisal considers the financial viability of the car parks from the perspective of a project owner, which is effectively TRDC as it owns and operates all sites. As a project funded by the CEF and led by community energy organisation, GUCE, it is critical that the financial case for community investment and ownership is understood.

This section sets out the commercial case for community ownership of solar canopies across all sites, with the objective of financing and operating a solar canopy project which generates revenue and associated benefits to GUCE and the local community. These benefits are largely financial, via revenue generation from solar export and sales to TRDC, with the intention to reinvest any profits into community development.

A 20-year financial assessment has been conducted to align with several factors, including anticipated land lease and share raise finance terms. Several assumptions are made within this community-led development scenario:

- The scheme will be fully owned by a community-owned organisation (e.g., GUCE), which is focused on community development and investment.
- The scheme will be financed via a community share raise, assuming an investment term of 20 years and finance rate of 4%.
- Revenue generation will result from electricity sales to TRDC owned properties (where present) via a PPA, at an assumed electricity tariff of £0.20 / kWh at each site.
- Surplus electricity will be sold to the grid at the current market leading rate of £0.15 / kWh.
- A land agreement (e.g., lease) will be agreed between TRDC and the community entity at zero cost (peppercorn rent).

Table 6 provides an overview of the financial performance at each site for the recommended development scenario under the financing conditions of community energy. See Appendix 1 for full details.

Table 6 - Financial Overview: Community Energy Scenarios

Recommended Scenario	Site	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		CH	cw	SOLC	WPLC	TA	TRHCP	TRG
	Scenario	Optimised (76 kW)	Optimised (147 kW)	Optimised (143 kW)	Maximised (437 kW)	Maximised (599 kW)	Alternative (75 kW)	Maximised (205 kW)
	Indicative Capital Cost (£)	£157,930	£312,791	£287,868	£923,167	£1,005,375	£157,160	£407,410
	Project IRR (%)	4.1%	5.2%	7.6%	5.5%	6.3%	6.8%	6.8%
	Net Present Value (£, 30-year)	-£43,685	-£51,992	£28,457	-£123,640	-£47,865	£1,570	£1,267

Breakeven Year	20	17	13	16	15	14	14
Cumulative Net Income (£, 30-year)	£7,409	£64,223	£168,593	£232,316	£377,553	£72,004	£182,629

The GUCE Board also reviewed the Technical and Financial constraints assessment (Table 2) and at Stage 2 will add more detail on a number of community specific constraints prior to any final decision to move forward. These include:

- Attractiveness to investors (community connection to end user)
- Interest for commercial agreement with end user
- Viable VPPA options
- Community support
- Insurance and CCTV costs
- Resources - GUCE people power

GUCE has reached out to potential energy companies like Yunity, Urban Chain, and Energy Local that would buy the electricity generated via virtual Power Purchase Agreements (VPPA). Current models being investigated include:

- sale to a company with no further GUCE involvement
- sale to a company with agreement to provide a local energy discount to Three Rivers residents or businesses
- sale to a company with agreement on sale to fixed end-users

The additional modelling and sensitivity testing carried out by GUCE and TRDC building on the work from Scene highlighted the challenges of community energy specifically delivering car park solar, with the high CAPEX costs for the canopy structures presenting a substantial funding challenge.

The sensitivity testing will need to be further nuanced as to be able to deliver viable community energy funded projects. The community energy group also needs the resources to research, project manage, and promote the project. Even if outsourced or supported by a third-party provider, internal capacity either via volunteers or paid staff members are necessary to pull it all together. Within the financial assessment the potential costs of this outsourcing are not included and, though these would make a minimal impact over the life of the canopies, the upfront covering of these costs and their cash flow implications needs to be taken into account. Without the funding for this, or the personnel to be hands on, the community energy solar canopy would struggle to become a reality.

7.2. Rooftop solar

SOLC was also assessed for rooftop solar based on a 2023 a Swimming Pool Support Fund (SPSF) application with a system design created by solar PV installer Leisure Energy for SLM.

Table 7 - Proposed Rooftop Solar Design

System	
PV Modules	280
Inverters	2
Optimizers	156
Installed DC Power	140 kWp
Benefits	
Annual Energy Production	126.31 MWh
Annual tCO ₂ Saving	24.43
Financial	
SPSF Application Value	£189,000
Annual Cost Saving	£18,947
Breakeven Year	10

See Appendix 2 for full details and constraints analysis.

Table 8 shows how the canopy and rooftop systems and benefits compare.

Table 8 - System & Benefits Comparison

	Solar Canopy	Rooftop Solar
Solar Capacity (kWp)	143	140
Annual Generation (MWh)	134.7	126.3
Capacity Factor	10.7%	8.06%
No. Panels	318	280
Total Local Demand (MWh)	546.4	546.4

Local Consumption (% Generation)	93.8%	93.8%
Self Sufficiency (% demand met)	23.1%	23.1%
Indicative Capital Cost (£)	£287,868	£110,421
Project IRR (%)	12.7%	16.84%
Net Present Value (£,30-year)	£290,998	£457,989
Breakeven Year	9	6
Cumulative Net Income (£,30-year)	£664,835	£568,385
Carbon Savings (Lifetime, tCO ₂)	815	1,122

The rooftop solar and solar canopy PV arrays are of a similar size and relatively comparable in terms of energy generation and carbon savings. However, rooftop solar is cheaper and so compares favourably in financial terms such as breaking even 3 years earlier than a solar canopy.

To note that the benefits in Table 8 are projections based on technical modelling undertaken by two different organisations (Scene and Leisure Energy). That modelling is based on a range of technical assumptions (e.g., system losses) that may differ. However, this potential disparity is not anticipated to cause a meaningful impact on feasibility. If rooftop solar is pursued, a full system design, costing and benefits report will be attained as part of the business case development process.

7.3. Potential funding sources

An assessment of potential funding sources, their composition and limitations has been developed to support moving forward to detailed design and delivery of car parks. The funding source decisions would link to the relevant financial delivery model selected for each car park. See Table 9.

Table 9 - Funding assessment: funding sources, composition and limitations

Source	Description	Type	Site							Comments	
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
			CH	CW	SOLC	WPLC	TA	TRHCP	TRG		
Community Infrastructure Levy	Funding secured through the planning permission process from project developers. Used to improve eligible infrastructure as identified in the Local Infrastructure Plan and Community Infrastructure Regulations.	Grant	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Currently unavailable. May become available after the adoption of the new Local Infrastructure Plan in 2025/26. The solar canopy must be in the car park of a building identified in the CIL regulations (e.g., leisure centre) to be eligible.
Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme	A government run scheme that provides non-repayable funds for public sector bodies to fund heat decarbonisation and energy	Grant	Not Available	Not Available	Availability Constrained	Availability Constrained	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available	Only available if the solar electricity from the canopy supports a boiler replacement project in a council owned building. Grant only available to replace boilers that are 15+ years old. WPLC

	efficiency measures.									is 15+ years old. SOLC is 2 years old and so won" be eligible for a PSDS grant until ~2045. TRH already has already replaced the boiler with an heat pump. Aquadrome doesn't have a boiler in the council owned building, just an electric heater. Could be blended with a Community Energy Share Offer whereby the PSDS pays for the canopy structure and a CESO pays for the solar PV (but only when TRDC have secured PSDS funding to deliver the great pump in WPLC).
Community Energy Share Offer	Community Energy Projects can be funded by the community through a share offer which returns annual interest on their investment.	Loan	Available	Available	Available	Available	Available	Available	Available	Assumes the solar canopy is delivered by GUCE and the target investment is achieved.

<p>Public Private Partnership</p>	<p>A commercial arrangement between a public sector and private sector organisations.</p>	<p>Loan</p>	<p>Not Available</p>	<p>Not Available</p>	<p>Availability Constrained</p>	<p>Availability Constrained</p>	<p>Not Available</p>	<p>Availability Constrained</p>	<p>Availability Constrained</p>	<p>Only available if a solar canopy contractor is prepared to provide a funding contribution and be repaid through a PPA. That funding contribution will only be commercially viable in car parks with an energy off taker who commits to a PPA for a significant % of the electricity generated. Preclude the solar canopy being delivered as a Community Energy Project.</p>
<p>Local Climate Bond</p>	<p>A Local Climate Bond is a bond issued by Local Authorities to raise money directly from the public for net-zero related projects. The interest rate on the bond is typically around 4%. The funds can be used for a range of net-zero projects and typically focus on</p>	<p>Loan</p>	<p>Available</p>	<p>Available</p>	<p>Available</p>	<p>Available</p>	<p>Available</p>	<p>Available</p>	<p>Available</p>	<p>The loan must make commercial sense for the borrower (TRDC) which may preclude the solar canopy being delivered as a Community Energy Project. Assumes target investment is achieved.</p>

	community buildings.									
National Wealth Fund	A loan provided to Local Authorities used to fund capital projects where the project type aligns with NWF priorities.	Loan	Availability Constrained	Availability Constrained	Availability Constrained	Availability Constrained	Availability Constrained	Availability Constrained	Availability Constrained	Minimum loan is £5m. Currently, the indicative cost of all the solar canopies is £3.3m. The loan must make commercial sense for the borrower (TRDC) which may preclude the solar canopy being delivered as a Community Energy Project.
Public Works Loan Board	A loan provided to Local Authorities used to fund capital projects.	Loan	Available	Available	Available	Available	Available	Available	Available	The loan must make commercial sense for the borrower (TRDC) which may preclude the solar canopy being delivered as a Community Energy Project.

Sustainability Linked Loan	A standard loan that includes a pricing mechanism that links the cost of a loan with a borrower's performance on certain environmental, social, and governance (ESG) related targets. Borrowers able to demonstrate ESG progress benefit from more competitive interest rates.	Loan	Available	Available	Available	Available	Available	Available	Available	Available	The loan must make commercial sense for the borrower (TRDC) which may preclude the solar canopy being delivered as a Community Energy Project. Assumes GUCE cannot/will not accept a loan from a third-party (e.g., a bank).
UKMBA Bond Loan	A loan provided to Local Authorities used to fund capital projects.	Loan	Available	Available	Available	Available	Available	Available	Available	Available	The loan must make commercial sense for the borrower (TRDC) which may preclude the solar canopy being delivered as a Community Energy Project.

8. Operation, Legal Structures and Governance

The car parks identified do not all align with delivery via a community energy model. An assessment will take place with GUCE and TRDC regarding the most advantageous/deliverable development routes for these car parks. This could include:

- GUCE owns and operates the solar canopy on TRDC land and sell the electricity via a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) – see Table 10
- GUCE and another entity (potentially TRDC) share ownership of the canopy, with GUCE operating and selling the electricity.
- GUCE owns and operates the PV panels but the canopy structure is built via external funding, with GUCE operating and selling the electricity.
- GUCE has a 51% ownership of the scheme with 49% coming from an organisation like Energy4all or Big Solar Co-Op.
- The ownership and the operation do not involve GUCE.

For any of the car parks to be viable for GUCE, it would have to work financially and provide energy bill savings for the end user (a viable project typically enables savings of up to 5p/kwh on the existing tariff). These aspects would be calculated at the next stage of the project based on detailed designs. GUCE is a community benefit society with experience of delivering share offers for renewable energy projects since their inception in 2012. Any share offer will form a distinct project for GUCE with investors becoming members and having a say on the assets at the annual general meeting every August.

To note that we have completed initial engagement with SLM (who operate WPLC and SOLC) and Blink Charging (who will operate the electric vehicle chargers once installed) to discuss PPA agreements. Both organisations reacted positively and are open to buying power through a PPA. If we move to Stage 2, and start to develop a business case, we will secure a formal agreement.

For any of the models above where GUCE is involved, the following will be the key people responsible for delivery:

- GUCE Board members for raising community investment (e.g Kings Langley Rudolf Steiner in 2012) and varying community energy experience from 18 months to 12 years.
- GUCE's contracted Development Officer: Sarah Burgess who has worked on three CEF projects, an Innovate UK Fast Followers project, and the UKPN No One Left Behind project delivering community engagement projects.
- TRDC Council Officers (Chief Executive, Chief Financial Officer, and Director for Environment) for obtaining and approving any external finance or Council investment, alongside members of the Policy and Resources Committee
- TRDC relevant officers (Planning, Leisure, Property, Legal, Finance) and members getting internal sign-off to pursue projects, alongside members of the Climate Change, Housing and Leisure Committee, and Planning Committee
- TRDC climate change officers and GUCE delivery officer to manage delivery of project
- Hertfordshire County Council and SLM will be engaged to approve the lease agreements.
- Sharenergy who deliver GUCE's financial accounts annually and will support and implement the share issue if required.

Within the detailed design phase the applicable development model will be identified, this in turn will generate discussion on the ownership of the panels at the end of the lease of the car parks and who is responsible for removal/ remediation of the panels and structure. This will be negotiated in at the start with two main options:

- 1) Handed back free to the landowner to enjoy free electricity for the rest of the lifetime of the panels. All future maintenance costs then down to the landowner (most likely option).
- 2) The Community Energy group pays to remove them. No free electricity but no maintenance costs.

Table 10 - GUCE ownership model (operating solar canopy on TRDC land and selling the electricity via PPA)

Structure	Landowner	Canopy Owner	Solar PV Owner + Electricity Seller	Electricity Buyer
	TRDC	GUCE	GUCE	GUCE / TRDC
Legal & Commercial	A licence (or lease agreement) is the legal structure that allows GUCE to install, operate and maintain the solar canopy (including associated above / below ground infrastructure) on council owned land for a peppercorn rent.	A 20-year owner-operator (revenue share) contract is the legal and commercial structure between TRDC and GUCE. GUCE owns, maintains, operates and insures the solar canopy at their own cost for the duration of the contract. Where the electricity buyer includes a TRDC owned and occupied building a revenue share clause is not included in the contract because the council benefits from lower cost electricity bills and carbon savings. Where the electricity buyer does not include a TRDC and occupied building a revenue share is included in the contract to create a benefit for the council (as the landowner). The contract identifies (if required) the standard formula for calculating any revenue share (including a payment schedule). The contract includes termination, land sale and land use change clauses. GUCE will be responsible for removing the solar canopy at the end of the contract, or, TRDC will have the option to purchase the solar canopy (price agreed at end of contract).		A (v)PPA is used as the legal and commercial structure for the energy supplier that owns the solar PV (not the canopy structure) to sell the generated electricity to third parties at an agreed price.

Operational	<p>TRDC operates the car park as normal. The licence (or lease agreement) is the operational structure used to set out the rights of GUCE and the obligations of the TRDC. For example, the right for GUCE to be able to access the property to undertake necessary maintenance works. Or, the obligation of GUCE not to use the property for any purpose or in any manner that is illegal, hazardous or dangerous or would cause loss, damage, injury, nuisance or inconvenience to the landowner.</p>	<p>The owner-operator (revenue share) contract is used as the operational structure because it includes operational Service Level Agreements (SLA). For example, the frequency of electrical testing or structural survey, or the % availability of solar generation, or the response times to resolve issues based on a priority hierarchy. GUCE will be responsible for providing TRDC with operational data (if required) to show performance against SLAs for contract performance monitoring purposes.</p>	<p>The (v)PPA is used as the operational structure because it includes operational SLA's. For example, the amount of electricity to be supplied.</p>
Governance	<p>The standard TRDC contract performance governance structure will be used whereby performance is reported to the Leisure, Climate Change and Housing Committee.</p>	<p>Standard BenCom arrangement</p>	<p>(v)PPA's are governed by the Electricity Act 1989 and The Power Purchase Agreement Scheme Regulations 2014.</p>

9. Scheduling

Development of the sites would require further development funding to undertake detailed scheme design, full appraisal of the technical and financial opportunities, confirm development and capital costs, negotiate and secure finance, secure permissions and consents and undertake procurement and contracting. The car parks within this report could utilise a range of development routes, each route having specific impacts on the development timescale.

Table 11 outlines the next steps to move from feasibility study to business case, with GUCE anticipating applying for funding for Community Energy Fund Stage 2 grant once clarity has been given on the potential community energy models post discussions with TRDC on funding for the significant infrastructure investment.

Table 11 - Feasibility Study vs. Business Case

Technical	Financial	Commercial
Technological Appraisal	Simple Financial Modelling	Commercial Agreement Analysis
Energy Demand Modelling	Project Investment Sourcing	Lease Impact Analysis
Technical Design	Modelling/Sensitivity Testing	Value For Money Appraisal
Market Testing	Profit & Loss Impact Analysis	Contract Impact Analysis
Budget Forecast	Finance Agreement Support	Procurement Strategy
Constraints Modelling	Risk Analysis & Mitigation	Risk Analysis & Mitigation

Key:

- Contents inside the redline are provided by the Stage 1 Feasibility Study.
- Contents outside the redline will be provided by a Stage 2 Business Case

Current and preparatory actions:

- TRDC has released an Expression of Interest (EOI) for the design and construction elements of the solar canopies to enable GUCE and TRDC to assess the costs associated with Stage 2 of the project.
- GUCE is reflecting on the marketing and communications options on how to “sell” community investment in car park solar canopies.

The current estimate for any community energy projects arising from this Stage 1 solar canopy assessment would be approximately two years from starting full business cases to installation. This is assuming:

- Detailed feasibility study 6-12 months depending on when funding is open, with nine months from award of funding for Stage 2.
- Financial investment: Three months of preparation work for financial share offer

- Share offer from launch to target reached 6-12 months depending on amount. For example, this could take 3-6 months for share issues under 250k and 6-12 months for anything over that.

As set out in the financial feasibility our work suggests that some element of grant funding will be required to make the canopies viable, and as such any development will need to take into account grant funding windows. For example, the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) could provide grant funding, but only if the canopies are tied to a heat-pump. The PSDS opens to applications in late summer and closes in November. Therefore, if using this route November 2025 is the milestone for the business case for. PSDS funded projects then have to be completed in 12 months.

For any future rooftop solar on SOLC it is recommended that the following next steps are undertaken to further explore the viability of rooftop solar as part of a community energy project:

- 1) GUCE to commission a rooftop solar design and survey from Carbon Rewind.
- 2) GUCE to assess the viability of the project using their standard investment model.
- 3) GUCE to confirm share offer investment target.
- 4) GUCE to confirm the projected electricity price to the leisure centre operator.
- 5) TRDC & GUCE to engage with SLM to test their appetite for buying the rooftop solar electricity.

10. Conclusions and Next Steps

The Study identified three TRDC car park sites as having high potential across technical, financial and legal constraints for solar PV canopy development, namely:

- SOLC, 143 kWp
- TRG, 205 kWp
- WPLC, 437 kWp

The land rights and community engagement elements of the study both highlighted several additional questions that need answering prior to any development but none of these are seen as serious challenges for any of the sites.

However, the study highlighted the significant financial challenges of solar canopies, over rooftop solar, for a community energy funded model, with the high CAPEX costs for the canopy structures presenting a substantial funding challenge. Further research is needed on potential options for funding the canopy structures themselves to make car park solar canopies attractive for community energy groups and a wide scale roll out. This may include looking to Section 106 or Community Infrastructure Levy funding as a potential source of capital.

GUCE and TRDC are, in early 2025, taking forward discussions on solutions for funding the canopy structures with GUCE's community energy owning and managing only the PV panels. Based on the current study, these discussions would need to reach a conclusion before any Stage 2 funding could be applied for.

When assessed without taking community energy funding into consideration the three sites which are recommended for further investigation would have total capital costs (CAPEX) of £1,618,405 with annual running costs of £8,397. Lifetime (30-year) revenue generation would be £6,638,883, comprising financial savings from local electricity supply (£126,485/year) and electricity export (£41,512/year in real terms). Lifetime net income would be £2,468,470 across these sites.

The following provides a summary of the technical and financial feasibility of each site set out in order of non community energy model viability:

1. *South Oxhey Leisure Centre*

SOLC is a site with good prospects for solar canopy development. This is based on:

- Good technical viability, based on having a 10.7% capacity factor, optimal capacity of 143 kW, and a large electricity demand base.
- Good non community energy model financial viability, underpinned by a Project IRR of 12.7% and NPV of £290,998. This site would provide a financial return by year 9 and lifetime net income of £664,835.
- Community energy viability is an IRR of 7.6% and an NPV of £28,457 so meets the threshold.

SOLC could therefore be recommended for business case development, but it is a good candidate for both a solar canopy and rooftop solar.

This feasibility study shows that rooftop solar is cheaper, subject to less constraints and would still generate a significant amount of energy when compared to a solar canopy. Therefore, it is recommended that rooftop solar should be pursued before a solar canopy.

It is important to note that pursuing rooftop solar does not negate the need for a solar canopy. The energy demand of the Leisure Centre is such that the energy generated by both

rooftop solar and a solar canopy would still provide less than 50% of the Leisure Centres electricity demand.

2. *William Penn Leisure Centre*

WPLC is a site with moderate to good prospects for solar canopy development. This is based on:

- Good technical viability, based on having a 11% capacity factor, optimal capacity of 437 kW, and a large electricity demand base.
- Good non community energy model financial viability, underpinned by a Project IRR of 8.5% and NPV of £262,786. This site would provide a financial return by year 14 and lifetime net income of £1,005,186.
- The community energy model viability is an IRR of 5.5% and an NPV of -£123,640 which significantly downgrades the project from a community energy standpoint

WPLC is therefore recommended for business case development only if not funded through community energy.

3. *The Rose Garden*

The Rose Garden is a site with Good prospects for solar canopy development. This is based on:

- Good technical viability, based on having a good electricity demand base, maximal capacity of 205 kW, and a 10.1% capacity factor.
- Good non community energy model financial viability, underpinned by a Project IRR of 11.6% and Net Present Value of £328,093. This site would provide a financial return by year 10 and lifetime net income of £798,399.
- The community energy model viability is an IRR of 6.8% and an NPV of £1,267 just meeting the threshold.

The Rose Garden is therefore recommended for business case development.

4. *Causeway House*

Causeway House is a site with Poor prospects for solar canopy development. This is based on:

- Poor technical viability, based on having a 9.5% capacity factor, optimal capacity limited to 76 kW, and a limited electricity demand base.
- Poor non community energy model financial viability, underpinned by a Project IRR of 6.9% and NPV of £4,713. This site would provide a financial return by year 16 and lifetime net income of £98,255.
- The community energy model viability is an IRR of 4.1% and an NPV of -£43,685.

Causeway House is therefore not recommended for development.

5. *Community Way*

Community Way is a site Moderate to Poor prospects for solar canopy development. This is based on:

- Moderate technical viability, based on having a 11.4% capacity factor, but optimal capacity limited to 147 kW, and a limited electricity demand base.
- Poor non community energy model financial viability, underpinned by a Project IRR of 7.2% and NPV of £28,477 This site would provide a financial return by year 16 and lifetime net income of £233,803.
- The community energy model viability is an IRR of 5.2% and an NPV of -£51,922.

Community Way is therefore not recommended for development.

6. *The Aquadrome*

The Aquadrome is a site with Moderate to Poor prospects for solar canopy development. This is based on:

- Poor technical viability, based on having a maximal capacity of 599 kW, but a 9.7% capacity factor, limited electricity demand base and high asbestos risk.
- Moderate non community energy model financial viability, underpinned by a Project IRR of 8.5% and NPV of £276,959. This site would provide a financial return by year 13 and lifetime net income of £1,059,985.
- The community energy model viability is an IRR of 6.3% and an NPV of -£47,865.

The Aquadrome is therefore not recommended for development.

7. *Three Rivers House Car Park*

TRHCP is a site with Moderate to Good prospects for solar canopy development. This is based on:

- Moderate technical viability, based on having a good electricity demand base but maximal capacity of 155 kW, a 9.7% capacity factor and risks and higher costs associated with multi-story installation.
- Good non community energy model financial viability, underpinned by a Project IRR of 10.8% and NPV of £203,707. This site would provide a financial return by year 11 and lifetime net income of £528,981.
- The community energy model viability is an IRR of 6.8% and an NPV of £1,570 just meeting the threshold for GUCE.

TRHCP is therefore not recommended for development, as the Rose Garden is the more suitable option.

Appendix 1 – Solar Canopy Final Technical and Financial Report - Scene

[Appendix 1 – Solar Canopy Final Technical and Financial Report - Scene - report link.](#)

Appendix 2 – South Oxhey Leisure Centre, Rooftop Solar Technical Report *Short Feasibility Study*

November 2024

Prepared By: Phil Whiting, Net Zero Coordinator, Three Rivers District Council

Using Information From: GUCE – Technical Report prepared by Scene Connect Ltd

Please note that a list of acronyms and a jargon buster can be found at the end of this document.

Site Overview

South Oxhey Leisure Centre is located on Gosforth Lane, South Oxhey and is owned by Three Rivers District Council (TRDC) and operated by Sports and Leisure Management Ltd (SLM). The Leisure Centre has high and consistent energy demand which makes it a suitable consumer of rooftop generated solar energy.



Figure 1 – South Oxhey Leisure Centre (SOLC)

The leisure centre has a projected demand for electricity imports of 546.4 MWh per year, which includes the current metered demand (440.0 MWh per year) and the prospective demand from 3 new fast charging points (106.4 MWh per year).

The Leisure Centre currently has a 14.25 kW rooftop solar array, which generates an estimated 17.4 MWh per year. 100% of this generation is self-consumed by the Leisure Centre, behind-the-meter.

Currently, 97% of electricity consumption is from the grid, and 3% from self-consumed rooftop solar generation.

Rooftop Solar System & Benefits Overview

In 2023 a Swimming Pool Support Fund (SPSF) application for £189k was submitted to install a solar PV system on the roof of South Oxhey Leisure Centre. To enable the application, a system design was created by solar PV installer Leisure Energy for SLM. That solar PV design will be used as the basis for this feasibility study.

Figure 2 shows the rooftop solar design proposed by Leisure Energy. The red line identifies the existing rooftop solar.

Figure 2 – Proposed Rooftop Solar Design



Table 1 – Proposed Rooftop Solar Design

System	
PV Modules	280
Inverters	2
Optimizers	156

System	
Installed DC Power	140 kWp
Benefits	
Annual Energy Production	126.31 MWh
Annual tCO ₂ Saving	24.43
Financial	
SPSF Application Value	£189,000
Annual Cost Saving	£18,947
Breakeven Year	10

Forecasted Rooftop Solar Cost

The SPSF grant application value of £189k was calculated by multiplying the number of panels (280) by a cost of £675 per panel. £675 is suggested to be a very high panel cost. At the time of writing panels cost between £50 and £100.

To enable a more accurate cost projection, and enable a fairer comparison with a solar canopy, a cost per kWp method has been used instead. This is the standard method that solar PV installers use to provide quotations.

Table 3 below shows the costs quoted in three bids to install rooftop solar at William Penn Leisure Centre in 2024.

Table 2 – William Penn Cost Data

William Penn Cost Data			
Solar PV Installer	Total Cost (Exc VAT)	Installed DC Power (kWp)	Price Per kWp (kWp / Total Cost)
Drakes Renewables (Winning Bid)	£149,996	220	£682
JoJu	£149,518	194	£771

William Penn Cost Data			
Ren Energy	£147,099	161	£914
Average £/kWp			£789

The average cost per kWp across the three quotes is £789. The kWp of the system designed by Leisure Energy for South Oxhey Leisure Centre is 140. The forecasted cost is calculated by multiplying the kWp by the average cost per kWp.

$$140 \times £749 = £110,421$$

£110,421 has been used as the estimated cost for the rooftop solar in the analysis below.

Constraints Scoring

The rooftop solar design has been scored across three different categories of potential constraint:

1. Technical Constraints
2. Financial Constraints
3. Legal Constraints (including planning constraints).

Please note that the constraints tables below have been taken from the technical report on solar canopies. As such, some of the constraints only apply to a solar canopy. These constraints have been maintained in this document to enable a like-for-like comparison with the potential solar canopy.

Each potential constraint has been given a severity score. A lower score is a better score.

- 0** = Unconstrained, no technical constraint at the site.
- 1** = Slightly constrained, may limit viability or require mitigation measures.
- 2** = Constrained, may limit viability and will require mitigation measures.
- 3** = Highly Constrained, will limit viability and require mitigation measures.
- 4** = Very Highly Constrained, viability is poor and require significant mitigation measures.
- 5** = Completely constrained, site unviable due to constraint.

Technical Constraints

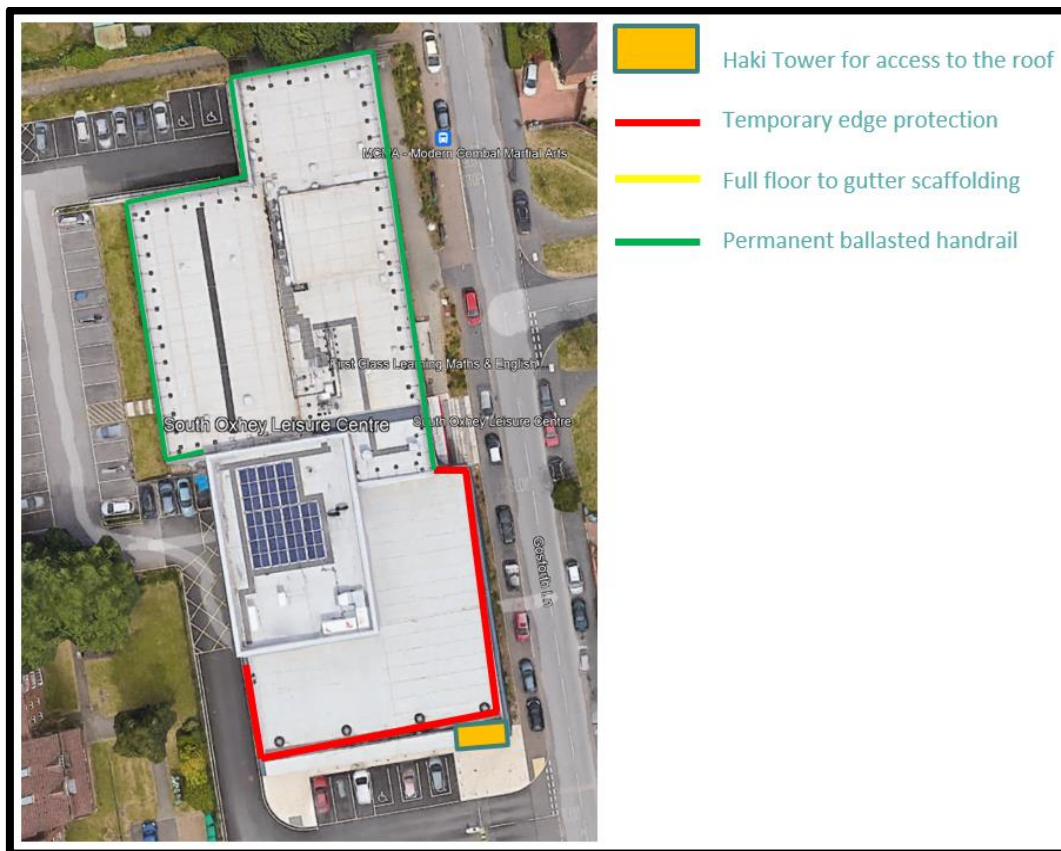
South Oxhey Leisure Centre is unconstrained for rooftop solar from a technical perspective.

Table 3 provides an overview of the key technical constraints:

Table 3 – SOLC Technical Constraints

Constraint	Score	Description
Construction	1	Important Note: A structural survey of the roof has not been completed. The score assumes the roof can support the system without modification.
Shading	1	There is very limited shading from trees to the north-east of building. The impact to energy generation is not anticipated to be meaningful.
Access	1	The roof safety report (Figure 3) suggests no floor to gutter scaffold is needed. A permanent ballasted handrail is installed on the north roof. Temporary edge protection will be required on the south roof.
Energy Networks	1	Due to high on-site demand, minimal export capacity will be required.
Annual Generation	2	The system is forecasted to generate ~23% of the Leisure Centres energy needs.
Local Consumption Generation	1	~94% of the generated energy is forecasted to be used by the Leisure Centre.

Figure 3 - Leisure Energy Roof Safety Report



Financial Constraints

South Oxhey Leisure Centre is unconstrained for rooftop solar from a financial perspective.

Table 4 provides an overview of the key financial constraints:

Table 4 – SOLC Financial Constraints

Constraint	Score	Description
Capital Cost	0	The capital cost of rooftop solar is relatively low.
Breakeven Year	1	The rooftop solar is forecasted to break even in 6 years.
Carbon Savings (Lifetime, tCO ₂)	2	The annual tCO ₂ saving of 24.43 represents 3% of TRDC's annual reduction target for its core buildings (838 tCO ₂) to achieve net zero.
Cumulative Net Income (30-year)	1	The cumulative net income is 4 times the forecasted capital cost.
Internal Rate of Return (IRR)	1	The IRR is greater than the 7% target.
Net Present Value (NPV)	1	A positive Net Present Value is achieved before the year 30 target.

Legal Constraints

South Oxhey Leisure Centre is unconstrained for rooftop solar from a legal and planning perspective.

Table 5 provides an overview of the key financial constraints:

Table 5 – SOLC Legal Constraints

Constraint	Score	Description
Glare impact on neighbours	1	The Leisure Centre roofline is above the sightline of the neighbouring properties except for Alderwood House (owned by TRDC) located to the south-west.
Proximity to neighbours	0	Not applicable to rooftop solar.
Highways Alteration	0	Not applicable to rooftop solar.
Cultural Heritage	0	Minimal conservation area or other concerns at site.

Constraint	Score	Description
Environmental Heritage	0	Not applicable to rooftop solar.
Title Issues \ Legal Covenants	0	The Leisure Centre is owned by TRDC.

Constraints Summary

South Oxhey Leisure Centre is a relatively unconstrained location and a good candidate for rooftop solar.

Table 6 – Rooftop Solar Constraints Summary

Constraints Summary	
Technical Constraints	8
Financial Constraints	6
Legal Constraints	1
Total Constraints Score	14

Solar Canopy vs. Rooftop Solar Comparison / System & Benefits

Table 7 shows how the canopy and rooftop systems and benefits compare.

Table 7 - System & Benefits Comparison

	Solar Canopy	Rooftop Solar
Solar Capacity (kWp)	143	140
Annual Generation (MWh)	134.7	126.3
Capacity Factor	10.7%	8.06%
No. Panels	318	280

Total Local Demand (MWh)	546.4	546.4
Local Consumption (% Generation)	93.8%	93.8%
Self Sufficiency (% demand met)	23.1%	23.1%
Indicative Capital Cost (£)	£287,868	£110,421
Project IRR (%)	12.7%	16.84%
Net Present Value (£,30-year)	£290,998	£457,989
Breakeven Year	9	6
Cumulative Net Income (£,30-year)	£664,835	£568,385
Carbon Savings (Lifetime, tCO ₂)	815	1,122

The rooftop solar and solar canopy PV arrays are of a similar size and comparable in terms of energy generation and carbon savings. However, rooftop solar is cheaper and so compares favourably in financial terms such as breaking even 3 years earlier than a solar canopy.

Please note that the benefits in Table 7 are projections based on technical modelling undertaken by two different organisations (Scene and Leisure Energy). That modelling is based on a range of technical assumptions (e.g., system losses) that may differ. However, this potential disparity is not anticipated to cause a meaningful impact on feasibility. If rooftop solar is pursued, a full system design, costing and benefits report will be attained as part of the business case development process.

Solar Canopy vs. Rooftop Solar Comparison / Constraints

South Oxhey Leisure Centre is a relatively unconstrained location for both a solar canopy and rooftop solar.

Table 8 – Constraints Comparison

Constraints Comparison		
	Solar Canopy	Rooftop Solar
Technical Constraints	8	8
Financial Constraints	10	6
Legal Constraints	9	1
Total Constraints Score	27	14

The reason that rooftop solar has a better constraint score is primarily because:

- 1) Rooftop solar is estimated to be £177k cheaper than a solar canopy.
- 2) Rooftop solar is not constrained by the complex car park landowner and lease holder situation. ¹
- 3) The significant available roof space enables a large solar array to be installed.

Conclusion

South Oxhey Leisure Centre is a good candidate for both a solar canopy and rooftop solar.

However, this feasibility study shows that rooftop solar is cheaper, subject to less constraints and would still generate a significant amount of energy when compared to a solar canopy.

Therefore, it is recommended that rooftop solar should be pursued before a solar canopy.

It is important to note that pursuing rooftop solar does not negate the need for a solar canopy. The energy demand of the Leisure Centre is such that the energy generated by both rooftop solar and a solar canopy would still provide less than 50% of the Leisure Centres electricity demand.

Next Steps

Our application to the SPSF was unsuccessful for South Oxhey Leisure Centre. The SPSF was a COVID pandemic related grant, and it is unlikely another phase of grant funding will become available.

A Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) grant cannot be used because the rooftop solar would need to be tied to the installation of a heat pump. The boilers are relatively new at the Leisure Centre and won't be eligible for a PSDS grant until ~2045 (if the PSDS still exists).

¹ Three Rivers hold the freehold title. Hertfordshire County Council own a leasehold. TRDC hold a 99-year lease. SLM hold a 20-year lease. SLM Community Leisure Charitable Trust hold a 20-year lease.

We will continue to monitor the landscape for grants that could provide funding for rooftop solar.

Due to the lack of available grant funding, third-party capital funding must be secured to install rooftop solar.

Accessing funds through council borrowing is difficult to justify because the cost saving generated by the rooftop solar would benefit SLM, not the council.

It is assumed that SLM will not provide the capital due to the projected breakeven date being close to the end of their ~7-year operator contract.

An alternative funding option is to undertake a community energy project with Grand Union Community Energy (GUCE). A community energy project generates capital funding through a share offer (or bond) to investors who are typically local-residents and users of the building. If the share offer reached its required investment target, TRDC would lease the roof of the Leisure Centre to GUCE. GUCE would install the rooftop solar and sell the electricity to the leisure centre operator (currently SLM). The profits from the electricity sale would be used to maintain the rooftop solar and repay the investors with interest.

It is recommended that the following next steps are undertaken to further explore the viability of rooftop solar as part of a community energy project:

- 1) GUCE to commission a rooftop solar design and survey from Carbon Rewind.
- 2) GUCE to assess the viability of the project using their standard investment model.
- 3) GUCE to confirm share offer investment target.
- 4) GUCE to confirm the projected electricity price to the leisure centre operator.
- 5) TRDC & GUCE to engage with SLM to test their appetite for buying the rooftop solar electricity.

Acronyms & Jargon Buster

Acronyms

CO ₂	Carbon dioxide
tCO ₂	Tonnes of carbon dioxide
DC	Direct Current
GUCE	Grand Union Community Energy
IRR	Internal Rate of Return
kW	Kilowatt
kWh	Kilowatt Hours
kWp	Kilowatt Potential
kVa	Kilovolt Amperes
MVA	Megavolt Amperes
MW	MegaWatt
MWh	MegaWatt hours
NPV	Net Present Value
PPA	Power Purchase Agreement
PV	Photovoltaic
SOLC	South Oxhey Leisure Centre
SLM	Sports & Leisure Management Ltd
SPSF	Swimming Pool Support Fund
TRDC	Three Rivers District Council

Jargon Buster

- **Annual Generation:** The predictive volume of electricity produced by the solar array on an annual basis, reported in watt hours (Wh), kilowatt hours (kWh) and megawatt hours (MWh).
- **Carbon Savings:** The total greenhouse gas emissions avoided through replacement of grid supplied electricity at local demand sites and via reducing the carbon intensity of the national grid through electricity export. Reported as tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e), encompassing the climate forcing impact of all greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Local Demand:** The amount of electricity generated by the solar array that is used by local demand, i.e., the leisure centre.
- **Optimizer:** An optimizer is a device used to maximise the energy output of each individual solar panel. Optimizers are particularly useful in systems where panels might be partially shaded or have different orientations. Solar panels are grouped together in strings. Without optimizers, if one panel in the string breaks down, the entire string of panels will not generate electricity until the broken panel is fixed or replaced. Therefore, optimizers are also useful for solar PV systems on difficult to access rooftops.
- **Self-Sufficiency:** The percentage of local demand which is met by the solar array's electricity generation.
- **Solar Capacity:** This is the maximum amount of electricity that the full system can produce under ideal conditions. This is measured in watts, kilowatts (kW) and megawatts (MW).
- **Total Local Demand:** The anticipated annual electrical demand of the site and adjacent properties. Full details of the anticipated demand can be found in Chapter 3. This is also referred to as 'local demand'.

Appendix 3 – Site Title Report – Spencer West

[Appendix 3 – Site Title Report – Spencer West report link](#)

Appendix 4 - Checklist of Legal Documents Required for Solar Canopy Lease/PPA

Document	Comments
Title Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertaken to ascertain: • legal owner of sites • any leases affecting • covenants/restrictions • consent required (if any)
Heads of Terms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To set out: • commercial terms • Lease terms • PPA terms • Confidentiality
Lease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To secure proprietorship rights for GUCE for the long term
Licence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To use instead of Lease if decided a preferential way of proceeding
Power Purchase Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To govern the terms for the sale of electricity with either a direct wire/virtual other end purchaser
Easement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For cabling routes not under the title to the site or to a direct purchaser of the electricity
Consents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From Leaseholders • Statutory bodies • Local Authority
Title indemnity insurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where there are title deeds missing/covenants
Land Registry Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure lease is registered at the Land Registry
SDLT Return	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For payment of stamp duty of the lease, required within 30 days of completion of the lease

Appendix 5 – FAQ

Solar Canopy Stage 1 Feasibility Study - FAQs

1. What is the project about and who is funding it?

Grand Union Community Energy (GUCE) was awarded £40,000 from the Department for Energy and Net Zero's Community Energy Fund (CEF) for a Stage 1 feasibility study to scope the viability of solar canopies on seven car parks belonging to the council. CEF is administered by the Greater South East Net Zero Hub (GSENGH).

The Stage 1 feasibility study will produce initial designs, identify challenges, and recommend outcomes. A scoring framework will be created, along with a decision tree to prioritise the sites and future sites across the district. The sites deemed viable from the seven in this project will be investigated further at a second stage to ensure they can deliver valuable community benefits, energy bill savings, and carbon emission reductions.

The Stage 1 study is expected to complete by December 2024.

2. What car park sites owned by Three Rivers District Council will the Stage 1 Study initially focus on?

The Stage 1 study will investigate the technical and legal viability of the following car park sites owned by TRDC:

- Causeway House, Abbots Langley
- Community Way, Croxley Green
- South Oxhey Leisure Centre, South Oxhey
- The Aquadrome, Rickmansworth
- Three Rivers House, Rickmansworth
- Rose Garden, Rickmansworth
- William Penn Leisure Centre, Mill End

The Stage 1 study aims to produce an effective standardised scoring framework that can be used by Three Rivers District Council (and other Councils) to assess the viability of other car park sites they own for solar canopies.

3. Who is Grand Union Community Energy (GUCE)?

GUCE is a community benefit society; a non-profit co-operative led by volunteer Board Directors for community rather than financial benefit. GUCE aim to develop all forms of renewable energy locally, as well as promote ways of saving energy through schemes such as the energy saving behaviour change programme called Transition Streets. The majority of the projects GUCE work on (including all feasibility studies) are run and managed by paid contractors reporting to the Board.

More information on GUCE is available here: <https://guce.org.uk/>



4. When and where will the engagement events take place?

The first community engagement events will take place throughout September as follows:

- 5th September 7:30pm-10pm within the Croxley Green Local Area Forum, Croxley Green Baptist Church, 225 Baldwins Lane, Croxley Green, WD3 3LH
- 7th September 10am-11am at South Oxhey Library, Bridlington Rd, South Oxhey, Watford WD19 7AG
- 12th September 7pm-8pm at the Henderson Hub, The Henderson Hall, High St, Abbots Langley WD5 0AR
- 16th September 7pm-8pm at Mill End Community Centre, Old School Building, Church Ln, Mill End, Rickmansworth WD3 8HD
- 18th September 7pm-8pm at Our Lady Parish Hall, 5 Park Rd, Rickmansworth WD3 1HU

The focus of the engagement events in September will be on the broad theme of "the future of energy in Three Rivers" which will touch on solar canopies among other sustainable energy supply ideas.

A second round of engagement events planned for November will feedback on the outputs of the feasibility assessment and gather more data on community views on solar canopies within Three Rivers car parks (in general and site specific).

5. How can I help as a Councillor?

GUCE would be grateful for any support Councillors can offer in helping to promote the planned engagement events to their communities so that a meaningful and representative sample of the views of key stakeholders can be collated and used to positively inform the development of any viable projects.

6. Who should I contact if I have any questions about the study?

If you have any questions about the Stage 1 study (or any other projects GUCE are delivering), please email Sarah Burgess, Development Officer for GUCE at guceltd@gmail.com

7. Will the Stage 1 study investigate the constraints or possible negative impacts of solar canopies such as loss of car parking spaces, impacts on flood risk etc.?

Yes, the Stage 1 study will not only investigate the opportunities and benefits of solar canopies on each site, but will also explore a broad array of potential constraints for each site, including: shading, loss of car park spaces, environmental and biodiversity impacts, access, heritage, drainage etc. Each site's viability score will reflect the extent of the constraints identified accordingly.

8. Who will own the solar canopies and manage them on the Council's land, and what are the implications of this?

If a project is viable for community energy funding, GUCE raises funds through a share issue. Any member of the public can invest in the project by buying non-transferable shares valid for 20 years. GUCE then coordinates and purchases the infrastructure for the solar canopies and is responsible for maintaining them over the 20-year project lifespan.



GUCE is run as a cooperative so all investors are members and invited to the annual public AGM to vote on agenda items, including asset management and dividend payments. The GUCE Board of six volunteer directors make decisions on the day-to-day management of the solar panels (cleaning of the panels and monitoring for technical faults).

The implications of a community-funded solar canopy in a council-owned car park will be considered in detail by both GUCE and TRDC for any viable sites in a Stage 2 study.

9. What happens to community-funded solar panels after the 20 year term?

At the end of the contract period, the panels can either be removed or given to the Council for free, depending on what is agreed at the start of the project.

Typically, building/land owners choose to keep the solar panels in place and benefit from free electricity as the agreement with GUCE will end, and the panels are likely to have an extra 5-10 years of generation capacity beyond the lifespan of the contract.

10. Can anybody be a shareholder in a community-funded solar canopy scheme, or only those who will be buying the energy produced?

Anybody can be a shareholder in a community-energy scheme, they don't have to be an end-user of the energy. People from outside Three Rivers could even invest in the project.

Shareholders in GUCE community energy schemes have historically received a return of approximately 3%. This return is not guaranteed and is voted on at the public AGM annually. Many investors in community energy schemes don't tend to invest purely for financial gain – they are usually "ethical investors" motivated by environmental concerns and the community benefits.

**Climate Change, Leisure and Housing Committee
Wednesday 12 March 2025**

PART I

**Rickmansworth Aquadrome Programme Update Report
(AD Environment)**

1 Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Rickmansworth Aquadrome Programme, including funding progress and opportunities.

2 Details

Project Overview

- 2.1 The Rickmansworth Aquadrome Management Plan 2022 – 2027 is an ambitious and far reaching plan. Produced in partnership with Countryside Management Service, the Plan's Vision Statement is:

“For the Aquadrome to be enhanced, nurtured, and protected. To achieve the balance so nature can flourish and visitors can connect with and discover beautiful and unique habitats, whilst understanding the importance of the environmental heritage of the site.”

- 2.2 As a result of the Plan, the Rickmansworth Aquadrome Programme has been developed. The benefits it will realise include:

- Habitat enhancement: grassland management, creating meadows, ditch management to facilitate natural drainage, nurture wet woodlands.
- Understand and manage the waterflow and floodplain environment.
- Reducing lake and riverbank erosion securing habitats and public access.
- River restoration to globally rare chalk river.
- Enhancement of marginal lakeshore habitats.
- Targeted enhancements to benefit priority species
- Introducing accessible interpretation on niche habitats and social heritage
- Replacement of pedestrian bridges to improve access/connectivity.
- Develop eco-friendly travel routes.
- Vegetation and tree management to complement natural features.
- Enhancing the step free access, improving sightlines and accessibility.
- Upgrading footpaths and site furniture.
- Creating a sense of arrival, welcome area, accessible signage.
- Improved inclusion and participation to engage diverse audiences in heritage.
- Involving community through an orchard and training.
- Implementing the new site narrative and Communication Plan to improve communication with all the Aquadrome visitors.
- Implementing a new and attractive branding to nurture the identity of the site

- 2.3 In addition to being a floodplain, the water network within the Aquadrome and wider Colne Valley is complex with the interconnectivity between the lakes, Grand Union Canal, River Colne, ditch network and spring sources. The Aquadrome project aims to mitigate negative impact of flooding on the site where possible. To understand how this may be achieved, a Hydrological Study is being undertaken.
- 2.4 The hydrological study is a staged process that relies on a number of data sources. An essential stage includes modelling the flooding that takes place across the site and how this may be impacted by potential interventions when also modelled. To complete this stage, the study requires the use of a key data source - the Environment Agency's (EA) Upper Colne Flood Risk Mapping Study (flood model), the current version of which was released in 2010 and is therefore considered to be out of date. Since the commencement of the TRDC hydrological study, the EA have been updating their flood model. Whilst an initial indicated publication date of July 2024 was provided by the ES, this publication date has continually been revised. TRDC Officers have been in dialogue throughout this period with the EA and understand that they are now in the final stages of their internal processes to release the model having experienced a number of internal delays. Officers have taken advice from specialist professional in this field of work which counselled against using the 2010 model, as to do so could be deemed irresponsible due to the changes that have been experienced with climate and weather in the past 15 years. The EA delay in publication of the flood model has had a direct impact on the timeline of the hydrological study. The study is currently paused pending the release of the new and updated flood model. The most recent advice on a potential release date is March 2025 but as with previous dates this may be subject to extension by the EA and is not guaranteed.
- 2.5 The completion of the hydrological study will inform all elements of the Aquadrome Programme and will be a critical aspect of all applications for works consents from the EA in the form of Flood Risk Activity Permits (FRAP). FRAPs are required for all infrastructure works taking place within 8m of the river channel and on the floodplain, for example river enhancements and pathway improvements.

Secured Funding

- 2.6 To date the programme has secured significant funding from several external sources.

Amount	Funder	Secured
£216,691	National Lottery Heritage Fund - Recovery and Resilience	Secured - project complete
£100,000	UK Shared Prosperity Fund (Fishing Swims)	Secured - project on track for completion (Mar '25)
£1,286,092	CIL and UKSPF (Replacement Bridge)	Secured - project on track for completion (Mar '25)
£510,463	HS2 Colne Valley Additional Mitigation Plan (AMP)	Secured - project has three years from commencement
£ 2,113,246	TOTAL	

Future Funding

- 2.7 Currently an application is being reviewed by the Water Restoration Fund and officers are awaiting this outcome. Officers are also liaising with Affinity Water to assess the application process for a future application for funds.

Amount	Funder	Secured / Applied For / Future Application
£477,786	Water Restoration Fund	Applied for
£TBC	Affinity Water	Future Application
£TBC	TOTAL	

National Lottery Heritage Fund – Water, Wildlife and Wellbeing

- 2.8 An application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund is a three-stage process and officers have been successful in the Stage 1 phase with a successful Expression of Interest which has secured permission to submit a Development Stage bid.
- 2.9 The purpose of the Development Stage (Stage 2) is to map in further detail the Council's ambitions for the site explaining its challenges and documents council and public support. The bid must meet the four main criteria, or pillars, of the Lottery:
- Saving heritage (Conserving and valuing heritage, for now and the future.)
 - Protecting the environment (Supporting nature recovery and environmental sustainability)
 - Inclusion, access and participation (Supporting greater inclusion, diversity, access and participation in heritage).
 - Organisational sustainability (Strengthening heritage to be adaptive and financially resilient, contributing to communities and economies).
- 2.10 If the Stage 2 bid is successful, officers will then need to submit a Delivery (Stage 3) bid. The Stage 2 phase will need to establish detailed designs for each aspect of work along with detailed project costings, continued stakeholder and community engagement and a delivery programme of works over a three-year period.
- 2.11 At the end of Stage 2 and following evaluation of the project, Officers will submit a Stage 3 bid. This stage of the project will aim to deliver improvements in the Aquadrome as detailed below, and deliver against the four main pillars set out by the National Lottery detailed in 2.9:
- **Visitor Experience & Activity Plan:**
 - Central Meeting Point, Contemplative area & Re-landscaped bird feeding area, site furniture, signage and interpretation, inclusive and diverse activity programme
 - **Connectivity:**
 - Entrance enhancements, accessibility improvements (pathways & bridges) fencing and gates
 - **Natural Infrastructure:**

- Flood alleviation, ditch management (subject to hydrological study) and river restoration, planting, orchard and community garden development.
- 2.12 For delivery phase, current estimates for the total project are in the region of over £5 million. These costs will be finalised during the development phase if the Stage 2 funding bid is successful.
- 2.13 Funding at each stage includes for project specific posts to ensure the project is effectively delivered and resourced.

3 Options and Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To note the content of the report and to delegate to the Director of Finance in consultation with the Lead Member for Leisure to approve bids for funding and to enter into contracts for the works where they are above £25,000.

4 Policy/Budget Reference and Implications

- 4.1 The recommendations in this report are within the Council's agreed budgets. The proposals also relate to securing additional funding, as outlined within the report.
- 4.2 The recommendations in this report relate to the achievement of the following performance indicators for the Leisure and Natural Infrastructure Service Plan 2025-2028.
 - 4.2.1 LNI04 - External Funding secured to support Leisure and Natural Infrastructure Projects and Activities.
 - 4.2.2 LNI05 - Year on year increase in the area of land owned by Three Rivers District Council, being managed for biodiversity benefit.
 - 4.2.3 LNI06 - Percentage of vulnerable participants who take part in leisure activities.
- 4.3 The recommendations in this report relate to the achievement of the following Corporate Framework Objectives:
 - 4.3.1 **Responsive, Responsible Local Leadership** – a key part of the development phase of the project, will be to continue to engage and consult with the local community about the project. In addition, the Steering Group, consisting of 15 external organisations, several Lead and Ward Councillors, and officers across many Services will act as a critical friend, steering the direction of the project. The project will focus on securing significant external funding, reducing pressures on Council budgets.
 - 4.3.2 **A Great Place to Do Business** – the Aquadrome is a visitor destination and this project will further enhance this, whilst ensuring the balance between people and nature. A number of community organisations and businesses operate from the Aquadrome and it is anticipated that the benefits realised through this project will in turn, benefit and support them.
 - 4.3.3 **Sustainable Communities** – the Aquadrome project will look to enhance the leisure and cultural offer to visitors to the Aquadrome. This will include engagement activities and voluntary projects. A full activity programme will be developed during the development phase, although this will be carefully balanced against trying not to significantly increase visitor numbers. The focus will be more on diversifying the audience and the engagement on site in order to improve health and wellbeing. Improved fishing areas will support the local recreational opportunities for fishing.

- 4.3.4 **Net Carbon Zero and Climate Resilient** – the initial focus on the project is ensuring the movement of water across the site is better understood in order to facilitate the natural flooding occurring on the flood plain. This will improve the adaptability of the site making it more resilient to the impact of severe weather and help to protect the town of Rickmansworth. This will be achieved through the completion of the hydrological study. Alongside this will be significant enhancements to the biodiversity of the site in order to improve the habitats present, opportunities to further improve the adaptability of the site will be incorporated.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 The total anticipated cost for the entire programme at this stage is not confirmed but is estimated to be in excess of £5m. The programme is to be funded from externally secured funds supported by internal budgeted council resources. The table below shows funding that has been secured to date and proposed future applications:

Amount	Funder	Secured / Applied For / Future Application
£216,691	National Lottery Heritage Fund - Recovery and Resilience	Secured - project complete
£100,000	UK Shared Prosperity Fund (Fishing Swims)	Secured - project due to be completed (Mar '25)
£1,286,092	CIL and UKSPF (Replacement Bridge)	Secured - project due to be completed (Mar '25)
£510,463	HS2 Colne Valley Additional Mitigation Plan (AMP)	Secured
£477,786	Water Restoration Fund	Applied for
£TBC	Affinity Water	Future Application
£787,315	National Lottery Heritage Fund - Development Phase	Applied for
£5,446,561	National Lottery Heritage Fund - Delivery Phase	Future Application
£TBC	TOTAL	

- 5.2 £2,113,246 has been secured to date as detailed in section 2 of the report.
- 5.3 A £3,649,920 Expression of Interest for Lottery funding was submitted in November 2024 and the Council was invited to proceed to the next stage for the National Lottery Heritage Fund.
- 5.4 A funding application for development phase and outline delivery phase was submitted in February to the National Lottery Heritage Fund. It is anticipated we will get the outcome of the decision in June.

6 Legal Implications

- 6.1 Under the Council Constitution, Committee approval is required to enter into any contracts above the value of £25,000.
- 6.2 All proposed works and equipment will be tendered within the Council's constitution and procurement procedures and any other permissions obtained (for example planning) where required.

- 6.3 Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, updated by the Environment Act 2021, places a legal responsibility on public authorities in England to have due regard for habitats and species of the greatest conservation importance, whilst protecting all biodiversity. Section 40(1) states that a “public authority which has any functions exercisable in relation to England must from time to time consider what action the authority can properly take, consistently with the proper exercise of its functions, to further the general biodiversity objective.” The accompanying footnote to this part of the Act states that the aim of the biodiversity objective is to provide for the enhancement or improvement of biodiversity, not just its maintenance in its current state. Gone is the former ‘have regard’ element in respect of conserving biodiversity, and this has been replaced by a proactive duty (new section 40(1)) to “from time to time consider what action the authority can properly take, consistently with the proper exercise of its functions, to further the general biodiversity objective”.
- 6.4 The Aquadrome Programme outlines a number of actions: within the Management plan with particular reference to 5.1 Creating Biodiverse and Sustainable Environments (Woodlands and Grasslands) and 5.2 Creating Biodiverse and Sustainable Environments (Lakes and Watercourses) the associated actions all aim to increase, conserve and enhance the biodiversity value of the site.

7 Equal Opportunities Implications

- 7.1 A Short Equality Impact and Outcome Assessment is included at Appendix A. The assessment outlines the positive impact the project will have on equality. Realising these positive impacts is dependent on securing external funding highlighted within this report.

8 Staffing Implications

- 8.1 The Aquadrome project will be delivered by the Programme Development Manager, along with a number of Officers within the Leisure and Natural Infrastructure Service, including the Natural Infrastructure Programme Manager, Leisure Services Manager, Trees and Woodlands Principal Officer and Leisure Capital Projects Manager.
- 8.2 External funding will also be sought for project specific posts, including a Project Support Officer, Community Engagement Officer, Natural Infrastructure Projects Officer and Leisure Capital Projects Officer to ensure the project is effectively delivered. Employment of these additional officer posts will be dependent on external funds.

9 Environmental Implications

- 9.1 A Climate Change and Sustainability Impact Assessment has been completed giving this report a score of 3.7 out of 4 indicating strong positive impact for sustainability. (Appendix B).
- 9.2 Climate and Sustainability Impact Assessment Summary:

Category	Score (out of 4)
Homes, buildings, infrastructure, equipment and energy	3.33
Travel	3.50
Goods and Consumption	3.50
Ecology	3.50

Adaptation	4.00
Engagement and Influence	4
Total Overall Average Score	3.7

10 Public Health implications

- 10.1 Subject to securing external funding, there will be a diverse activity plan focused on enhancing health and wellbeing, protecting the environment and educating the local community. Successful examples of this during the Natural Heritage Networks project, include mindfulness walks, nature photography walks, creative writing, sessions with local schools and storytelling workshops.

11 Communications and Website Implications

- 11.1 As part of the Natural Heritage Networks project, a new site narrative was developed, along with a communication plan and updated brand guidelines. These have been and will continue to be instrumental in future community engagement and creating a site identity. Appendix C is the Evaluation Report from this project, highlighting the success of this project and these key points.

12 Community Safety

- 12.1 Officers will liaise with the community safety team to ensure that crime is designed out where possible during the development phase process of the project.

13 Customer Service Centre Implications

- 13.1 None Specific

14 Risk and Health & Safety Implications

- 14.1 The Council has agreed its risk management strategy which can be found on the website at <http://www.threerivers.gov.uk>. In addition, the risks of the proposals in the report have also been assessed against the Council's duties under Health and Safety legislation relating to employees, visitors and persons affected by our operations. The risk management implications of this report are detailed below.
- 14.2 The subject of this report is covered by the Leisure and Natural Infrastructure, Environment Protection and Property Services and Major Projects Service Plans. Any risks resulting from this report will be included in the risk register and, if necessary, managed within these plans.

Nature of Risk	Consequence	Suggested Control Measures	Response <i>(tolerate, treat, terminate, transfer)</i>	Risk Rating <i>(combination of likelihood and impact)</i>
Flood modelling from the Environment Agency further delayed	Hydrological study cannot be completed and therefore any new	Continue to liaise and engage with the Environment Agency on updates.	Treat	9

	infrastructure not implemented			
Increase in implementation costs	Insufficient project funding	Ensure a 25% contingency and inflation figure is included within the NLHF and other external funding bids Proper Procurement processes completed to assess value for money.	Treat	4
Asbestos present in delivery locations	Increase in costs to manage asbestos Delay to work programme	Manage all works in line with the site Asbestos Management Plan including: Undertake surveying work in key locations during development phase Ensure all scopes of works reflect actual and potential presence of asbestos	Treat	4
Unable to secure external funding	Project vision and objectives will not be realised	Evidence based funding applications Skilled staff employed to develop funding bids Continue to identify, review and apply for external funding	Treat	4

14.3 The above risks are scored using the matrix below. The Council has determined its aversion to risk and is prepared to tolerate risks where the combination of impact and likelihood scores 6 or less.

Very Likely 	Likelihood	Low 4	High 8	Very High 12	Very High 16
	Likelihood	Low 3	Medium 6	High 9	Very High 12

Data Quality

Data sources: Evaluation Report and Data Surveys

Data checked by: Jess Hodges and Jo Copley

Data rating:

1	Poor	
2	Sufficient	
3	High	✓

APPENDICES:

APPENDIX A: Short Equality Impact Assessment and Outcome

APPENDIX B: Climate and Sustainability Impact and Assessment

APPENDIX C: Evaluation Report -

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/501f89e70ce24bb68722f6ac715330e0>

Short Equality Impact and Outcome Assessment (EIA) Template **DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION**

EIAs make services better for everyone and support value for money by getting services right first time.

EIAs enable us to consider all the information about a service, policy or strategy from an equalities perspective and then action plan to get the best outcomes for staff and service-users¹. They analyse how all our work as a council might impact differently on different groups²

They help us make good decisions and evidence how we have reached these decisions.³

See end notes for full guidance. For further support or advice please contact the Community Partnerships Team

Equality Impact and Outcomes Assessment (EIA) Template

First, consider whether you need to complete an EIA, or if there is another way to evidence assessment of impacts, or that an EIA is not needed⁴

Title ⁵	Rickmansworth Aquadrome Project	ID No ⁶	LL008
Team/Service ⁷	Leisure and Natural Infrastructure		
Focus of EIA ⁸	<p>The focus of the Equality Impact Assessment is to assess the Rickmansworth Aquadrome project, including its funding streams. The project is a result of The Rickmansworth Aquadrome Management Plan 2022 – 2027 which is an ambitious and far-reaching plan. Produced in partnership with Countryside Management Service, the Plans Vision Statement is:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“For the Aquadrome to be enhanced, nurtured, and protected. To achieve the balance so nature can flourish and visitors can connect with and discover beautiful and unique habitats, whilst understanding the importance of the environmental heritage of the site.”</p> <p>The Rickmansworth Aquadrome project has now been developed, and its goals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat enhancement: grassland management, creating meadows, ditch management to facilitate natural drainage, nurture wet woodlands. • Understand and manage the waterflow and floodplain environment. • Reducing lake and riverbank erosion securing habitats and public access. • River restoration to globally rare chalk river. • Enhancement of marginal lakeshore habitats. • Targeted enhancements to benefit priority species 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing accessible interpretation on niche habitats and social heritage • Replacement of pedestrian bridges to improve access/connectivity. • Develop eco-friendly travel routes. • Vegetation and tree management to complement natural features. • Creating step free access, improving sightlines, making site more accessible and welcoming. • Upgrading footpaths and site furniture. • Creating a sense of arrival, welcome area, accessible signage. • Improved inclusion and participation to engage diverse audiences in heritage. • Involving and engaging the community through orchard and training. • Implementing the new site narrative and Communication Plan to improve communication with all the Aquadrome visitors and wider community. • Implementing the new and attractive branding to nurture its identity <p>To implement these goals, external funding of approximately £6m is required.</p>
<p>Assessment of overall impacts and any further recommendations ⁹</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An accessibility audit is scheduled during development phase of the project, subject to funding, which will review the following areas and beyond and likely to suggest a number of recommendations. • Introducing accessible interpretation on niche habitats and social heritage – this will include clear English and imagery to support those with English as an additional language. The design of the hardware will also be created factoring those in a wheelchair or other mobility issues. • Replacement of pedestrian bridges to improve access/connectivity between areas which would previously have been difficult for those to access in a wheelchair or buggies. • Creating a sense of arrival, welcome area, accessible signage. • Improved inclusion and participation to engage diverse audiences in heritage – this will be led by the Aquadrome Community Engagement Officer to ensure all audiences are able to participate in the development of the project. 	
<p>Potential Issues</p>	<p>Mitigating Actions</p>
<p>Accessibility issues across the site for those with a mobility impairment</p>	<p>An accessibility audit will be completed as part of the development phase of the project, with consideration given to new pathways and bridges to connect areas currently inaccessible.</p>

Actions Planned ¹⁰

- Continued development of Aquadrome specific webpage to keep the community updated and engaged.
- Introducing accessible interpretation on niche habitats and social heritage
- Replacement of pedestrian bridges to improve access/connectivity.
- Develop eco-friendly travel routes.
- Creating step free access, improving sightlines, making site more accessible and welcoming.
- Upgrading footpaths and site furniture.
- Creating a sense of arrival, welcome area, accessible signage.
- Improved inclusion and participation to engage diverse audiences in heritage.
- Implementing the new site narrative and Communication Plan to improve communication with all the Aquadrome visitors and wider community.

EIA sign-off: (for the EIA to be final an email must sent from the relevant people agreeing it or this section must be signed)

Equality Impact Assessment officer: Charlotte Gomes/Jo Copley

Date: 14.01.25

Equalities Lead Officer: Shivani Dave

Date: 29/01/2025

Guidance end-notes

¹ The following principles, drawn from case law, explain what we must do to fulfil our duties under the Equality Act:

- Knowledge: everyone working for the council must be aware of our equality duties and apply them appropriately in their work.
- Timeliness: the duty applies at the time of considering policy options and/or before a final decision is taken – not afterwards.
- Real Consideration: the duty must be an integral and rigorous part of your decision-making and influence the process. • Sufficient Information: you must assess what information you have and what is needed to give proper consideration.
- No delegation: the council is responsible for ensuring that any contracted services which provide services on our behalf can comply with the duty, are required in contracts to comply with it, and do comply in practice. It is a duty that cannot be delegated.
- Review: the equality duty is a continuing duty. It applies when a policy is developed/agreed, and when it is implemented/reviewed.
- Proper Record Keeping: to show that we have fulfilled our duties we must keep records of the process and the impacts identified.

NB: Filling out this EIA in itself does not meet the requirements of the equality duty. All the requirements above must be fulfilled or the EIA (and any decision based on it) may be open to challenge. Properly used, an EIA can be a tool to help us comply with our equality duty and as a record that to demonstrate that we have done so.

² Our duties in the Equality Act 2010

As a council, we have a legal duty (under the Equality Act 2010) to show that we have identified and considered the impact and potential impact of our activities on all people with 'protected characteristics' (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, and marriage and civil partnership).

This applies to policies, services (including commissioned services), and our employees. The level of detail of this consideration will depend on what you are assessing, who it might affect, those groups' vulnerability, and how serious any potential impacts might be. We use this EIA template to complete this process and evidence our consideration

The following are the duties in the Act. You must give 'due regard' (pay conscious attention) to the need to:

-
- avoid, reduce or minimise negative impact (if you identify unlawful discrimination, including victimisation and harassment, you must stop the action and take advice immediately).
 - promote equality of opportunity. This means the need to: – Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by equality groups – Take steps to meet the needs of equality groups – Encourage equality groups to participate in public life or any other activity where participation is disproportionately low – Consider if there is a need to treat disabled people differently, including more favourable treatment where necessary
 - foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. This means: – Tackle prejudice – Promote understanding

³ EIAs are always proportionate to:

- The size of the service or scope of the policy/strategy
- The resources involved
- The numbers of people affected
- The size of the likely impact
- The vulnerability of the people affected

The greater the potential adverse impact of the proposed policy on a protected group (e.g. disabled people), the more vulnerable the group in the context being considered, the more thorough and demanding the process required by the Act will be.

⁴ When to complete an EIA:

- When planning or developing a new service, policy or strategy
- When reviewing an existing service, policy or strategy
- When ending or substantially changing a service, policy or strategy
- When there is an important change in the service, policy or strategy, or in the city (eg: a change in population), or at a national level (eg: a change of legislation)

Assessment of equality impact can be evidenced as part of the process of reviewing or needs assessment or strategy development or consultation or planning. It does not have to be on this template, but must be documented. Wherever possible, build the EIA into your usual planning/review processes.

Do you need to complete an EIA? Consider:

- Is the policy, decision or service likely to be relevant to any people because of their protected characteristics?
- How many people is it likely to affect?
- How significant are its impacts?
- Does it relate to an area where there are known inequalities?

How vulnerable are the people (potentially) affected? If there are potential impacts on people but you decide not to complete an EIA it is usually sensible to document why.

⁵ **Title of EIA:** This should clearly explain what service / policy / strategy / change you are assessing

⁶ **ID no:** The unique reference for this EIA. This will be added by Community Partnerships

⁷ **Team/Service:** Main team responsible for the policy, practice, service or function being assessed

⁸ **Focus of EIA:** A member of the public should have a good understanding of the policy or service and any proposals after reading this section. Please use plain English and write any acronyms in full first time - eg: 'Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)'

This section should explain what you are assessing:

- What are the main aims or purpose of the policy, practice, service or function?
- Who implements, carries out or delivers the policy, practice, service or function? Please state where this is more than one person/team/body and where other organisations deliver under procurement or partnership arrangements.
- How does it fit with other services?
- Who is affected by the policy, practice, service or function, or by how it is delivered? Who are the external and internal serviceusers, groups, or communities?
- What outcomes do you want to achieve, why and for whom? Eg: what do you want to provide, what changes or improvements, and what should the benefits be? • What do existing or previous inspections of the policy, practice, service or function tell you?
- What is the reason for the proposal or change (financial, service, legal etc)? The Act requires us to make these clear.

⁹ **Assessment of overall impacts and any further recommendations**

- Make a frank and realistic assessment of the overall extent to which the negative impacts can be reduced or avoided by the mitigating measures. Explain what positive impacts will result from the actions and how you can make the most of these.

-
- Countervailing considerations: These may include the reasons behind the formulation of the policy, the benefits it is expected to deliver, budget reductions, the need to avert a graver crisis by introducing a policy now and not later, and so on. The weight of these factors in favour of implementing the policy must then be measured against the weight of any evidence as to the potential negative equality impacts of the policy,
 - Are there any further recommendations? Is further engagement needed? Is more research or monitoring needed? Does there need to be a change in the proposal itself?

¹⁰ **Action Planning:** The Equality Duty is an ongoing duty: policies must be kept under review, continuing to give 'due regard' to the duty. If an assessment of a broad proposal leads to more specific proposals, then further equality assessment and consultation are needed.

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TRDC Climate and Sustainability Impact Assessment

Score / Colour Code	Impact and Recommendation
Dark green (4)	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.
Light green (3)	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible.
Yellow (2)	Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.
Red (1)	Considerable inconsistency with the council's sustainability objectives. Strong recommendation to review and mitigate.
Grey (0)	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.

Guidance for use

Please answer all questions from the drop-down options in the 'impact' column (C), including 'not applicable' as needed.

Please email your completed copy of the form to Joanna.Hewitson@threeivers.gov.uk.

Key to the colour coding of answers is given at the top of the page.

Name of project/policy/procurement and date	23.01.2025	Rickmansworth Aquadrome Project Up
Brief description (1-2 sentences):		The Rickmansworth Aquadrome Managed with Countryside Management Service "For the Aquadrome to be enhanced, it connect with and discover beautiful and the site."

Homes, buildings, infrastructure, equipment and energy			
Question	Impact (select from list)	Score (-1 to 4)	Justification or mitigation
1 What effect will this project have on overall energy use (electricity or other fuels) e.g. in buildings, appliances or machinery?	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	N/A	Not applicable to this project
2 What effect will this project have on the direct use of fossil fuels such as gas, petrol, diesel, oil?	Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.	2	Delivery of the project may require the use of machinery powered by fossil fuels. This will be short term and deliver considerable positive impacts to biodiversity and the sites infrastructure.
3 Does this project further maximise the use of existing building space? <i>E.g. co-locating services; bringing under-used space into use; using buildings out-of-hours</i>	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	N/A	Not applicable to this project
4 Will any new building constructed or refurbished be highly energy efficient in use? (e.g. <i>high levels of insulation, low energy demand per sq. m., no servicing with fossil fuels such as gas heating, EPC "A" or BREAM "excellent"</i>).	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	N/A	Not applicable to this project
5 Does this make use of sustainable materials / unputs in your project? <i>E.g. re-used or recycled construction materials; timber in place of concrete</i>	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	Wherever possible and appropriate green/natural materials will be favoured over engineered options. For example with erosion prevention, spiling and marginal planting would be preferred over concrete revetments
6 Does this use more sustainable processes in the creation of the project? <i>E.g. modular and off-site construction; use of electrical plant instead of petrol/diesel,</i>	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	Sustainability and longevity will be crucial factors integrated within the project. For example, the pathway improvements cannot take place until the flood modelling can give some reassurance to the longevity of the path given flood conditions.

7	Will this increase the supply of renewable energy? e.g. installing solar panels; switching to a renewable energy tariff	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	N/A	Not applicable to this project
8	Do any appliances or electrical equipment to be used have high energy efficiency ratings?	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	N/A	Not applicable to this project
	Average Score		3.33	

Travel				
	Question	Impact	Score (0-4)	Justification or mitigation
9	Reducing travel: what effect will this project have on overall vehicle use?	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3	Improved pathways increase opportunity for people to walk, cycle or wheel around, to and from the site.
10	Will this project use petrol or diesel vehicles or EV, hybrid?	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3	Improvements to the car park consider the implementation of EV parking and charging spaces.
11	Will this support people to use active or low-carbon transport? E.g. cycling, walking, switching to electric transport	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	Improved pathways increase opportunity for people to walk, cycle or wheel around, to and from the site.
12	Will it be easily accessible for all by foot, bike, or public transport, including for disabled people?	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	Accessibility is a key consideration throughout the project for all.
13	Has the project taken steps to reduce traffic? Using e-cargo bikes; timing activities or deliveries to be outside peak congestion times	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	N/A	Not applicable to this project at this time, as the project progresses opportunities to reduce traffic will be considered with contractors
	Average Score		3.50	

Goods and Consumption				
	Question	Impact	Score (0-4)	Justification or mitigation
14	Has this project considered ways to reuse existing goods and materials to the greatest extent possible, before acquiring newly manufactured ones?	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	A variety of opportunities within the project intend to make use of resources already within the site. For example, des-shading through tree felling nearby to river restoration opportunities to repurpose the material.
15	Does it reduce reliance on buying newly manufactured goods? E.g. repair and re-use; sharing and lending goods between services or people; leasing or product-as-a-service rather than ownership	Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.	2	Some elements of the project will require new manufactured materials to be used; however, these are selected with a long-term warranty to reduce need to replace.
16	Does it use products and resources that are re-used, recycled, or renewable?	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	A variety of opportunities within the project intend to make use of resources already within the site

17	Does it enable others to make sustainable choices within their lifestyles, or engage people about this?	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3	The public will be encouraged to recycle their waste and responsibly use bins throughout the site to reduce the impact of litter on the habitats and wildlife.
18	Is there a plan to reduce waste sent to landfill in manufacture?	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	N/A	Not applicable to this project at this time, as the project progresses opportunities to reduce landfill to be considered
19	Is the material used able to be re-used, re-purposed, or recycled at end of its life?	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	N/A	Not applicable to this project at this time, as the project progresses opportunities to reduce landfill to be considered
20	Has it taken steps to ensure any food it offers is more sustainable? <i>E.g. less and high-quality (high welfare) meat and dairy; minimises food waste; seasonal produce; locally sourced.</i>	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	N/A	Not applicable to this project
Average Score			3.25	

Ecology

	Question	Impact	Score (0-4)	Justification or mitigation
21	What effect does this project have on total area of non-amenity green/blue space? (Amenity green space = playing fields, play areas, sporting lakes etc. Non-amenity= e.g. woodland, grassland, wetland, gardens, lakes, rivers, ponds etc.)	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	The projects vision is "For the Aquadrome to be enhanced, nurtured, and protected. To achieve the balance so nature can flourish and visitors can connect with and discover beautiful and unique habitats, whilst understanding the importance of the environmental heritage of the site."
22	Does the project create more habitat for nature? E.g. native plants, trees, and flowers	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	
23	Does it make changes to existing habitats and have a negative impact on nature? <i>E.g. use of pesticides, reduced extent and variety of plants, planting non-native species</i>	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	
24	Does it help people understand the value of biodiversity, and encourage residents to support it in their private and community spaces?	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	
Average Score			4	

Adaptation

	Question	Impact	Score (0-4)	Justification or mitigation
25	Does any planned project, construction or building use include measures to conserve water?	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	The project aims to protect globally rare chalk streams, the aquifers of which are abstracted from for drinking water.
26	Does anythe project , consider how to sustainably protect people from extreme weather?	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	Thorough planning of infrastructure should provide longevity and responsilbe planting plans should ensure a diverse woodland/ecosystems resilient to the future.
27	Has any planned building work or infrastructure considered how to mitigate flood risk? <i>E.g. Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS); de-paving areas; green roofs</i>	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	A hydrological study is taking place to fully inform the project of related flood risk. With floodplain connectivity as a key objective.

28	Does any planned infrastructure or building work increase the overall footprint of hard surfacing? (as opposed to green or permeable surfacing)	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	While the hardfoot print of the site may slightly increase the benefits overcome this for accessibility and protecting the surrounding habitats encouraging people to keep to the paths reducing damage to sensitive ecosystems
29	Has the project considered its own resilience to future extreme heat, flood risk, or water shortage?	Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.	2	A hydrological study is taking place to fully inform the project of related flood risk.
Average Score			3.6	

Engagement and Influence

Question	Impact	Score (0-4)	Justification or mitigation
30 Does this project raise awareness and understanding of the climate and ecological emergency, and the steps that people can take?	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	Significant engagemnet, communications and interpretation will inform the visitor
Average Score		4	
Total Overall Average Score		3.61	

Now assesment is compelete copy and paste box into your business case, committee report. (under environmental implications 6). Whole assesment can be an appendix. Procurement tenders are expected to submit complete report with application.

Climate and Sustainability Impact Assessment Summary	
Homes, buildings, infrastructure, equipment and energy	3.33
Travel	3.50
Goods and Consumption	3.50
Ecology	3.50
Adaptation	4.00
Engagement and Influence	4
Total Overall Average Score	3.7

and proceed.
mitigations where possible.

to review these aspects and find mitigations.

it otherwise proceed.

Update Report

Management Plan 2022 – 2027 is an ambitious and far reaching plan. Produced in partnership with the public, the Plan's Vision Statement is: "A landscape where nature is nurtured, and protected. To achieve the balance so nature can flourish and visitors can enjoy unique habitats, whilst understanding the importance of the environmental heritage of the area."

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Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (1-4)
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area.	N/A
Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.	2
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area.	N/A
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	N/A
Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net zero carbon:

- Insulate buildings to a high standard.
- Include energy efficiency measures when carrying out refurbishment to deliver improvement in EPC ratings.
- Replace gas boilers with renewable heating, such as heat pumps. Consider District Heat Networks where appropriate.
- Construct new buildings to Passivhaus standard.
- Design and deliver buildings and infrastructure with lower-carbon materials, such as recycled material and timber frames.
- Use construction methods that reduce overall energy use, such as modular, factory-built components, or use of electrical plant on-site.
- Install solar panels or other renewable energy generation, and consider including battery storage.
- Switch to a certified renewable energy provider e.g. utilise power purchase agreements (PPA)
- Use energy-efficient appliances.
- Install low-energy LED lighting.
- Install measures to help manage building energy demand, such as smart meters, timers on lighting, or building management systems.

Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	N/A
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	N/A
	3.33

Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)
Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3
Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3
Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	N/A
	3.50

Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)	Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net zero carbon:
Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce the need to travel e.g. through remote meetings, or rationalising routes and rounds. - Share vehicles or substitute different modes of travel, rather than procuring new fleet. - Specify electric, hybrid, or most fuel efficient vehicles for new fleet or for services involving transport. - Support users and staff to walk, cycle, or use public transport e.g. with cycle parking, training, incentives. - Use zero-emission deliveries - Model and mitigate the project's effect on traffic and congestion e.g. retiming the service or deliveries
Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3	
Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	
Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	N/A	
	3.50	

Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)
Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3
Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4

Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)	Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net zero carbon:
Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Procure goods through sharing, leasing, or product-as-a-service models rather than ownership. - Use pre-owned and reconditioned goods, and reduce reliance on procuring new goods. - Use recycled materials, and procure items that can be reconditioned or recycled at end-of-life. - Use lifecycle costing in business cases to capture the full cost of operation, repair and disposal of an item. - Ensure meat and dairy is high-quality, high-welfare. - Design waste, including food waste, out of business models e.g. separating (and composting) food waste; replacing single-use items with reusable items. - Use contact points with residents, community groups and businesses to engage and enable them to adopt low-waste, low-carbon behaviours.
Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3	
Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4	

Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	N/A
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	N/A
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	N/A
	3.50

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Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)
Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
	4

<p>Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net zero carbon: (Seek advice from Landscapes Team if required)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoid converting green space to hard surfacing. - Use underutilised space for planting, such as green roofs and walls. - Plant native plants and perennials, rather than non-native ornamental species, to encourage biodiversity. - Reduce trimming of grass and hedges, and avoid use of synthetic pesticides. - Provide space for animals e.g. long grass areas, bird boxes, bat boxes, 'insect hotels', ponds, hedgehog hides and passages, log piles - Consider the ecological impacts from manufacture and use of procured goods, e.g. water pollution; water consumption; land use change for farming; pesticide use; organic/regenerative farming methods

Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)
Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4

<p>Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net zero carbon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Install water-saving devices in taps, showers and toilets - Re-use grey water in new developments - Capture and re-use rainwater where possible e.g. water butts for use in car washing, watering garden, toilets - Ensure all new building or refurbishment (especially of homes) models and mitigates future overheating risk, with adequate ventilation and shading - Avoid increasing areas of hard surfacing. - Convert hard surfacing to green and permeable surfacing where possible, and install Sustainable Drainage systems (SUDS). - Plant drought-tolerant plants and mulch landscapes to avoid water loss through evaporation.

Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
	4.00

Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)
Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
	4
	3.7

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net zero carbon:
 - 'Make every contact count', by using contact points with residents, businesses and community groups to promote understanding of the climate emergency.

**Climate Change, Leisure and Housing Committee
Wednesday 12 March 2025**

PART I

**Play Space Strategy 2025 - 2030
(AD Environment)**

1 Summary

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present and recommend for approval, a new Three Rivers Play Space Strategy for the period 2025-2030.

1.2 The strategy was consulted on during the period 6 December - 31 January 2025.

2 Details

2.1 The importance of play and recreation in the life of every child has long been acknowledged by the international community, as evidenced by the proclamation in the 1959 Declaration of the Rights of the Child:

“The child shall have full opportunity for play and recreation [...]; society and the public authorities shall endeavour to promote the enjoyment of this right” (art. 7).

2.2 This proclamation was further strengthened in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (the Convention) of 1989 which explicitly states in article 31 that:

“States Parties recognize the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.”

Convention on the Rights of the Child (17 April 2013)

2.3 These philosophies have driven the development of high-quality play provision across the district – play in Three Rivers is more than the swings and the slides, it focuses on the wider benefits play has for children, families and local communities.

2.4 This strategy sets out the priorities for council play space provision over the next 5 years, including where, what and how resources will be prioritised to ensure children and their families in Three Rivers continue to receive access to high quality provision.

2.5 Three Rivers District Council will continue to work in partnership with other organisations who are responsible for play areas not in council ownership and encourage them to follow the principles outlined in this strategy.

2.6 This strategy will focus on play spaces owned and maintained by Three Rivers District Council, although other play spaces will be considered when mapping key sites, along with how the Council can work in partnership to support other organisations.

2.7 The proposed vision of the strategy is:

“Three Rivers is a great place to play”

- 2.8 The following principals underpin the strategy to ensure effective delivery and that children and their families remain at the heart of decision making:
- Access to Play
 - Community Co-Design
 - High Quality, Playful Spaces
 - Financially Sustainable
- 2.9 The draft strategy, included at Appendix A outlines the full details of these principals.
- 2.10 It is proposed that resources are focused on the play spaces most used by children and their families. For smaller sites, as equipment reaches the end of its life, it is proposed that these transition from being a formal, traditional equipped play space, to a more natural play space – incorporating natural features such as mounds, planting, fallen logs etc. Images of examples are included in Appendix B.
- 2.11 The draft strategy also proposes that extreme incidents of damage, ongoing ASB issues and health and safety concerns may result in a closure or relocation of play spaces, and/or the removal of equipment. In such circumstances, this would be carried out in consultation with the Lead Member for Leisure and relevant Ward Councillors.
- 2.12 An updated Capital Programme for the period of this strategy and beyond (2025/26 – 2044/45) is detailed at Appendix C and within Appendix A. The proposed capital programme reflects the principals outlined within the draft strategy. Interim maintenance work will continue to take place across play spaces in between capital upgrading years.
- 2.13 The capital programme would be reviewed by officers annually, in consultation with the Lead Member for Leisure with any significant amends presented to Committee for approval and subject to budget confirmation as part of the medium-term financial setting process.

Consultation Process

- 2.14 Public consultation on the draft strategy took place during the period of 6 December 2024 and 31 January 2025.
- 2.15 There were two parts to the consultation: online for adults via the Council’s Have Your Say Platform and in person consultation sessions with children and young people at local schools.
- 2.16 Information about the adult consultation was shared across social media, directly with community groups and through the schools’ parent mail systems.
- 2.17 All primary schools within Three Rivers were invited to take part in the consultation.

Consultation Results - Children

- 2.18 Leisure Officers, including the Senior Play Ranger, led 26 number of sessions across ten local primary schools. A total of 597 children shared their views on play areas managed and maintained by Three Rivers.
- 2.19 Leisure Development Officers consulted with children in classrooms via a PowerPoint presentation, images on display boards, post it notes and stickers. They were asked why they like going to play areas, what equipment they liked and their favourite play spaces.
- 2.20 Summary of responses is detailed below:
- 66% go to play areas to have fun
64% like to visit play areas to play with friends
 - *When asked what they like to see in a play area:*
 - 63% are appreciative of the plethora of equipment available.
 - 54% enjoy space to scoot and ride their bikes
 - 55% are grateful for the space to run around and play football.
 - The favourite play space in the district was Leavesden Country Park, followed by Ebury (Aquadrome), Baldwins Lane (Croxley Green) and The Swillett (Chorleywood).
 - When asked what they love about our play areas the top ranked answers were football goals and space to play football, zip wires and being close to where they live.
 - Favourite pieces of equipment were Zip wires, Football goals, Swings and Slides
- 2.21 The full consultation results from the children are detailed at Appendix D.

Consultation Results - Adults

- 2.22 A total of 126 people completed the online survey. A summary of responses is detailed below:
- 125 respondents took part in the online survey.
 - 82% of respondents were parents and 11.5% of respondents were grandparents.
 - The majority of respondents lived in Abbots Langley (36) followed by C/Green (33).
 - Leavesden Country Park (38) rated as the favourite play space to visit, followed by Barton Way (16), Ebury Aquadrome main play area (13) and Baldwins Lane (9).
 - For adults, the most important things when visiting a play area is equipment for a variety of ages and that the play equipment is well looked after. Adults also acknowledged the importance of the play area being clean and tidy and the proximity to other facilities such as car parking, café and toilets.
 - 100% of respondents agreed that it is important there are high quality play spaces located near where they live.

- 89.3% of respondents agreed with the four principles listed in 2.8 (above) and 83.6% agreed with the four proposed play area sites that will require more frequent maintenance and refurbishment:
 1. Ebury Play Area (Rickmansworth Aquadrome),
 2. Barton Way Play Area (Croxley Green),
 3. Hayling Road Play Area (South Oxhey)
 4. Leavesden Country Park Play Area (Abbots Langley).
 - 91% of respondents agreed that play spaces should incorporate natural features such as grassy mounds, trees, wildflower areas, bug hotels, logs and play panels with information about local wildlife.
- 2.23 The full consultation results from the adult survey are detailed at Appendix E (1) and Appendix E (2).

Amendments to strategy following consultation

- 2.24 The strategy will include the feedback from children that spaces to play football and football goals are vital to their enjoyment.

3 Options and Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To recommend approval for the Play Space Strategy for Three Rivers 2025 – 2030.
- 3.2 To approve the updated Capital Programme for the period of this strategy and beyond (2025/26 – 2044/45) as detailed at Appendix C and within Appendix A.
- 3.3 To give delegated authority to the Director of Finance to enter into a contract or funding agreement above the value of £25,000 for the play space capital programme, subject to capital budget confirmation as part of the medium-term financial planning process.

4 Policy/Budget Reference and Implications

- 4.1 The recommendations in this report are within the Council's agreed budgets.
- 4.2 The recommendations in this report relate to the approval of a new policy for Three Rivers' managed and maintained play spaces.
- 4.3 The recommendations in this report relate to the achievement of the following performance indicators for the Leisure and Natural Infrastructure Service Plan 2025-2028.
- 4.3.1 LNI04 - External Funding secured to support Leisure and Natural Infrastructure Projects and Activities.
- 4.3.2 LNI05 - Year on year increase in the area of land owned by Three Rivers District Council, being managed for biodiversity benefit.
- 4.3.3 LNI06 - Percentage of vulnerable participants who take part in leisure activities.
- 4.4 The recommendations in this report relate to the achievement of the following Corporate Framework Objectives:

4.4.1 Responsive, Responsible Local Leadership:

4.4.1.1 Manage our resources to deliver high quality play space provision that is carefully managed to ensure that the local community receive value for money and benefit from a variety of opportunities to take part in play.

4.4.1.2 Working in partnership with other organisations including local parish councils and community housing provider to ensure quality and varied play spaces across our district.

4.4.1.3 Work collaboratively with our local communities ensuring that views, priorities and needs are a driving factor in all our decisions.

4.4.2 A Great Place to Do Business:

4.4.2.1 Utilising the Council's procurement strategy, the Council will look to support local businesses to deliver play spaces within the community.

4.4.2.2 Providing high quality play spaces will support the local leisure and tourism industry by encouraging visitors to the area.

4.4.3 Sustainable Communities:

4.4.3.1 Provide quality local and destination play spaces where families and community groups can meet and come together to interact socially, creating community cohesion and resilience.

4.4.3.2 Ensure our play spaces are clean, green and safe

4.4.3.3 Maintain freely accessible play spaces such that financial barriers do not prevent families' ability to access areas which can support their physical and mental health and wellbeing.

4.4.4 Net Carbon Zero and Climate Resilient:

4.4.4.1 Design and maintain our play spaces to provide a mix of physical equipment and natural play features. Our play spaces will be designed to be a haven for both people and wildlife.

4.4.4.2 Actively consider the changing climate and design play spaces that are climate resilient including the introduction of tree planting to create shaded areas.

5 Financial Implications

5.1 There is currently an annual capital budget of £120,000 to upgrade play spaces allocated in the medium financial plan. This budget is currently set to increase by £5,000, every 3 years, to account for inflation and increases in material costs.

5.2 There is currently an annual budget of £49,270 to maintain play areas and a further £13,760 for vandalism, giving a total revenue maintenance budget of £60,030.

5.3 In addition, there are S106 contributions secured as part of developments within Three Rivers, which can be used to fund play space projects as outlined within the S106 deeds. Play space projects eligible would include: Leavesden Country Park, Langley Lane (The Horses' Field), Gade View Gardens and Dowding Way.

5.4 Capital and revenue budgets are set and agreed as part of the medium-term financial planning process and reviewed annually.

5.5 Officers will continue to seek external funding opportunities to support the new play space strategy, as well as identifying opportunities to apply for utilise Community Infrastructure Levy where appropriate.

6 Legal Implications

6.1 Under the Council Constitution, Committee approval is required to enter into any contracts above the value of £25,000.

6.2 All proposed works and equipment will be tendered within the Council's constitution and procurement procedures and any other permissions obtained (for example planning) where required.

6.3 S106 deeds which have secured the payment of monies as a contribution towards parks and open spaces will be confirmed as acceptable use of the monies with the Council's legal team at the appropriate time.

7 Equal Opportunities Implications

7.1 Play spaces within Three Rivers will be inclusive, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to play in a fun and safe environment. This could be through the use of inclusive equipment, or tactile materials, along with a play space that is easy and safe to navigate. Play Spaces will also factor in the PiPA (Plan Inclusive Play Areas) themes and the 6 senses of the PiPA wheel.

8 Staffing Implications

8.1 Monitoring of the Play Spaces Strategy will be carried out by the Leisure Services team, in particular, the Leisure Assets Manager.

8.2 The capital programme will be led and delivered by the Leisure Capital Projects Manager.

8.3 Maintenance will be carried out by the Council's Grounds Maintenance team.

9 Environmental Implications

9.1 Play spaces within Three Rivers will bring children and their families closer to nature. Through the inclusion of natural play features, children will have opportunities to learn first-hand about the wildlife around them. Encouraging children to be inquisitive about nature will support their learning and give them an appreciation and respect for the world around them.

9.2 Summary outcome of Climate and Sustainability Impact Assessment (Appendix F):

Climate and Sustainability Impact Assessment Summary	
Homes, buildings, infrastructure, equipment and energy	3.33
Travel	3.00
Goods and Consumption	3.17

Ecology	3.75
Adaptation	3.50
Engagement and Influence	4
Total Overall Average Score	3.5

10 Community Safety Implications

- 10.1 Trends in ASB will be monitored and tracked in partnership with the local Police, we will seek to prevent and where possible “design out” ASB issues. Play inspections will continually review the risk and annual inspections will provide regular reassessment of the life expectancy of play spaces and individual items of equipment.
- 10.2 Extreme incidents of damage, ongoing ASB issues and health and safety concerns may result in a closure or relocation of play spaces, and/or the removal of equipment. In such circumstances, this will be carried out in consultation with the Lead Member for Leisure and relevant Ward Councillors.

11 Public Health implications

- 11.1 High quality play spaces provide opportunities for physical activity and enhanced mental health and wellbeing.
- 11.2 As stated by the Rt Hon The Lord Coe CH KBE, *“Parks, playgrounds and playing fields play a vital role in building healthy neighbourhoods contributing to the physical, mental and emotional well-being of local people. Without access to these spaces the quality of life and wellbeing of residents is reduced.”* (Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play, Fields in Trust).

12 Customer Services Centre Implications

- 12.1 Non-Specific

13 Communications and Website Implications

- 13.1 Online information will be kept regularly updated with details about play spaces within Three Rivers, consultation opportunities and when play spaces may be closed for refurbishment.

14 Risk and Health & Safety Implications

- 14.1 The Council has agreed its risk management strategy which can be found on the website at <http://www.threerivers.gov.uk>. In addition, the risks of the proposals in the report have also been assessed against the Council’s duties under Health and Safety legislation relating to employees, visitors and persons affected by our operations. The risk management implications of this report are detailed below.
- 14.2 The subject of this report is covered by the Leisure and Natural Infrastructure and Environmental Protection Service Plan. Any risks resulting from this report will be included in the risk register and, if necessary, managed within these plans.

Nature of Risk	Consequence	Suggested Control Measures	Response <i>(tolerate, treat, terminate, transfer)</i>	Risk Rating <i>(combination of likelihood and impact)</i>
Accidents and injuries to Children and young people and adults	Injury to a member of the public Poor publicity for the Council Financial claim made Complaints from parents/carers	Keep play areas regularly updated to the required standards Regularly monitor play areas following the British Standards	Treat	2
Incidents of vandalism	Injury to a member of the public Poor publicity for the Council Financial claim made Complaints from parents/carers	Online reporting system for the public Play areas regularly inspected Partnership work with the local police	Tolerate	2
Incidents of graffiti	Increase in anti-social behaviour Obscene language observed by small children Complaints from parents/carers	Online reporting system for the public Play areas regularly inspected Partnership work with the local police	Tolerate	2
Poor customer satisfaction with the quality of a number of the district owned and managed children's play areas	Complaints from parents/carers Poor publicity for the Council	Keep play areas regularly updated to the required standards as outlined in the strategy Regularly monitor play areas following the British Standards	Treat	2

14.3 The above risks are scored using the matrix below. The Council has determined its aversion to risk and is prepared to tolerate risks where the combination of impact and likelihood scores 6 or less.

Very Likely ----- Likelihood ----- ▼ Remote	Low 4	High 8	Very High 12	Very High 16
	Low 3	Medium 6	High 9	Very High 12
	Low 2	Low 4	Medium 6	High 8
	Low 1	Low 2	Low 3	Low 4
Impact Low -----► Unacceptable				

Impact Score

- 4 (Catastrophic)
- 3 (Critical)
- 2 (Significant)
- 1 (Marginal)

Likelihood Score

- 4 (Very Likely (≥80%))
- 3 (Likely (21-79%))
- 2 (Unlikely (6-20%))
- 1 (Remote (≤5%))

14.4 In the officers' opinion none of the new risks above, were they to come about, would seriously prejudice the achievement of the Strategic Plan and are therefore operational risks. The effectiveness of the management of operational risks is reviewed by the Audit Committee annually.

15 Recommendation

- 15.1 To approve the Three Rivers Play Space Strategy 2025 – 2030.
- 15.2 To approve the updated Capital Programme for the period of this strategy and beyond (2025/26 – 2044/45) as detailed at Appendix C and within Appendix A.
- 15.3 To give delegated authority to the Director of Finance to enter into a contract or funding agreement above the value of £25,000 for the play space capital

programme, subject to capital budget confirmation as part of the medium-term financial planning process.

- 15.4 To agree to the use of S106 funding to be used for the play space projects outlined in Appendix C, subject to the agreement from the legal team at the appropriate time.

Report prepared by:

Hannah Henson, Leisure Services Manager

Charlotte Gomes, Head of Leisure and Natural Infrastructure

Data Quality

Data sources: Have Your Say Platform

Data checked by:

Hannah Henson, Leisure Services Manager

Data rating:

1	Poor	
2	Sufficient	✓
3	High	

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: Three Rivers Play Space Strategy 2025-2030

APPENDIX B: Examples of different play space types (NEAP, LEAP & LAP)

APPENDIX C: Capital Programme

APPENDIX D: Consultation results - children

APPENDIX E (1): Consultation results – adults

APPENDIX E (2): Consultation results – adult comments

APPENDIX F: Climate and Sustainability Impact Assessment

APPENDIX G: Short Equality Impact and Outcome Assessment

Three Rivers District Council

Play Space Strategy 2025 - 2030

Date: March 2025

1. Introduction

The importance of play and recreation in the life of every child has long been acknowledged by the international community, as evidenced by the proclamation in the 1959 Declaration of the Rights of the Child:

“The child shall have full opportunity for play and recreation [...]; society and the public authorities shall endeavour to promote the enjoyment of this right” (art. 7).

This proclamation was further strengthened in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (the Convention) of 1989 which explicitly states in article 31 that:

“States Parties recognize the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.”

Convention on the Rights of the Child (17 April 2013)

Evidence is also available that outlines the wider benefits of play provision for families and communities, suggesting that:

- parents can feel more secure knowing that their children are happy, safe and enjoying themselves
- families benefit from healthier, happier children
- buildings and facilities used by play services are frequently seen as a focal point for communities
- it offers opportunities for social interaction for the wider community and supports the development of a greater sense of community spirit, promoting social cohesion
- public outside spaces have an important role in the everyday lives of children and young people, especially as a place for meeting friends
- parks and other green spaces are popular with adults taking young children out to play and for older children and young people to spend time together.

playengland.org.uk/charter-for-play

- 1.1 These philosophies have driven the development of high-quality play provision across the district of Three Rivers – play in Three Rivers is more about the swings and the slides, but the wider benefits it has for children, families and local communities.
- 1.2 Over the years, Three Rivers District Council has invested heavily in play provision, making it a priority for the local community.
- 1.3 This is also reflected in Planning Policy and the requirement for play spaces as part of housing development.
- 1.4 This strategy will set out the priorities for play space provision over the next 5 years, including where, what and how resources will be effectively allocated to ensure children and their families in Three Rivers continue to receive access to high quality provision.
- 1.5 Three Rivers District Council will work in partnership with other

organisations who are responsible for play areas and encourage them to follow the principles outlined in this strategy.

- 1.6 For the purpose of clarity, this strategy will focus on play spaces owned and maintained by Three Rivers District Council, although other play spaces will be considered when mapping key sites, along with how the Council can work in partnership to support other organisations.

DRAFT

2. Vision and Policies

“Parks, playgrounds and playing fields play a vital role in building healthy neighbourhoods contributing to the physical, mental and emotional well-being of local people. Without access to these spaces the quality of life and wellbeing of residents is reduced.”

The Rt Hon The Lord Coe CH KBE (Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play, Fields in Trust)

Three Rivers District Council Vision and Objectives

2.1 Three Rivers District Council's vision is:

Three Rivers

“A great place to live, work and visit”

The vision of this Play Space Strategy is that:

“Three Rivers is a great place to play”

2.2 In order to realise the vision, there are four objectives, which this strategy will support in the following ways:

- **Provide responsive and responsible local leadership:**

We will:

- Manage our resources to deliver high quality play space provision that is carefully managed to ensure that the local community receive value for money and benefit from a variety of opportunities to take part in play.
- Working in partnership with other organisations including local parish councils and community housing provider to ensure quality and varied play spaces across our district.
- Work collaboratively with our local communities ensuring that views, priorities and needs are a driving factor in all our decisions.

- **Expand our position as a great place to do business:**

- Utilising the Council's procurement strategy, the Council will look to support local businesses to deliver play spaces within the community.
- Providing high quality play spaces will support the local leisure and tourism industry by encouraging visitors to the area.

- **Support and enable sustainable communities:**

We will

- Provide quality local and destination play spaces where families and community groups can meet and come together to interact socially, creating community cohesion and resilience.
- Ensure our play spaces are clean, green and safe
- Maintain freely accessible play spaces such that financial barriers do not prevent families' ability to access areas which can support their physical and mental health and

wellbeing.

- **Achieve net carbon zero and be climate resilient**

We will

- Design and maintain our play spaces to provide a mix of physical equipment and natural play features. Our play spaces will be designed to be a haven for both people and wildlife.
- Actively consider the changing climate and design play spaces that are climate resilient including the introduction of tree planting to create shaded areas.

Planning Policy

- 2.3 The Local Plan sets out how play space provision will be managed as part of any new development in the district. This is set out in Section 13 of the [Development Management Policies Local Development Document](#) and within Planning Policy DM11.
- 2.4 The Council will continue to seek to secure S106 and Community Infrastructure Levy contributions as part of developments within the district, which can be used towards play space development.

3. The Plan

Play is... "what children and young people do when they follow their own ideas and interests, in their own way, and for their own reasons."

(Play England, Charter for Play)

3.1 The following principals will underpin this strategy to ensure effective delivery and that children and their families remain at the heart of decision making:

- **Access to Play**
- **Community Co-design**
- **High Quality, playful spaces**
- **Financially Sustainable**

Access to Play

3.2 Children and young people should have easy access to high quality play spaces within their local community.

3.3 Play spaces are categorised in the following ways:

<p>LAP (Local Area for Play) Walking Distance within 100m</p>	<p>A small area of open space specifically designated and primarily laid out for very young children to play close to where they live i.e. within one minute's walking time. LAPs are designed to allow for ease of informal observation and supervision and primarily function to encourage informal play and social interaction for toddlers. The LAP requires no play equipment as such, relying more on demonstrative or natural features indicating that play is positively encouraged.</p>
<p>LEAP (Locally Equipped Area for Play): Walking Distance within 400m</p>	<p>An area of open space specifically designed and laid out with features including equipment for children who are beginning to play independently. The number and nature of equipment and structures is a matter for local decision, though provision for a minimum number of six play experiences is recommended.</p> <p>Play features including equipment are an integral part of the LEAP and the attractiveness of such spaces, though it is also important that the space can be used for physical activity and games. LEAPs can also include landscaped areas of play; containing little formal equipment but imaginatively designed and contoured, using as far as is possible natural materials such as logs or boulders which create an attractive setting for play.</p>
<p>NEAP (Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play) Walking Distance within 1000m</p>	<p>This is an area of open space specifically designated, laid out and equipped mainly for older children but potentially with play opportunities for younger children as well. It can provide play equipment and a hard surface area for ball games or wheeled activities such as roller skating or cycling. It may provide other facilities such as a ramp for skateboarding, a rebound wall, and a shelter for meeting and socialising. NEAPs can often be combined with LEAP provision.</p>

- 3.4 As noted previously, this play strategy focuses on play spaces managed and maintained by Three Rivers District Council. It excludes play areas managed by other organisations including:
- Abbots Langley Parish Council (e.g. Manor House Grounds, South Way, Bedmond etc.)
 - Sarratt Parish Council (e.g. King George V)
 - Watford Rural Parish Council (e.g. Greenfields, The Mead)
 - Other (e.g. Durrants, Croxley Green, Woodside Road, Abbots Langley, Chillwell Gardens, South Oxhey etc.)
- 3.5 The commitment to play spaces owned and managed by Three Rivers District Council is shown below – categorised by NEAP, LEAP and LAP and by geographical area:

Geographical Area	Settlement	NEAP	LEAP	LAP	TOTAL PLAY SPACES
North	Abbots Langley and Leavesden	Langley Lane	Abbotswood Park	Tannerswood Swings	7
		Leavesden Country Park	Dowding Way	LCP Teepee	
			Gade View Gardens		
East	Carpenders Park		Oulton Way		10
	South Oxhey	Hayling Road	Ann Shaw Gardens	Moortown Road	
			Ashburnham	Bramshot Way Climbing Unit	
			Ashridge	Lincoln Drive	
	Oxhey Hall		Oaklands Avenue		
Eastbury		Eastbury			
South	Rickmansworth	Ebury (Aquadrome)	Scotsbridge	Skidmore Way Aquadrome	7
	Croxley Green	Barton Way	Cassiobridge		
			Baldwins Lane		
West	Mill End	KGV		Mead Place Boulder Fearney Mead	7
	Maple Cross	Denham Way	Hornhill	Beechen Wood	
	Chorleywood	The Swillett			
TOTAL		8	13	10	31

- 3.6 Guidance from the Fields in Trust states that local communities should be able to access a NEAP within a 1000m, a LEAP within 400m and a LAP within 100m.
- 3.7 Appendix A show the plotted 31 play spaces and their associated walking distances. This mapping ensures local communities across

Three Rivers are able to access a TRDC owned and maintained play space within 1000m of their home.

Community Co-design

- 3.8 Successful play spaces are those co- designed by children, their families and the community groups who work with them.
- 3.9 Three Rivers District Council is committed to ensuring that local communities have opportunities to share their ideas and express their opinions on their play space and any proposals to change them.
- 3.10 Engagement on proposals will be through a variety of formats and will vary depending on where, what and the size of the project as a minimum this will include.
- Visits to local schools,
 - Online consultations
 - Drop-in sessions either at the play space or at a local community venue.
- 3.11 Feedback from public engagement and consultation will be used to develop final design for play spaces in the district with final designs shared with the local community prior to works commencing.
- 3.12 Consultation will include the opportunity to comment on designs but also to share views as to which types of equipment children would like to see in their local play spaces. Young people will be encouraged to consider natural play features, sustainability and how they may interact and play with others.
- 3.13 Three Rivers District Council will also at times assess the wider benefits play provision has on local communities. For example, does having high quality play provision add too whether or not people consider their local area as a great place to live? In addition, some consultations will consider how local communities use play spaces and whether or not a play space is a conduit for using other facilities in the local area, e.g. cafes, restaurants and the wider impact on the local economy.

High Quality, Playful Spaces

- 3.14 Three Rivers District Council has a high number of quality play spaces, focused on design and inclusivity.
- 3.15 This strategy will ensure that new and upgraded play spaces continue to be of a high quality and this will be a key determinant of the procurement process.
- 3.16 Play value of all Three Rivers District Council owned and managed play spaces will be assessed every 3 years.

Play value is what an environment, object or piece of equipment brings to children's experience of play. A space rich in play value creates opportunities for a variety of physical, social and sensory play experiences.

(Play Wales, Spaces for Playing)

- 3.17 The play value assessment factors in:
- **Equipment features** e.g. slide, swing, monkey bars etc.
 - **Play co-operation** (imaginative/creative play) - features allowing children the opportunity to complete a task together e.g. play panels along with themed play or tactile materials (e.g. sand).
 - **Inclusive play** e.g. basket swing, natural flow of the site, stimuli and private play – factoring in the PiPA (Plan Inclusive Play Areas - <https://www.pipa-play.org/play-area-design>) themes and the 6 senses of the PiPA wheel.
 - **Natural play** e.g. grassy mounds, trees, wildflower areas, bug hotels etc.
- 3.18 **Equipment features:** play spaces support the development of both gross and fine motor skills within children. These skills are essential for child development and aid learning through writing stamina, development of bones and muscles and enhanced flexibility. All TRDC play spaces will have a variety of play equipment for children to use, ranging from sites with lots of play equipment (NEAPs) to those focused more on natural play, encompassing climbing and jumping (LAPs).
- 3.19 **Play Cooperation:** play spaces provide opportunities for children to interact and play with others leading to improved social wellbeing. Cooperative play encourages collaboration, teaches trust and conflict resolution and boosts communication skills – all essential to childhood development. Play Spaces within Three Rivers will provide a platform for play cooperation for example through the inclusion of equipment where children can create something together, or informal spaces which enable free play.
- 3.20 Play spaces will also include areas for informal and formal physical activity, including, but not limited to: space to play football and/or other types of games.
- 3.21 **Inclusivity:** play spaces within Three Rivers will be inclusive, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to play in a fun and safe environment. This could be through the use of inclusive equipment, or tactile materials, along with a play space that is easy and safe to navigate.
- 3.22 **Natural Play:** play spaces within Three Rivers will bring children and their families closer to nature. Through the inclusion of natural play features, children will have opportunities to learn first-hand about the wildlife around them. Encouraging children to be inquisitive about nature will support their learning and give them an appreciation and respect for the world around them.
- 3.23 **Boundaries:** NEAP and LEAP play spaces will have boundaries in place to allow children to play safely away from dogs and vehicles. In some locations, a natural boundary, such as hedging may be considered. This will be looked at on a site-by-site basis and traditional fencing only removed once it reaches the end of life and when the natural boundary is fully established. Careful consideration will be given to the type of natural boundary to ensure planting isn't sharp, contain harmful fruits and is maintained at a level to ensure the boundary remains secure. LAPs will not have a physical boundary, due to its creation as a natural play space.
- 3.24 The council is committed to ensuring that its play spaces remain at a

high standard. We will achieve this by:

- **Following the quality standards for play spaces** – play spaces within Three Rivers will adhere to the BN 1176 and BN 1177 standards for play. Where natural features for play are used, an individual risk assessment will be used and monitoring methods implemented.
 - **Ensuring that Play Spaces are monitored following the RPII (Register for Play Inspectors International) inspection regime** – play spaces will undertake a routine inspection, operational inspection and an annual inspection under the RPII guidelines. This will be carried out by trained and qualified staff and monitored digitally.
 - **Monitoring incidents and patterns of anti-social behaviour (ASB), risk factors and life expectancy** – trends in ASB will be monitored and tracked in partnership with the local Police, we will seek to prevent and where possible “design out” ASB issues. Play inspections will continually review the risk and annual inspections will provide regular reassessment of the life expectancy of play spaces and individual items of equipment.
- 3.25 Extreme incidents of damage, ongoing ASB issues and health and safety concerns may result in a closure or relocation of play spaces, and/or the removal of equipment. In such circumstances, this will be carried out in consultation with the Lead Member for Leisure and relevant Ward Councillors.

Financially Sustainable

- 3.26 Three Rivers District Council’s play vision is “*Three Rivers is a great place to play*”.
- 3.27 In order to achieve this vision and to ensure play areas are safe for use, TRDC must allocate available resources in a responsible and resourceful manner.
- 3.28 There is currently an annual capital budget of £120,000 to upgrade play spaces allocated in the medium financial plan. This budget is currently set to increase by £5,000, every 3 years, to account for inflation and increases in material costs.
- 3.29 There is currently an annual budget of £49,270 to maintain play areas and a further £13,760 for vandalism, giving a total revenue maintenance budget of £60,030.
- 3.30 In simple terms, with 31 play areas to maintain to the required standard, this equates to £1,936 per play area per annum.
- 3.31 As an example, to replace the seat on a zip wire, this currently costs £500, to replace a basket swing seat, it costs £400, to repair a zip wire, £1,400 and to replace a rope bridge it costs £1,600.
- 3.32 There will be some play spaces requiring more maintenance than others due to their size and usage.
- 3.33 This strategy therefore sets out how to effectively manage current resources moving forwards:
- The 10 LAPs identified at point 3.5 will have a focus on natural play. These areas will include aspects of planting, bug hotels

and natural materials for play including felled trees, with a reduction in traditional play equipment as it reaches end of life.

- 50% of the revenue maintenance budgets will be focused on the 8 NEAPs identified at point 3.5 and the remaining 50% focused on the 13 LEAPs and 10 LAPs.
- Officers will consider ongoing revenue costs to keep the play spaces at the quality (as outlined from point 3.14 onwards) they should be and any additional growth in budgets will be presented for consideration as part of the Medium-Term Financial planning process.

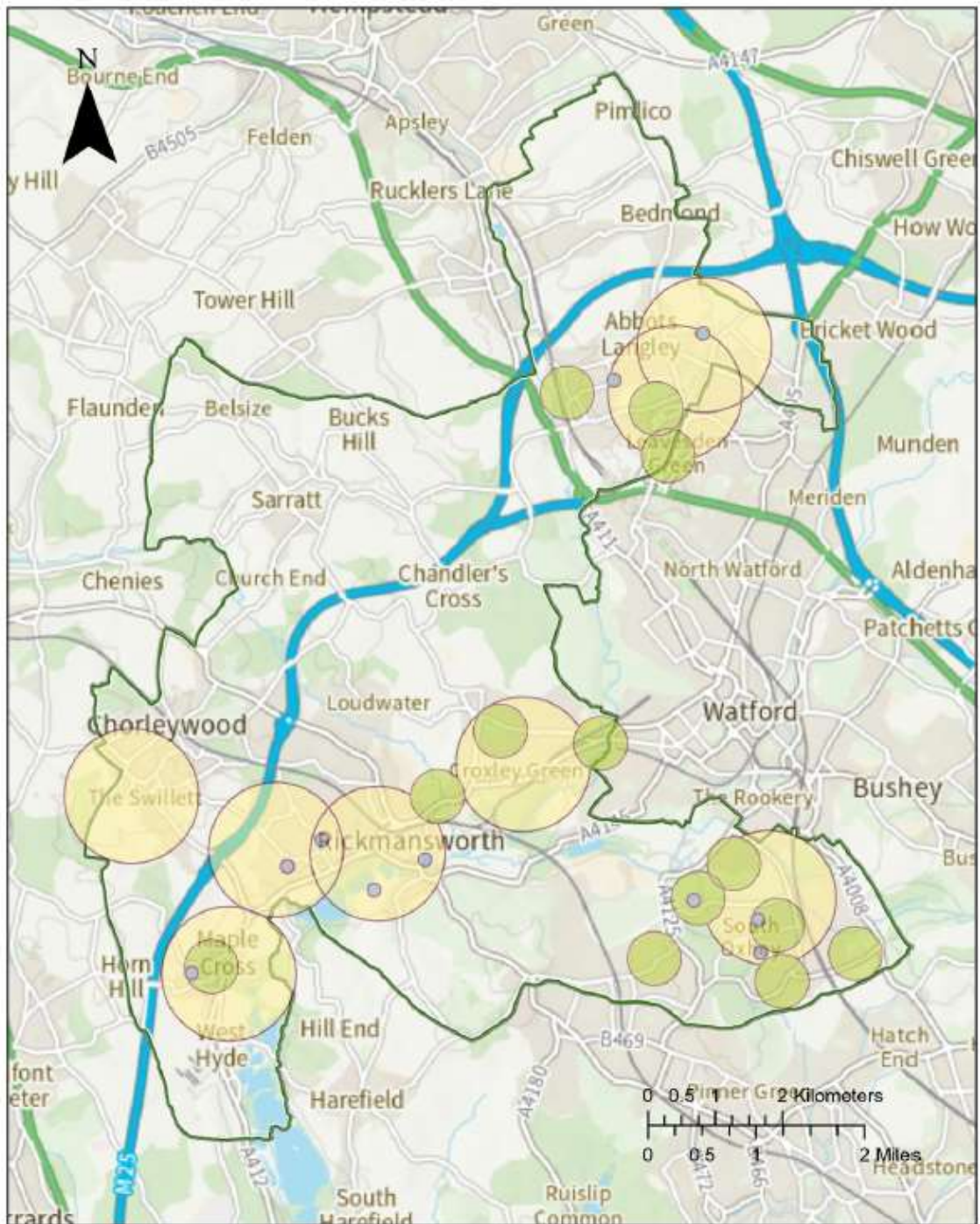
4. Capital Upgrading Programme (Proposed)







- 4.1 An updated Capital Programme for the period of this strategy and beyond (2025/26 – 2044/45) is detailed below. This will be reviewed by officers annually in consultation with the Lead Member for Leisure with any significant amends presented to Committee for approval.
- 4.2 The capital programme has been developed taking into account a number of factors: analysis of the external annual play area inspections, current life expectancy, overall usage and when the sites were last refurbished.
- 4.3 The capital programme will be updated and planned to ensure NEAPs are prioritised for upgrading.
- Of the 8 NEAPs, 4 will be prioritised for upgrading every 10 years, based on usage (anecdotal evidence), catchment area and the availability of any external funding. These NEAPs include:
 - Leavesden Country Park (Abbots Langley)
 - Hayling Road (South Oxhey)
 - Barton Way (Croxley Green)
 - Ebury (Aquadrome)

Financial Year	Play Space	Budget	Category	Funding Source
2025/26	Barton Way	120,000	NEAP	TRDC Capital
2026/27	Hayling Road	120,000	NEAP	TRDC Capital
2027/28	Oulton Way	62,500	LEAP	TRDC Capital
	Ann Shaw Gardens	62,500	LEAP	TRDC Capital
	Leavesden CP	125,000	NEAP	S106
2028/29	Ashridge	95,000	LEAP	TRDC Capital
	Moortown Road	30,000	LAP	TRDC Capital
2029/30	Scotsbridge	115,000	LEAP	TRDC Capital
	Tannerswood	10,000	LAP	TRDC Capital
2030/31	Oaklands Avenue	65,000	LEAP	TRDC Capital
	Cassiobridge	65,000	LEAP	TRDC Capital
2031/32	KGV	130,000	NEAP	TRDC Capital
2032/33	Baldwins Lane	130,000	LEAP	TRDC Capital
2033/34	Hornhill	105,000	LEAP	TRDC Capital

	Aquadrome (Dog Free Picnic Area)	30,000	LAP	TRDC Capital
	Gade View Gardens	28,000	LEAP	S106
2034/35	Ebury	135,000	NEAP	TRDC Capital
2035/36	Barton Way	135,000	NEAP	TRDC Capital
2036/37	Hayling Road	140,000	NEAP	TRDC Capital
2037/38	The Swillett	140,000	NEAP	TRDC Capital
	Langley Lane	140,000	NEAP	S106
	Leavesden CP	145,000	NEAP	S106
2038/39	Abbotswood Park	70,000	LEAP	TRDC Capital
	Ashburnham	70,000	LEAP	TRDC Capital
2039/40	Eastbury	110,000	LEAP	TRDC Capital
	Beechen Wood	22,500	LAP	TRDC Capital
	Mead Place	12,500	LAP	TRDC Capital
2040/41	Dowding Way	75,000	LEAP	S106
	Denham Way	145,000	NEAP	TRDC Capital
2041/42	Oulton Way	100,000	LAP	TRDC Capital
	Lincoln Drive	22,500	LAP	TRDC Capital
	Fearney Mead	22,500	LAP	TRDC Capital
2042/43	Skidmore Way	50,000	LEAP	TRDC Capital
	Ann Shaw Gardens	100,000	LEAP	TRDC Capital
2043/44	Ashridge	110,000	LEAP	TRDC Capital
	Moortown Road	30,000	LAP	TRDC Capital
	Tannerswood	10,000	LAP	TRDC Capital
2044/45	Ebury	150,000	NEAP	TRDC Capital

Appendix A – Play Space Mapping – existing sites owned and maintained by Three Rivers District Council



 <p>© Crown copyright and database rights 2024 OS AC0000849984. You are permitted to use this data solely to enable you to respond to, or interact with, the organisation that provided you with the data. You are not permitted to copy, sublicense, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.</p>	 District_Boundary	Title: Walking distance of Three Rivers' play areas Drawing No.:	
	Distance (m)  100  400  1000  <all other values>	Date Drawn: 29/08/24 Scale: 1:80,000	Drawn by: APB A4

NEAP Examples

(Neighbourhood Equipped Area For Play)

These are destination play spaces, usually with lots of equipment and different facilities.



LEAP Examples (Local Equipped Area For Play)

These are smaller play spaces, with traditional items of play equipment.



LAP Examples (Local Area For Play)

These are smaller play spaces, making use of natural play features.



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Appendix C: Capital Programme

Financial Year	Play Space	Budget	Category	Funding Source
2025/26	Barton Way	120,000	NEAP	TRDC Capital
2026/27	Hayling Road	120,000	NEAP	TRDC Capital
2027/28	Oulton Way	62,500	LEAP	TRDC Capital
	Ann Shaw Gardens	62,500	LEAP	TRDC Capital
	Leavesden CP	125,000	NEAP	S106
2028/29	Ashridge	95,000	LEAP	TRDC Capital
	Moortown Road	30,000	LAP	TRDC Capital
2029/30	Scotsbridge	115,000	LEAP	TRDC Capital
	Tannerswood	10,000	LAP	TRDC Capital
2030/31	Oaklands Avenue	65,000	LEAP	TRDC Capital
	Cassiobridge	65,000	LEAP	TRDC Capital
2031/32	KGV	130,000	NEAP	TRDC Capital
2032/33	Baldwins Lane	130,000	LEAP	TRDC Capital
2033/34	Hornhill	105,000	LEAP	TRDC Capital
	Aquadrome (Dog Free Picnic Area)	30,000	LAP	TRDC Capital
	Gade View Gardens	28,000	LEAP	S106
2034/35	Ebury	135,000	NEAP	TRDC Capital
2035/36	Barton Way	135,000	NEAP	TRDC Capital
2036/37	Hayling Road	140,000	NEAP	TRDC Capital
2037/38	The Swillett	140,000	NEAP	TRDC Capital
	Langley Lane	140,000	NEAP	S106
	Leavesden CP	145,000	NEAP	S106
2038/39	Abbotswood Park	70,000	LEAP	TRDC Capital

	Ashburnham	70,000	LEAP	TRDC Capital
2039/40	Eastbury	110,000	LEAP	TRDC Capital
	Beechen Wood	22,500	LAP	TRDC Capital
	Mead Place	12,500	LAP	TRDC Capital
2040/41	Dowding Way	75,000	LEAP	S106
	Denham Way	145,000	NEAP	TRDC Capital
2041/42	Oulton Way	100,000	LAP	TRDC Capital
	Lincoln Drive	22,500	LAP	TRDC Capital
	Fearney Mead	22,500	LAP	TRDC Capital
2042/43	Skidmore Way	50,000	LEAP	TRDC Capital
	Ann Shaw Gardens	100,000	LEAP	TRDC Capital
2043/44	Ashridge	110,000	LEAP	TRDC Capital
	Moortown Road	30,000	LAP	TRDC Capital
	Tannerswood	10,000	LAP	TRDC Capital
2044/45	Ebury	150,000	NEAP	TRDC Capital

EQIA LL007 Shivani Dave 27/01/2025

Children's consultation results

10 schools visited

No of children consulted: **697**

Why do you like going to play areas?

To play with my friends	To play with my family	To run around	To have fun	To play on something I cannot do at home	I feel great when I go to a play area	For free time after school	To get out of breath	For something else? e.g. Walk dog
448	335	382	462	358	263	229	273	223

66% go to play areas to have fun

64% like to visit play areas to play with friends

What do you like to see in play areas?

Lots of equipment for me to use	Space to run around and play	Shady areas to relax and play under	Equipment I can play on with lots of my friends	Things I can touch and move around like sand	Plants for wildlife	Equipment that seems a little scary	No rubbish	Equipment I can play on but also for children younger and older than me	Benches to have a picnic	Somewhere to scoot and ride my bike	Something else? e.g. inclusive play equipment
441	390	175	346	217	193	391	215	184	159	380	86

63% are appreciative of the plethora of equipment available.

54% enjoy space to scoot and ride their bikes

55% are grateful for the space to run around and play (football).

What is your favourite play area?

King George V	Swillet	Ebury (Aquadrome)	Eastbury	Ashburnham	Hayling Rd	Scotsbridge	Cassiobridge	Baldwins Lane	Barton Way	LCP
49	55	79	22	35	60	12	47	61	38	138
Hornhill	Denham Way	Ashridge	Oulton Way	Mead Place	Bramshot	Leavesden Teepee	Langley Lane	Tanners Wood Swings		
17	2	17	25	2	8	12	32	1		

LCP area ranked the favourite play area in the district by children followed by Ebury, Baldwins Lane (C/Green) and The Swillet (Chorleywood).

Why do you love this play area?

Trees to climb	Fields	Close/Local	Fun equipment	Shady areas	Big slides	Football goals	Sailing Club Aquadrome	Clean	Lots of grass space	Trampoline	Zip line	B/ball	River	Woods	Cafe	Dog walk
3	7	17	7	3	4	20	1	3	5	5	22	2	1	1	3	6
Gymnastics	Picnic area	Parkour	Monkey bars	Nature/wildlife	Sand pit	Spinning plate	Big castle	Good hiding places	Tunnels	C/Frame	Swings	Slide	It's quiet	Ride my bike	iconic	Time w family/friends
2	1	5	1	2	6	1	2	1	1	5	12	10	1	4	1	7

A play space close to where they live, Football goals and space to play football were the main reason for liking a play area.

What is your favourite piece of play equipment in this play area and why?

Gym bar	Basket swing	Football	Monkey bars	Zip wire	Swings	C.Frame	Tyre Swing	SK8 park	Obstacles	Trampoline	Rou ndabout	Sand pit	See Saw	Splash park	Astr o turf	Slid es	Cast le	SK8 Park	Ham moc k	B/ba ll
2	5	14	13	24	20	11	5	2	1	5	8	4	6	1	1	12	1	3	1	6
Tun nels	tennis	Park our	Plan e																	
3	13	2	2																	

zip wires, football goals, swings and slides, rated the most popular pieces of play equipment.

Which other play areas do you like to visit?

LCP	Oxhey SK8 Park	Carpender s Wood	Aquadrome (Ebury)	Sarratt	Scotsbridge	Bushey King George V	Croxley SK8 Park	Barton Way	Denham Way	Cassiobury	King George V
11	7	2	21		4		10	3	2	2	3
S/Oxhey Sk8 park	Oxhey SK8 Park	Hayling Rd	Oulton Way	South Way	Manor House						
1	9	1	1	1	1						

LCP, Ebury (Aquadrome) and Croxley SK8 park were highlighted as other play areas in the district that children like to attend.

What other play spaces do you like to visit that we haven't talked about?

Cassiobury

Ninja Warrior

Rock up

Go ape

Thorpe Park

Cassiobury

Windsor Park

Harwoods

Cassiobury

Chichester

Moatfield (Bushey)

The Hills

King George Recreation (Bushey)

Acton Park

Harwoods Adventure (Watford)

St Elizabeth's

Harwoods Adventure Playground

Cassiobury

Gladstone Road Park

Lime Tree Park

Berkhamstead Park

Bewilderwood (Norfolk)

Cassiobury Park

Windsor park

Rock up

Black park

Flip out

Eastcote Park

Worcester Park

Go ape

Gloucester water park

Rushcliffe country park

Westwood park

Cassiobury (Watford)

King George Recreation (Bushey)

Harwoods Adventure (Watford)

Berkhamstead adventure play ground

Cassiobury

Harwoods Watford

Bury St Edmunds

Alexandra Park (Kingston Upon Thames)

Amersham skate park

Aylesbury

Black park

Ruislip lido

Cassiobury

Harefield Park

Watford Park

Ruislip Lido

Harwoods

Rock up

Go ape

Cassiobury

Pinner memorial

Goals

Harwoods

Paradise wildlife park

Ruislip Lido

Cassiobury park

Pinner Park

Bushey King George recreation

Shenley Park

Waterparks

Trampoline parks

The Woods

Bowling

Cassiobury park

Oxhey skate park

The school playground

Big climbing frame in Wembley

Harefield village green

Hobbledown Heath Park

Casisobury

Harwoods

Rockup

Bubble land

Lego land

Chessington

Flip out

Cloud Nine

Ninga Warrior

Jump giants

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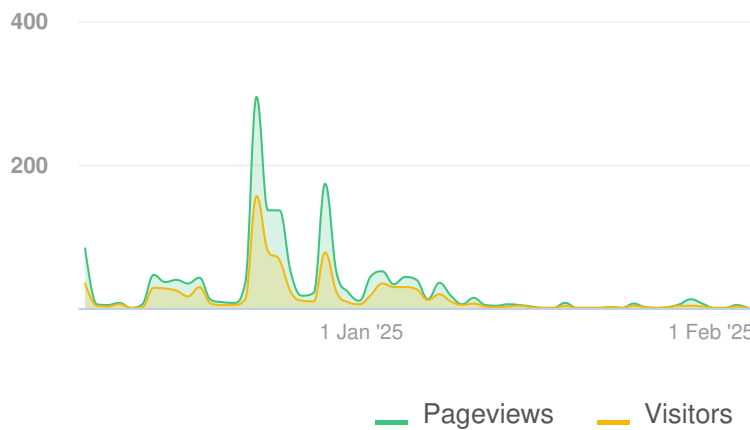
Project Report

06 December 2024 - 02 February 2025

Have Your Say Three Rivers Play Strategy Consultation



Visitors Summary

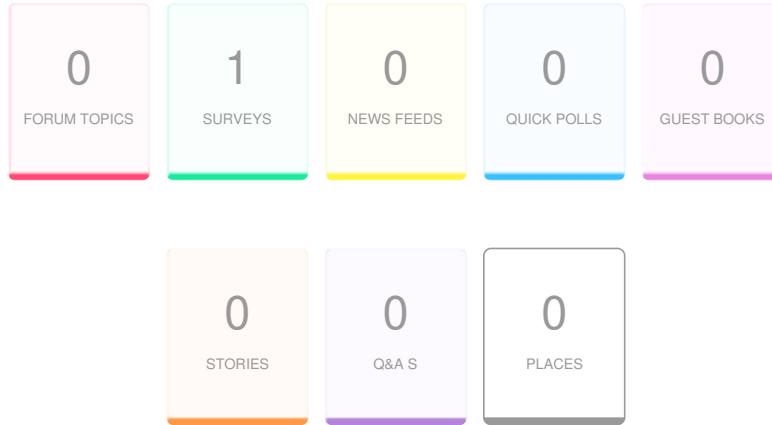


Highlights

TOTAL VISITS	928	MAX VISITORS PER DAY	156
NEW REGISTRATIONS	0	ENGAGED VISITORS	126
		INFORMED VISITORS	311
		AWARE VISITORS	793

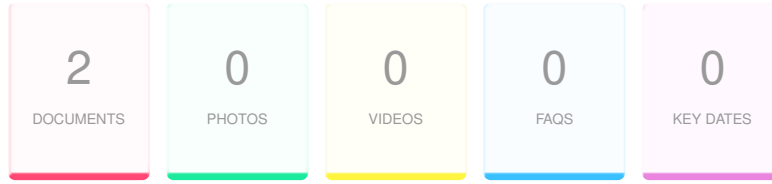
Aware Participants		Engaged Participants			
793		126			
Aware Actions Performed		Engaged Actions Performed			
Participants		Registered	Unverified	Anonymous	
Visited a Project or Tool Page	793				
Informed Participants		Contributed on Forums			
311					
Informed Actions Performed		Participated in Surveys			
Participants		1	0	125	
Viewed a video	0	Contributed to Newsfeeds			
Viewed a photo	0	0	0	0	
Downloaded a document	33	Participated in Quick Polls			
Visited the Key Dates page	1	0	0	0	
Visited an FAQ list Page	0	Posted on Guestbooks			
Visited Instagram Page	0	0	0	0	
Visited Multiple Project Pages	185	Contributed to Stories			
Contributed to a tool (engaged)	126	0	0	0	
		Asked Questions			
		0	0	0	
		Placed Pins on Places			
		0	0	0	
		Contributed to Ideas			
		0	0	0	

ENGAGEMENT TOOLS SUMMARY



Tool Type	Engagement Tool Name	Tool Status	Visitors	Contributors		
				Registered	Unverified	Anonymous
Survey Tool	Play Strategy Consultation	Published	302	1	0	125

INFORMATION WIDGET SUMMARY



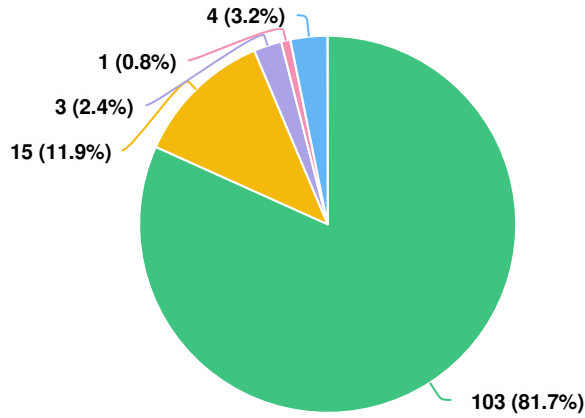
Widget Type	Engagement Tool Name	Visitors	Views/Downloads
Document	Draft Play Space Strategy 2025 - 2030	29	31
Document	Examples of Play Space Types	13	13
Key Dates	Key Date	1	1

ENGAGEMENT TOOL: SURVEY TOOL

Play Strategy Consultation

Visitors 302	Contributors 126	CONTRIBUTIONS 126
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What best describes you



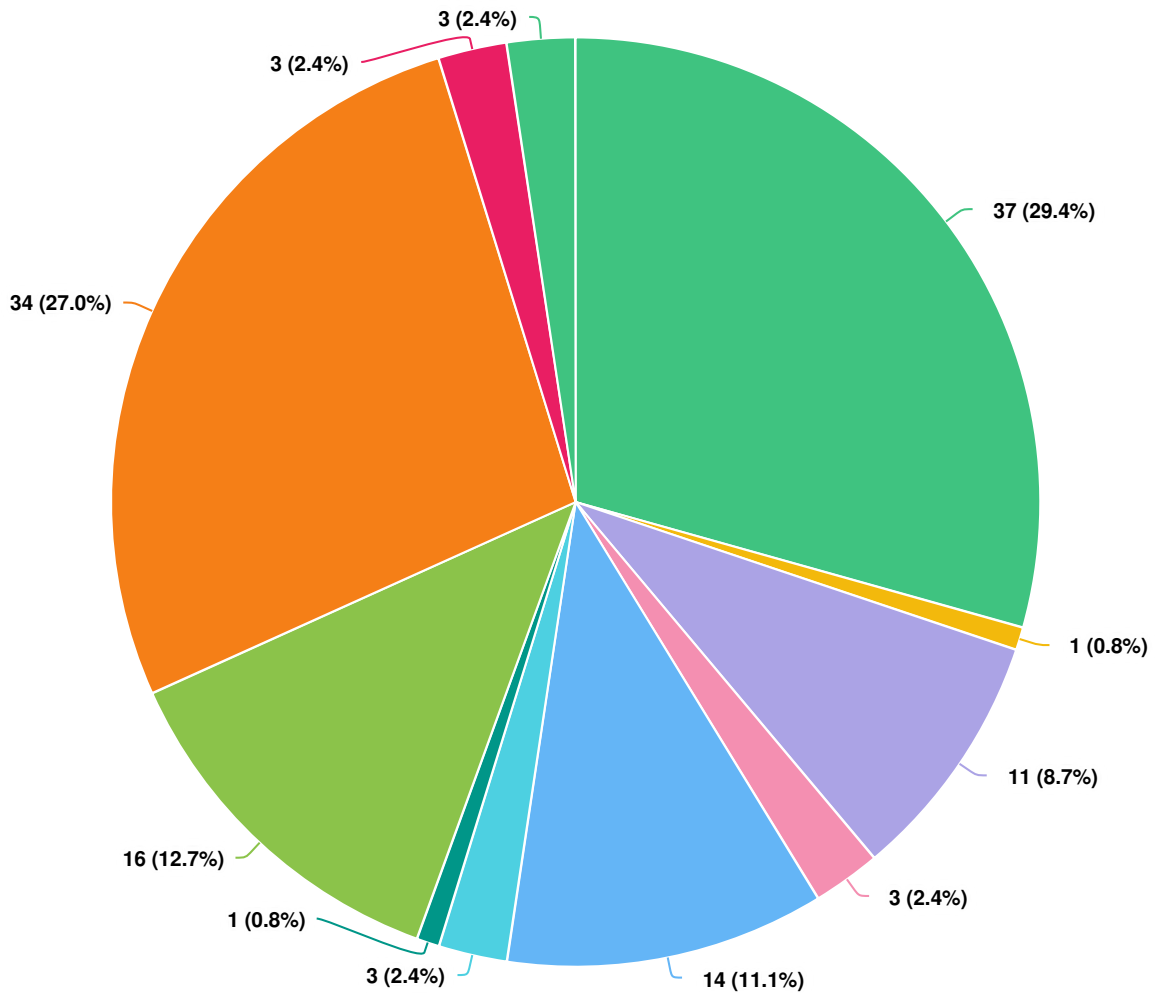
Question options

- Parent/carer
- Grandparent
- Other relative/friend
- Childminder
- Other (please specify)

Mandatory Question (126 response(s))

Question type: Radio Button Question

What area do you live in:



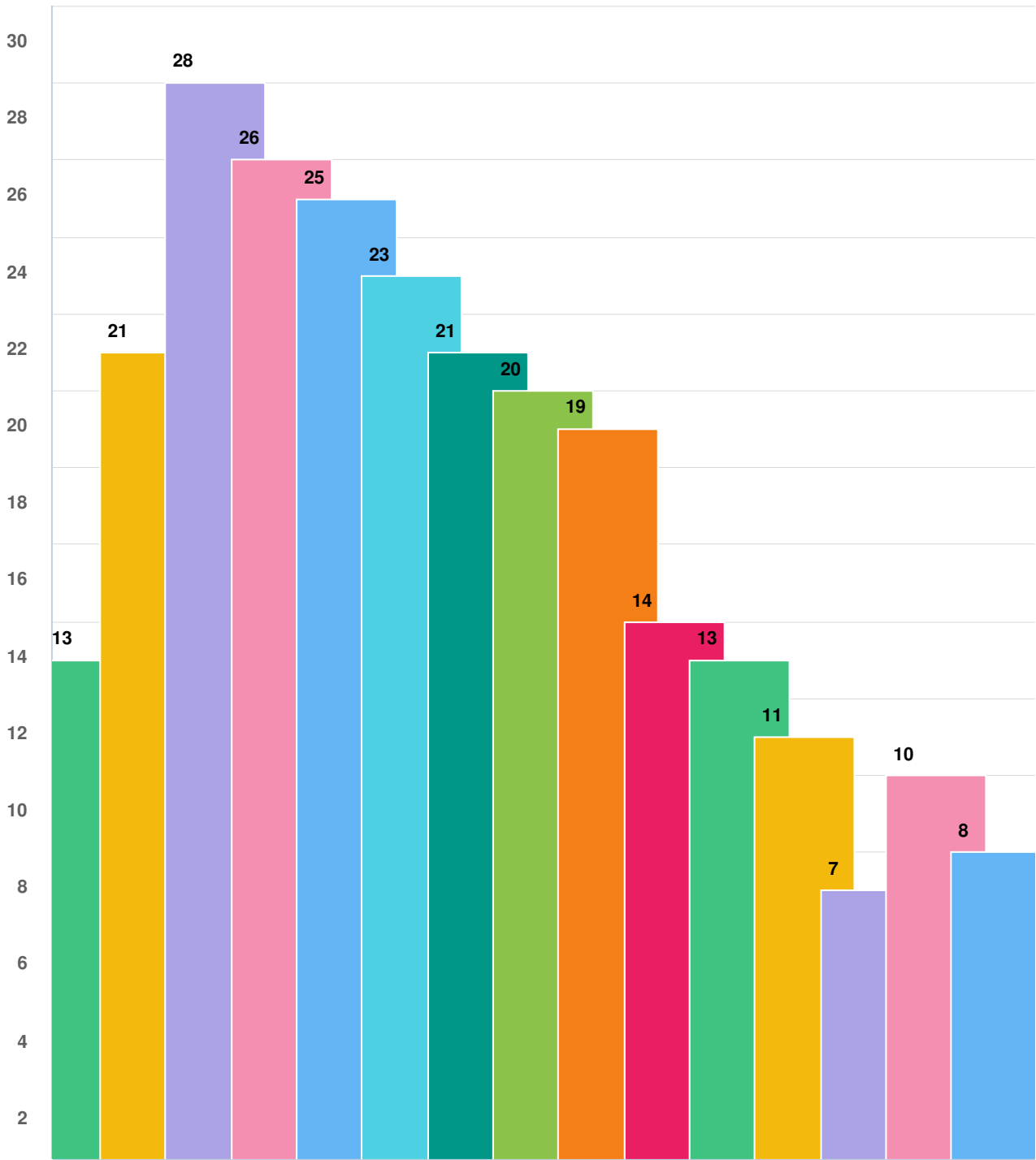
Question options

- Abbots Langley
- Bedmond
- Leavesden
- Carpenders Park
- South Oxhey
- Oxhey Hall
- Eastbury
- Rickmansworth
- Croxley Green
- Mill End
- Out of district

Mandatory Question (126 response(s))

Question type: Radio Button Question

What age(s) are the children you visit play areas with?



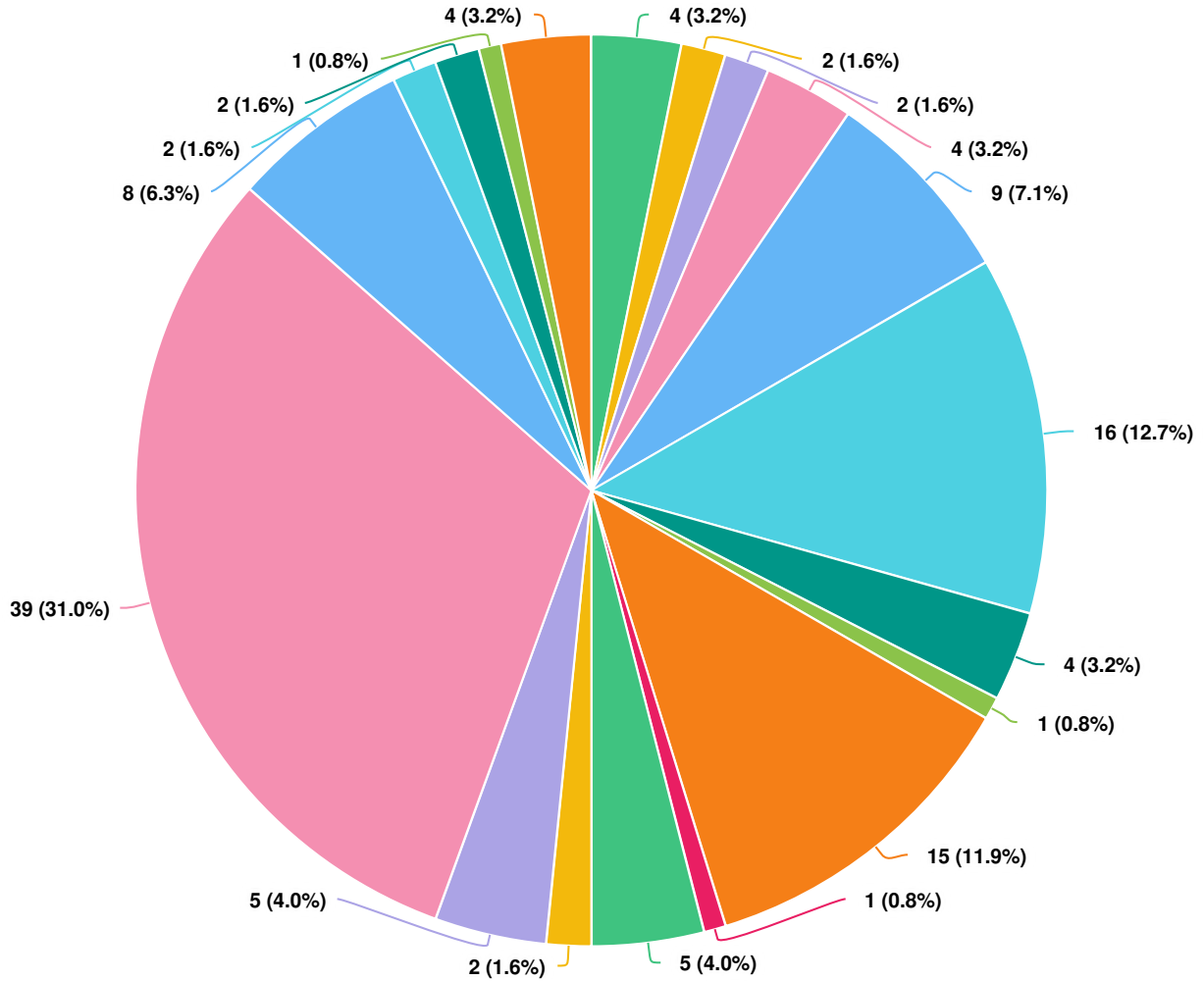
Question options

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14+

Mandatory Question (126 response(s))

Question type: Checkbox Question

Which is your favourite play area



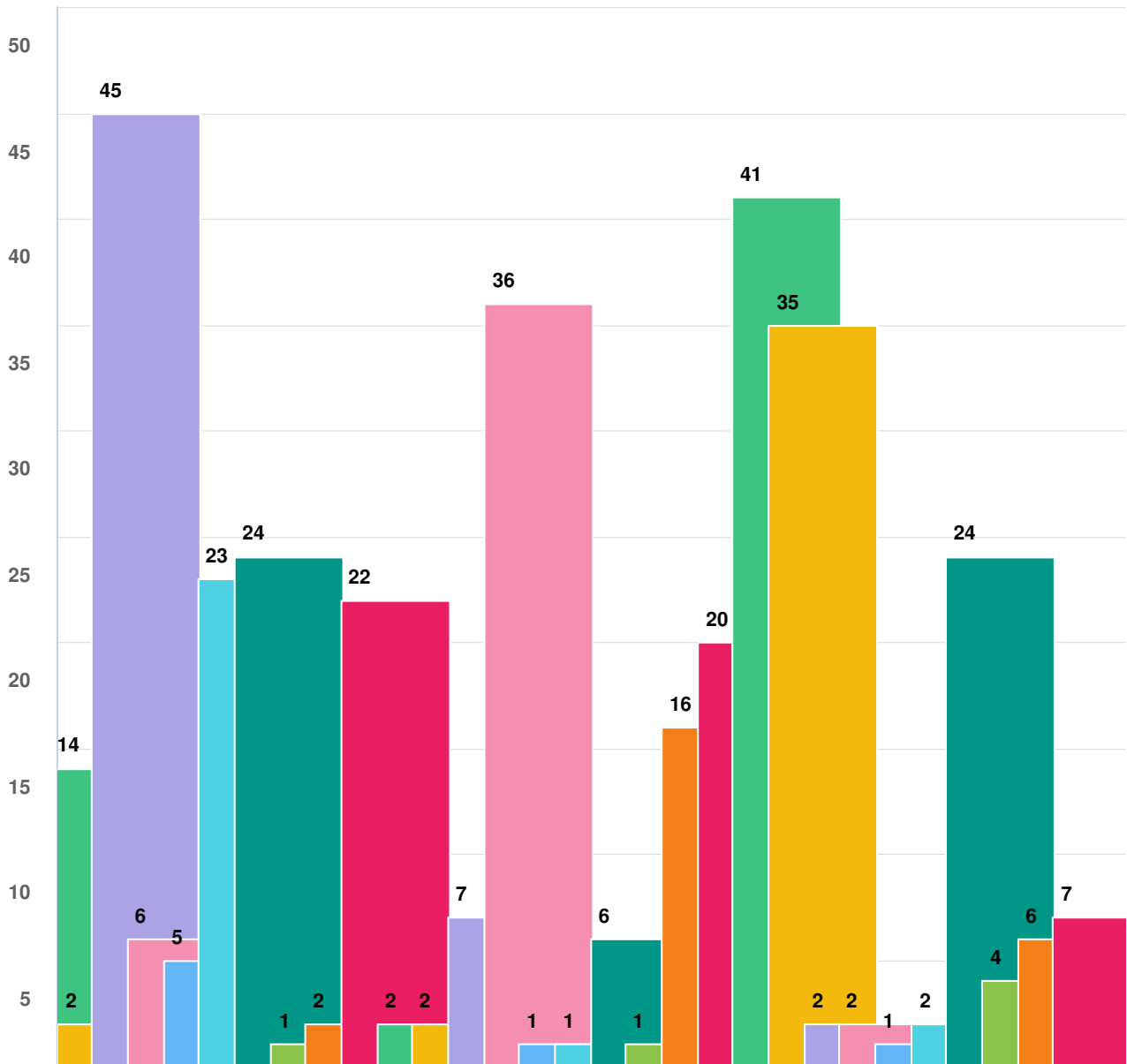
Question options

- Abbotswood Park Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area)
- Ashburnham Drive, South Oxhey Playing Fields Ashridge (Prestwick Road, South Oxhey) Baldwins Lane
- Barton Way Cassiobridge (near the Harvester, Croxley Green) Eastbury Ebury (Aquadrome main play area)
- Fearney Mead Hayling Road King George V (Mill End) Langley Lane (The Horses' Field)
- Leavesden Country Park Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame Oaklands Avenue Scotsbridge
- Tannerswood Swings The Swillett

Mandatory Question (126 response(s))

Question type: Radio Button Question

Which other play areas do you visit? (please select all that apply)



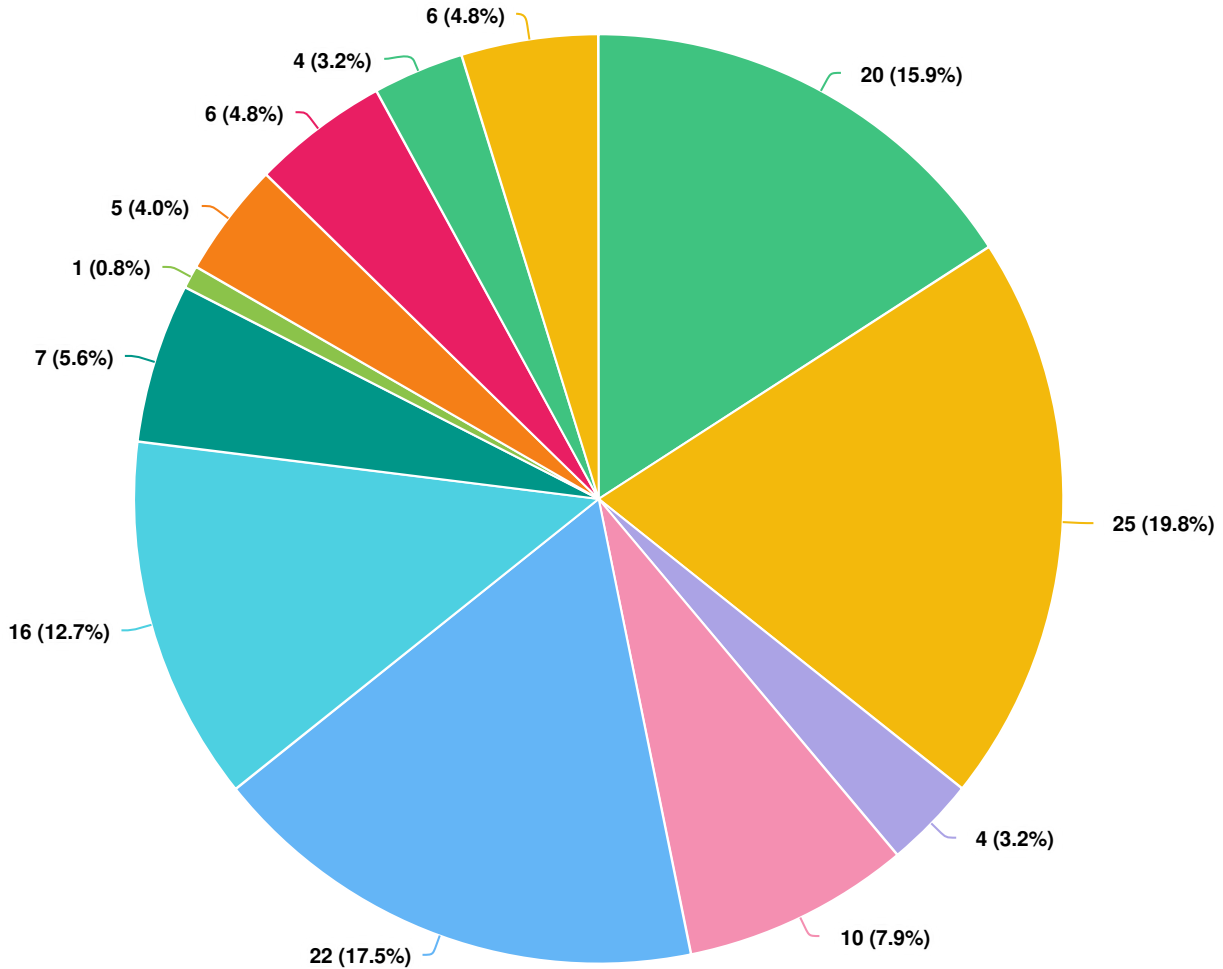
Question options

- Abbotswood Park Ann Shaw Gardens Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area)
- Ashburnham Drive, South Oxhey Playing Fields Ashridge (Prestwick Road, South Oxhey) Baldwins Lane
- Barton Way Beechen Wood Bramshot Way Climbing Unit (South Oxhey Playing Fields)
- Cassiobridge (near the Harvester, Croxley Green) Denham Way Dowding Way Eastbury
- Ebury (Aquadrome main play area) Fearney Mead Gade View Gardens Hayling Road Hornhill
- King George V (Mill End) Langley Lane (The Horses' Field) Leavesden Country Park
- Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame Lincoln Drive Mead Place Climbing Boulder Moortown Road
- Oulton Way (Romilly Drive) Scotsbridge Skidmore Way Tannerswood Swings The Swillett

Mandatory Question (126 response(s))

Question type: Checkbox Question

What is the most important thing to you when visiting a play area?



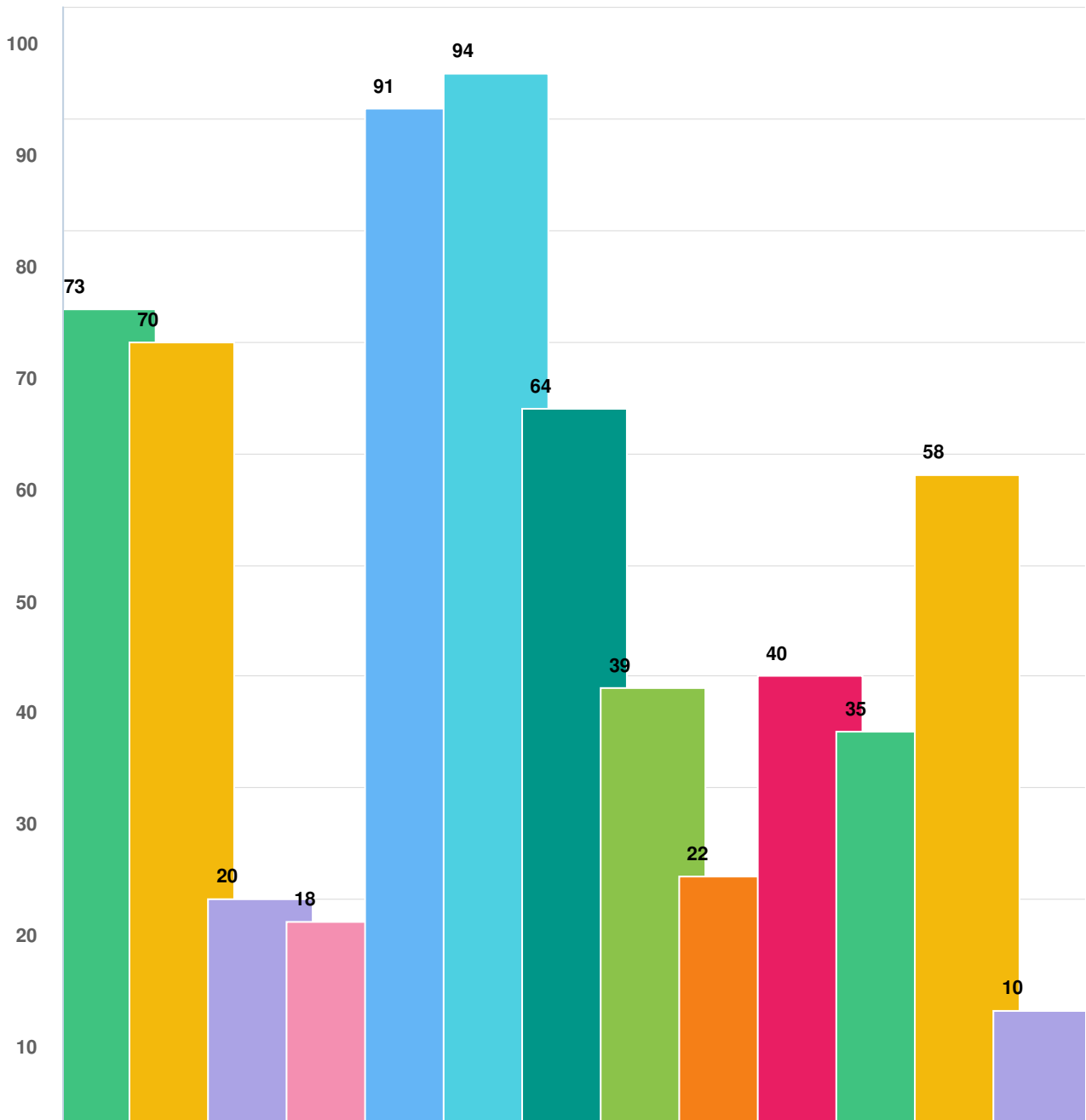
Question options

-
- Variety of types of equipment
 Equipment for a variety of ages
 Inclusive e.g. equipment, easy to navigate the site
 Clean and tidy
 Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order
 Proximity to other facilities e.g parking, café, toilets
 Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home
 Large number of equipment
 Opportunities for risky play
 Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches
 Other (please specify)

Mandatory Question (126 response(s))

Question type: Radio Button Question

What else is important to you when visiting a play area (please select all that apply)



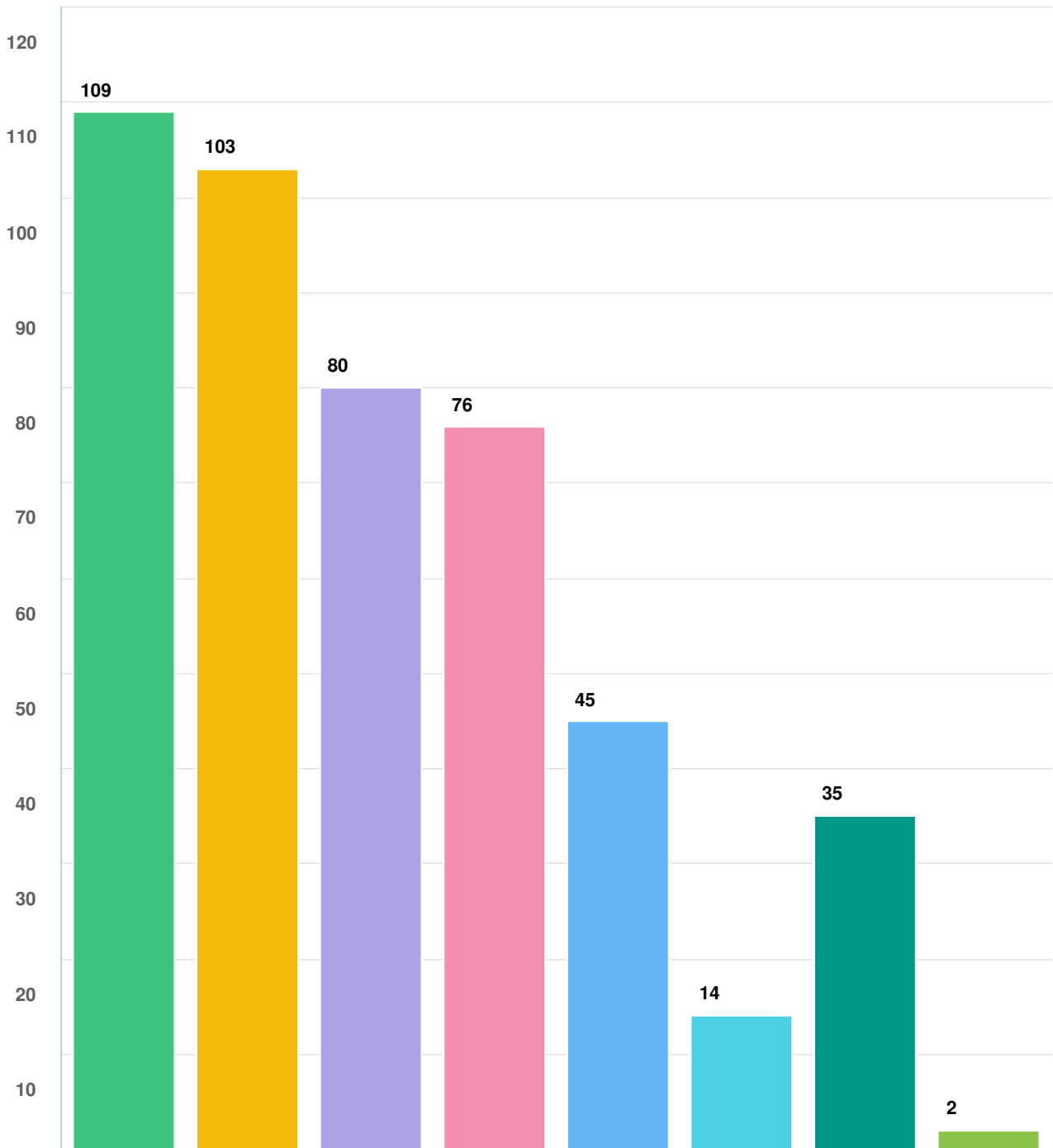
Question options

- Variety of types of equipment
 ● Equipment for a variety of ages
 ● Tactile play e.g. sand
- Inclusive e.g. equipment, easy to navigate the site
 ● Clean and tidy
 ● Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order
- Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets
 ● Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home
- Natural features e.g. planting, bug hotels
 ● Large number of equipment
 ● Opportunities for risky play
- Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches
 ● Other (please specify)

Mandatory Question (126 response(s))

Question type: Checkbox Question

Why do you visit play areas? (please select all that apply)



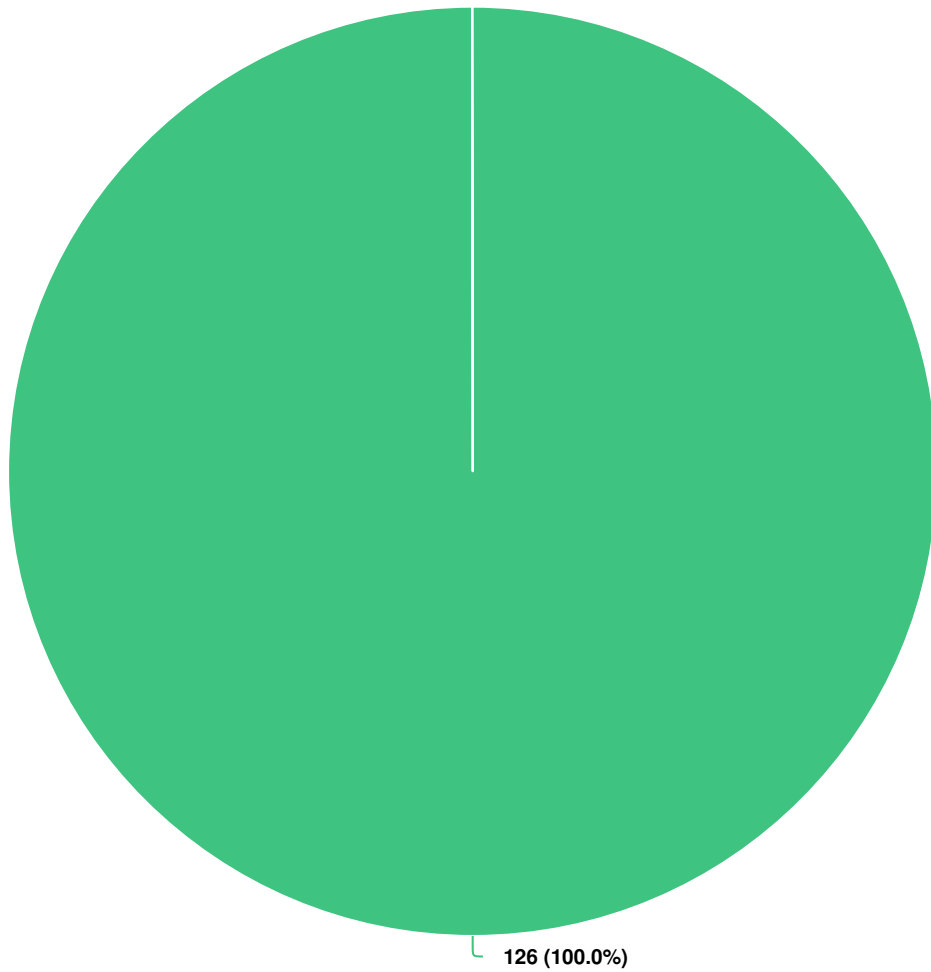
Question options

- Child/ren love going
- Exercise for child/ren
- Mental health and wellbeing
- To meet with family and friends
- For a day out
- Whilst waiting for / after another local activity
- After school / nursery / toddler groups
- Other (please specify)

Mandatory Question (126 response(s))

Question type: Checkbox Question

Is it important to you and where you live that there are high quality play spaces located nearby?



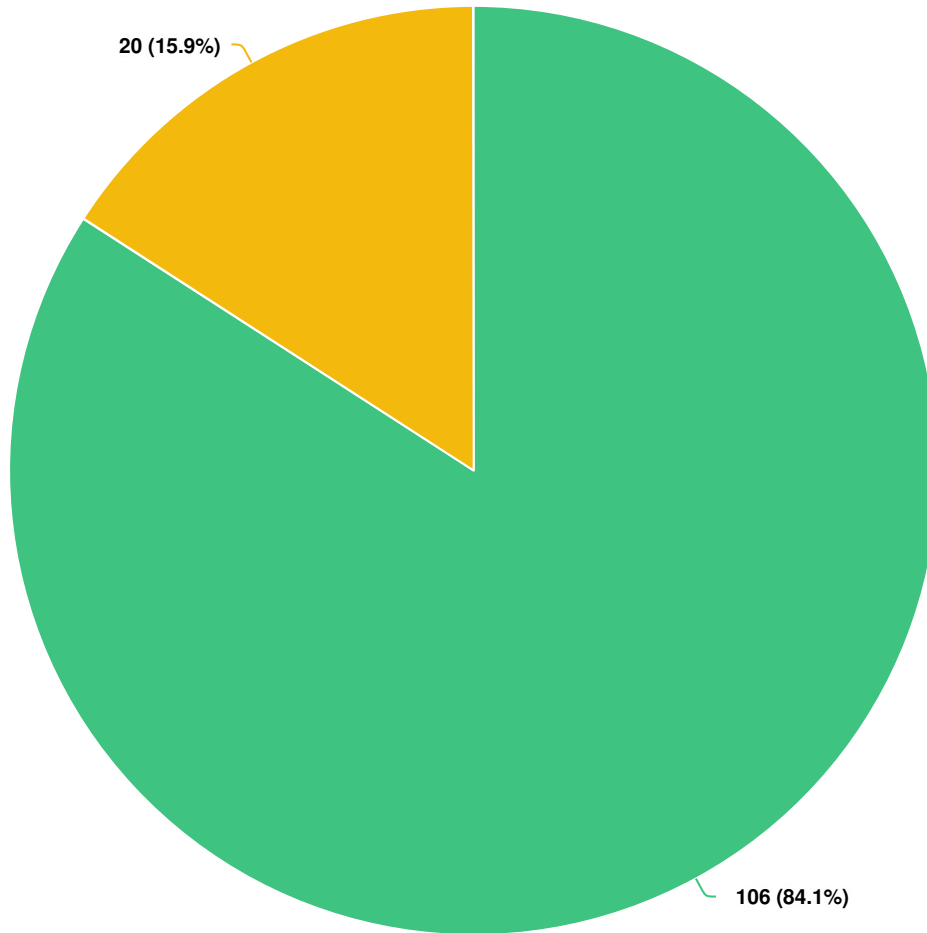
Question options

- Yes

Mandatory Question (126 response(s))

Question type: Radio Button Question

When you visit a play area, do you also make use of other local facilities?



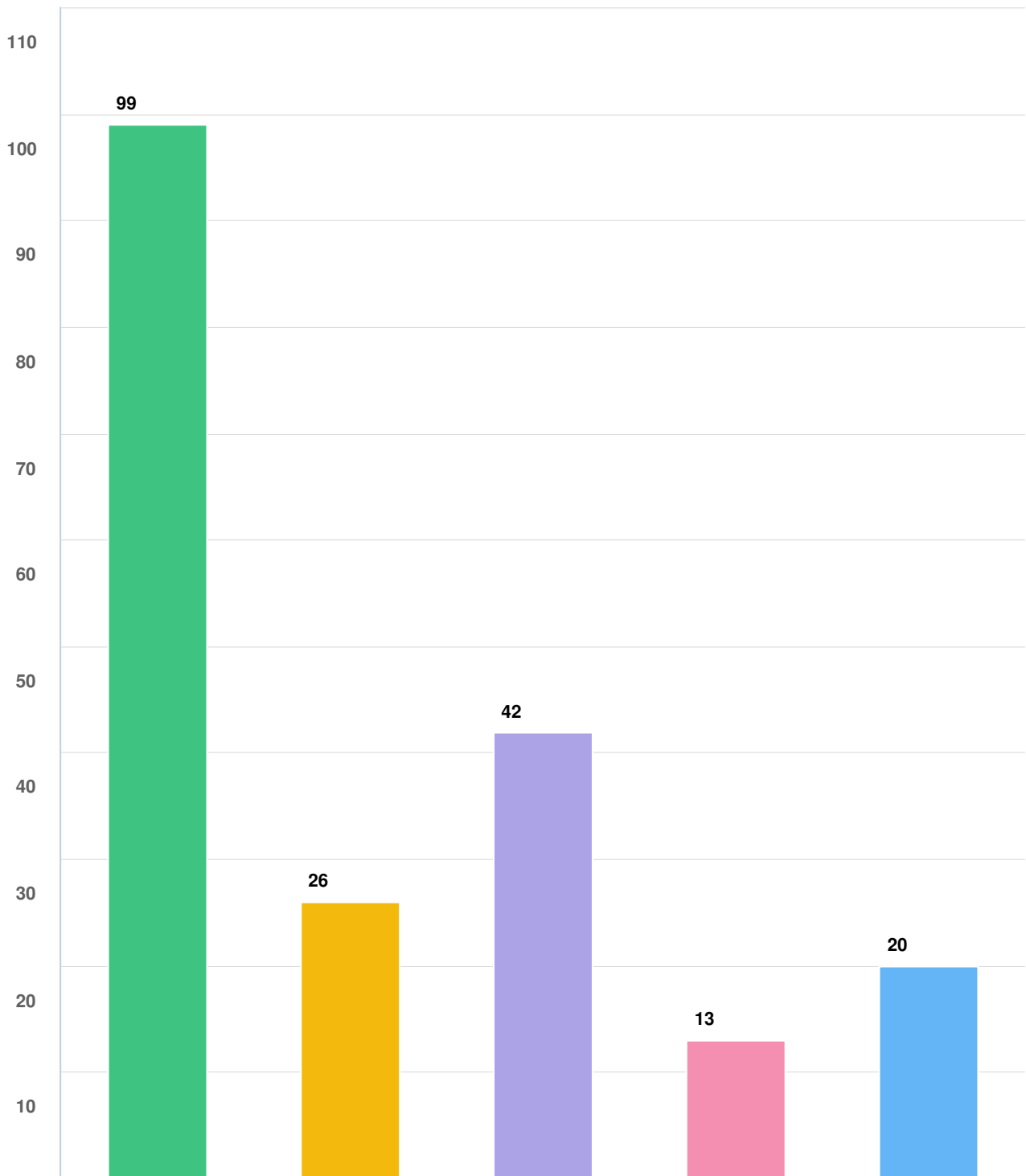
Question options

- Yes
- No

Mandatory Question (126 response(s))

Question type: Radio Button Question

Which facilities do you use? (please select all that apply)



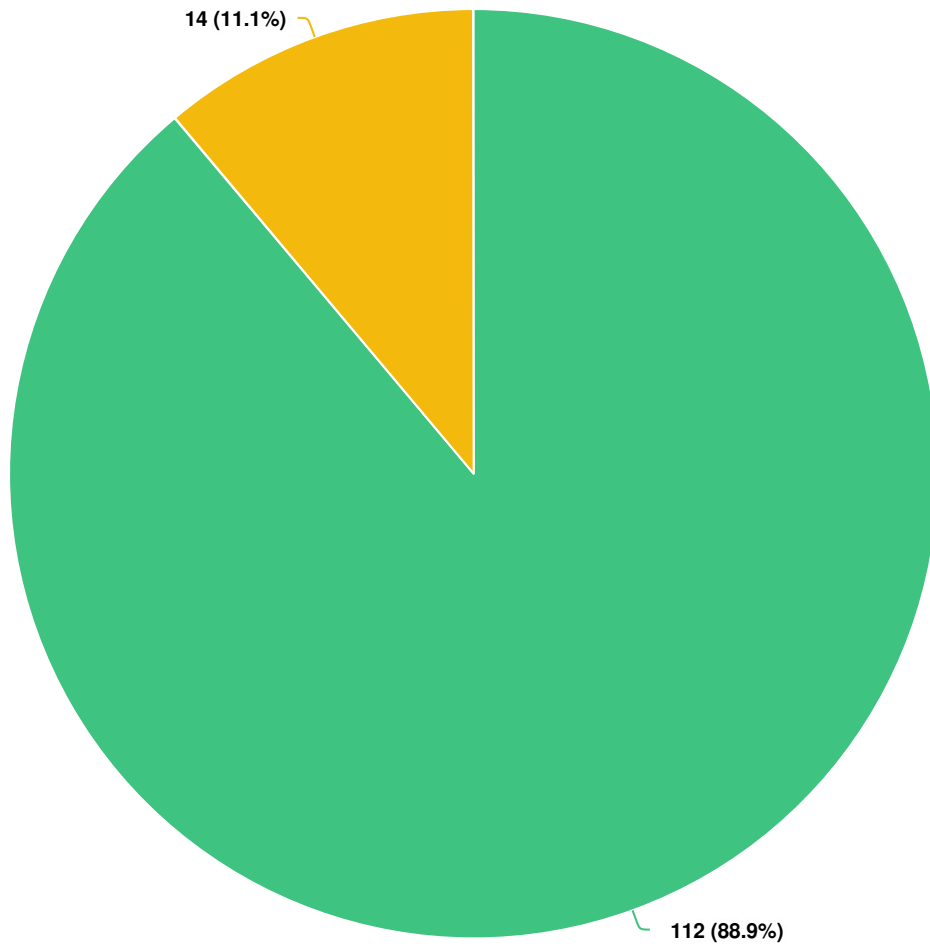
Question options

- Café
- Restaurant
- Shops
- Pub
- Other (please specify)

Mandatory Question (106 response(s))

Question type: Checkbox Question

Do you agree with these 4 principles?



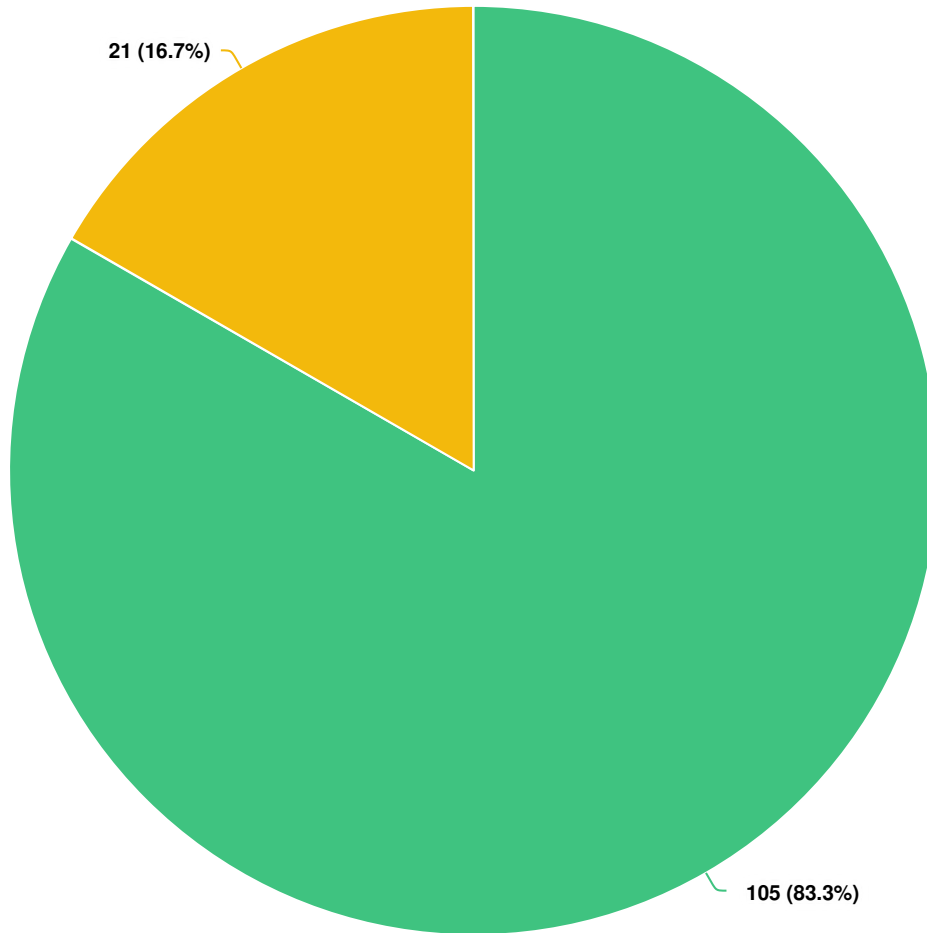
Question options

- Yes
- No

Mandatory Question (126 response(s))

Question type: Radio Button Question

Do you agree with these 4 sites?



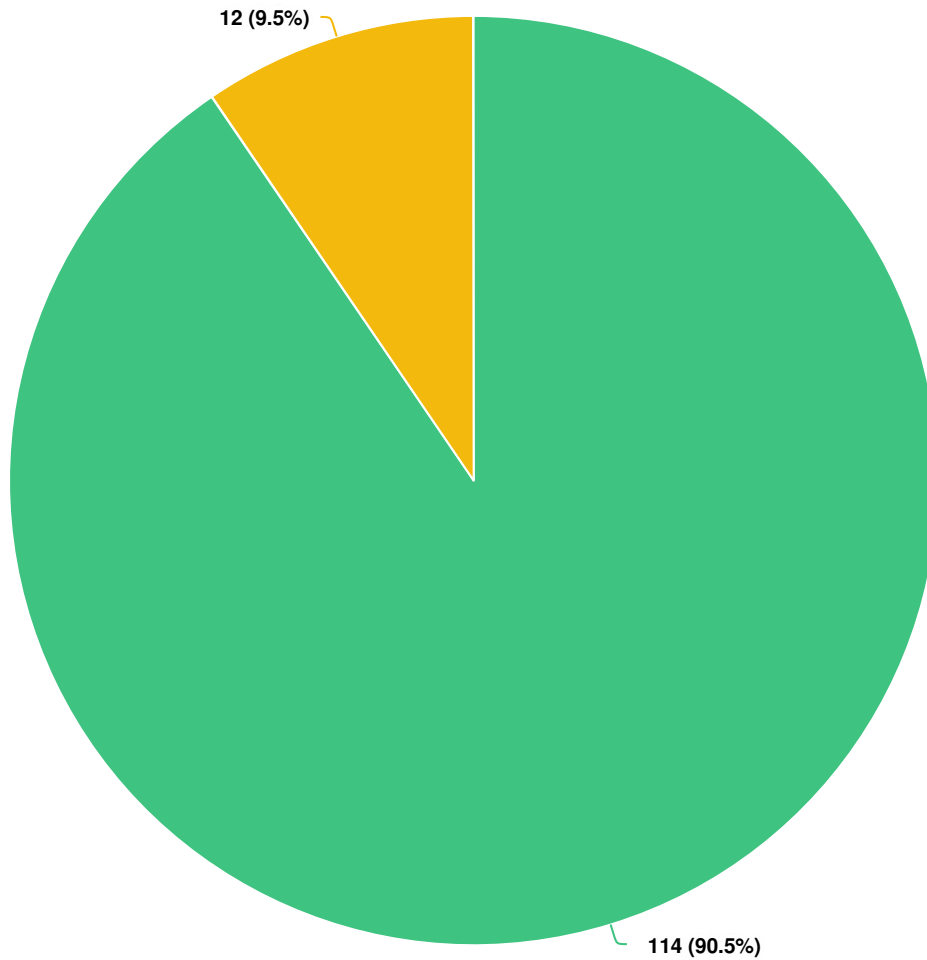
Question options

- Yes
- No

Mandatory Question (126 response(s))

Question type: Radio Button Question

Do you agree that play spaces should incorporate natural features such as grassy mounds, trees, wildflower areas, bug hotels, logs and play panels with information about local wildlife?



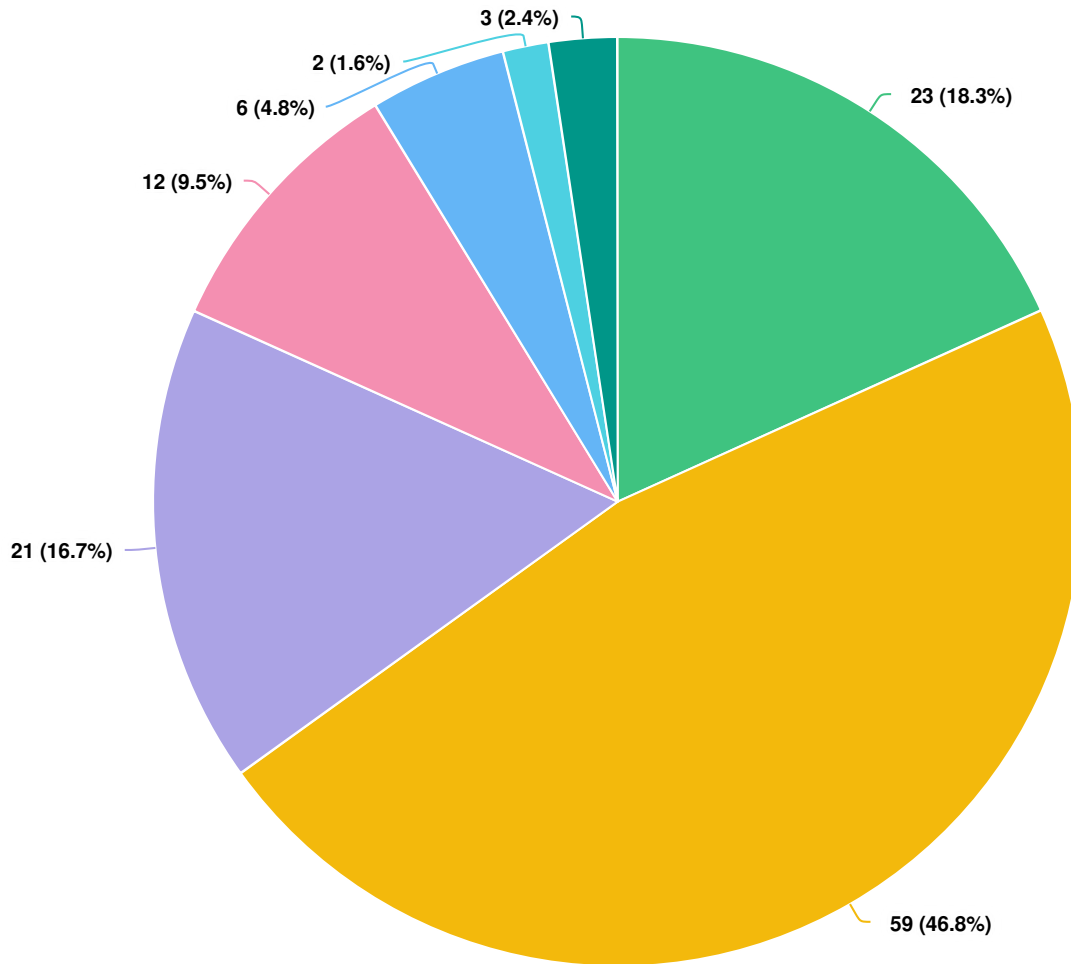
Question options

- Yes
- No

Mandatory Question (126 response(s))

Question type: Radio Button Question

In which decade were you born?



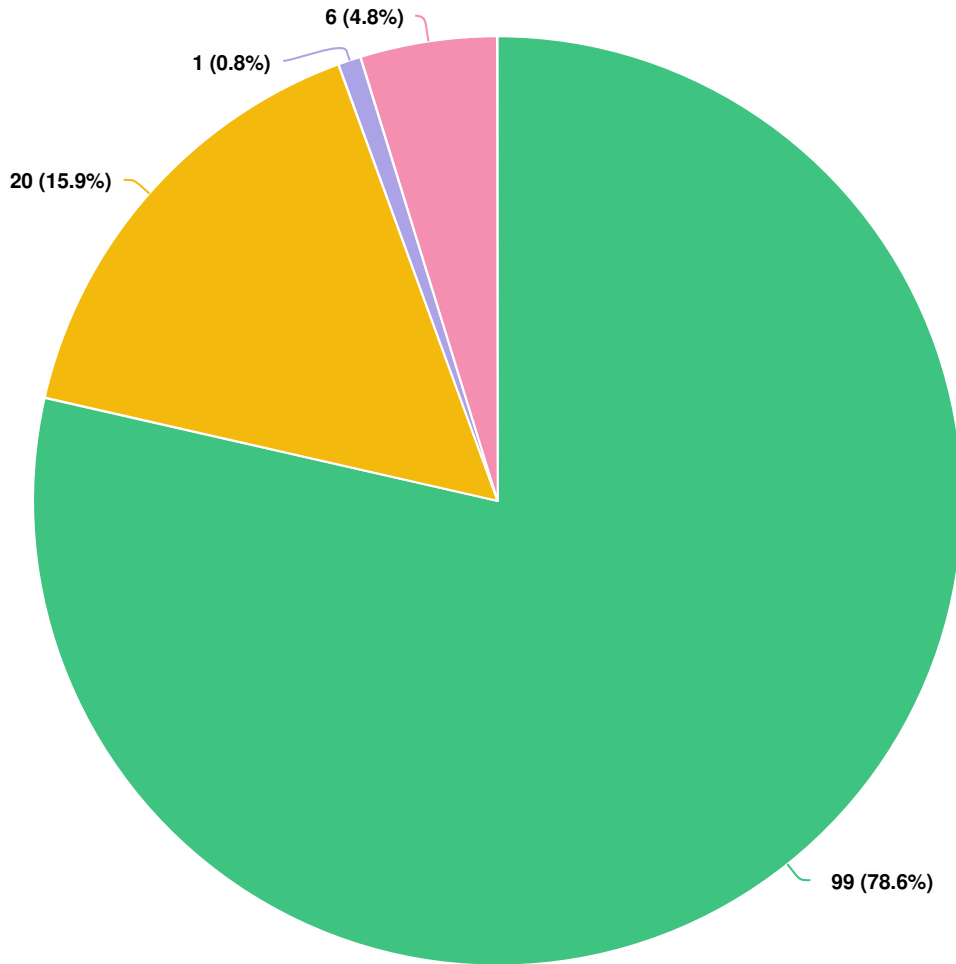
Question options

- 1990 - 1999
- 1980 - 1989
- 1970 - 1979
- 1960 - 1969
- 1950 - 1959
- 1940 - 1949
- Prefer not to answer

Mandatory Question (126 response(s))

Question type: Dropdown Question

This question is about your gender identity. Do you identify as



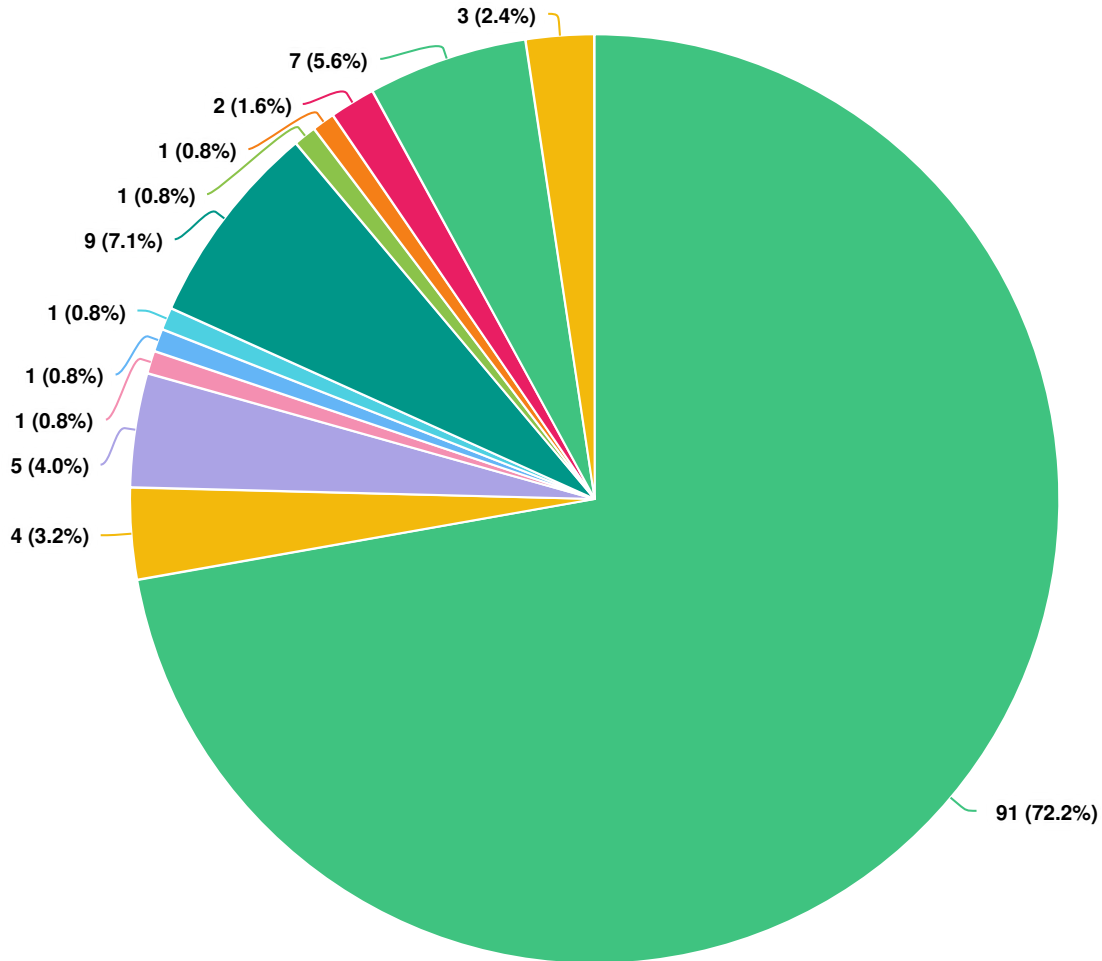
Question options

- Woman
- Man
- Non-binary
- Prefer not to answer

Mandatory Question (126 response(s))

Question type: Dropdown Question

What is your ethnic group?



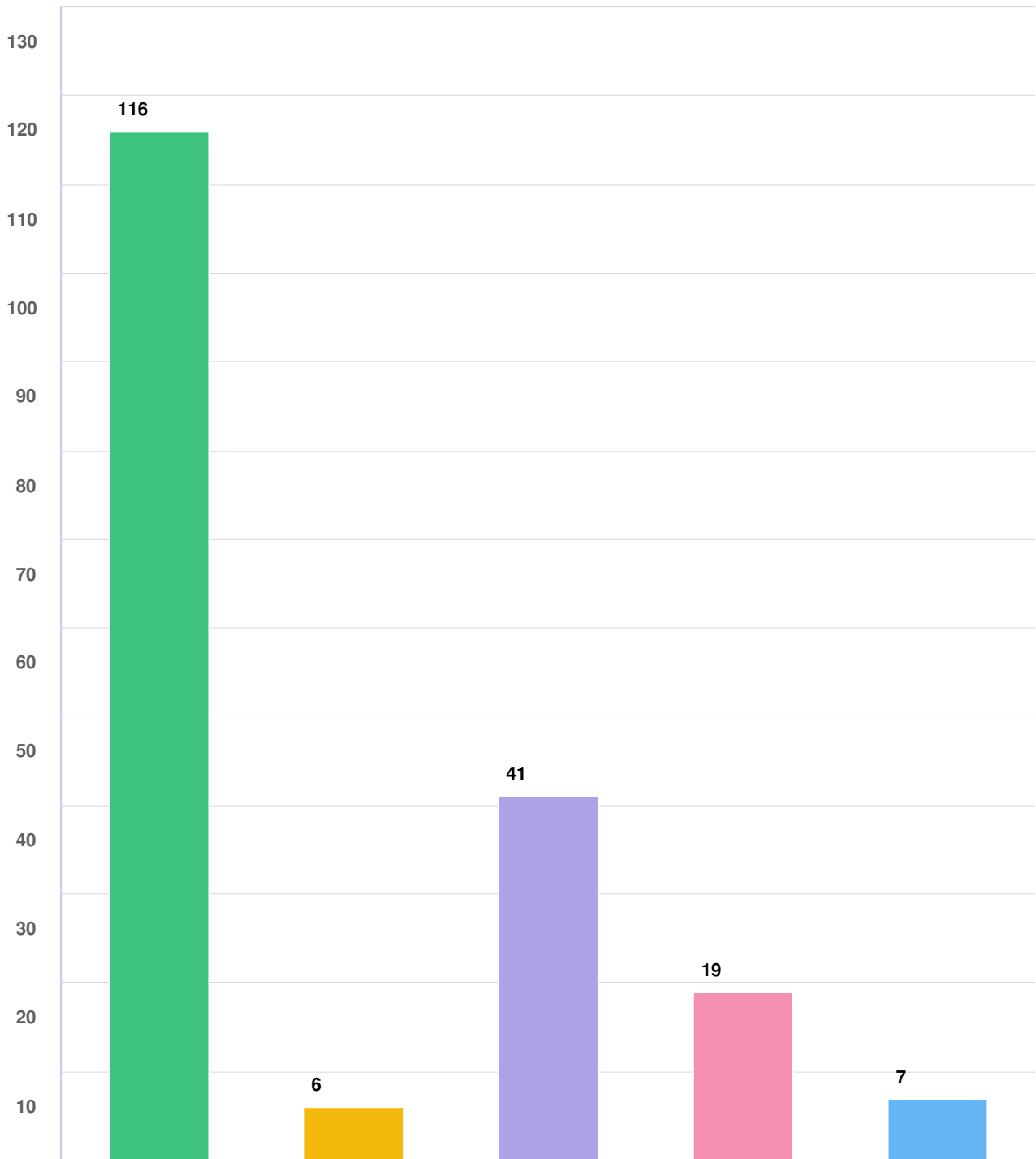
Question options

- White - British
 White - Irish
 White - Any other white background
 Mixed - White and Black Caribbean
- Mixed - White and Asian
 Mixed - Any other mixed background
 Asian or Asian British - Indian
- Asian or Asian British - Pakistani
 Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi
 Chinese
 Prefer not to answer
- Other ethnic group

Mandatory Question (126 response(s))

Question type: Dropdown Question

About me



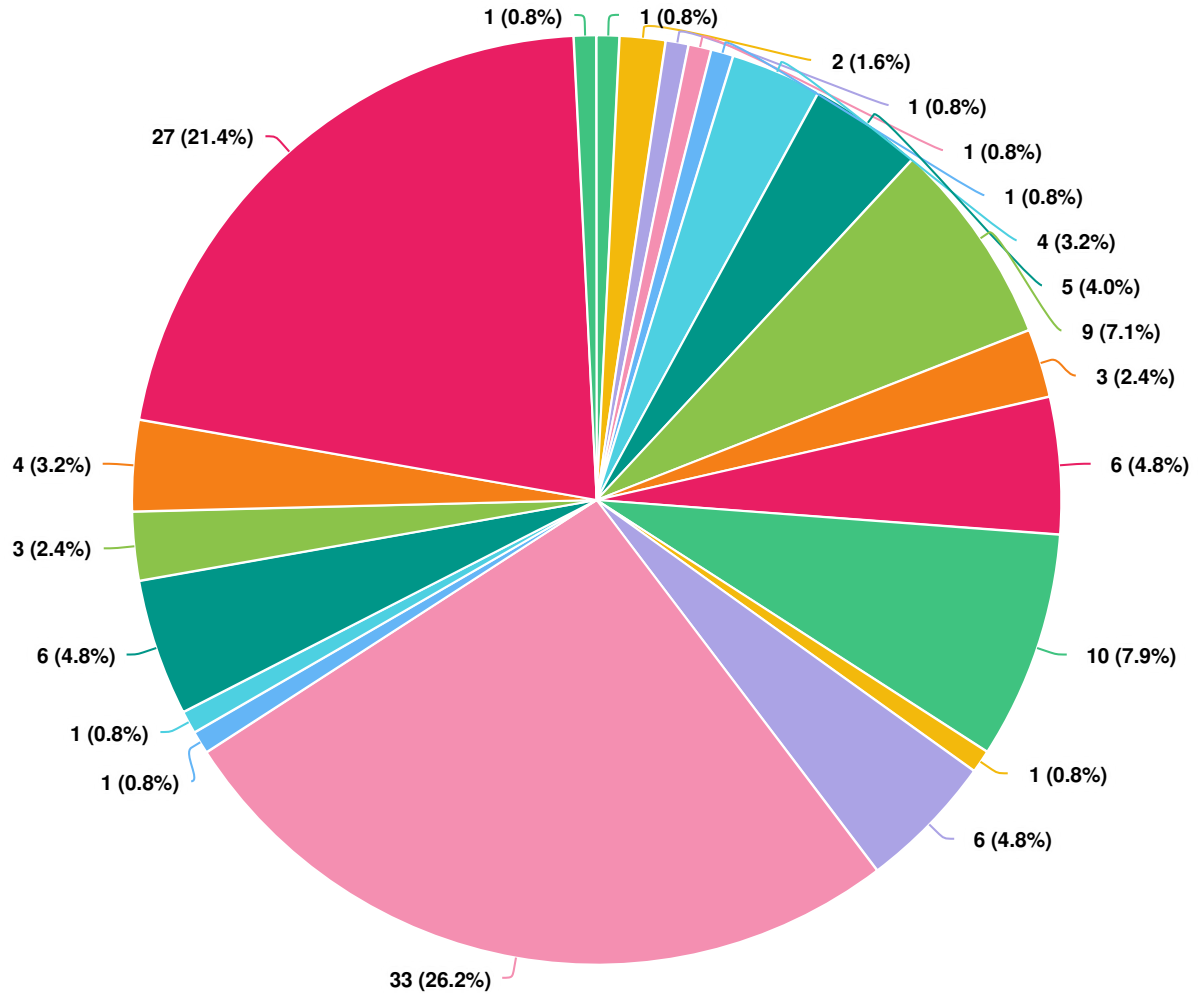
Question options

- I am a resident of Three Rivers
- I am a business owner in Three Rivers
- I own a property in Three Rivers
- I work in Three Rivers
- None of the above apply

Mandatory Question (126 response(s))

Question type: Checkbox Question

Please select the beginning of your postcode



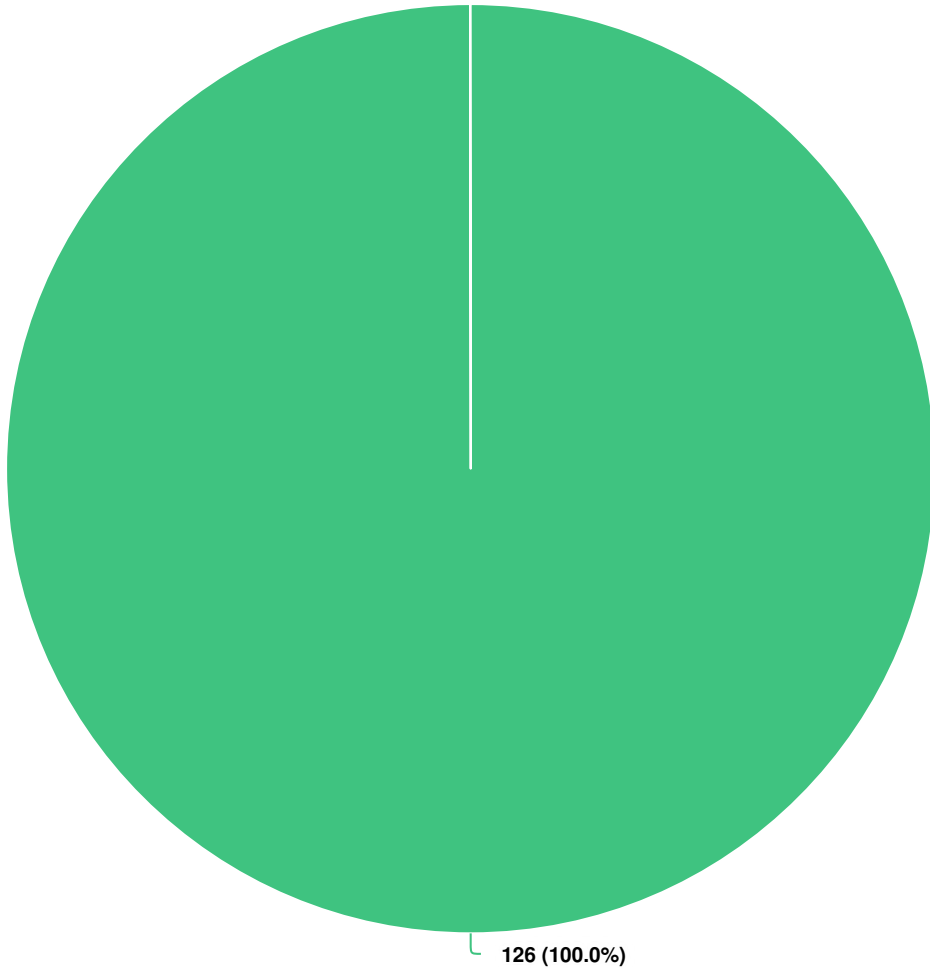
Question options

- HA6 3 HP3 8 WD17 4 WD18 6 WD18 8 WD19 4 WD19 5 WD19 6
- WD19 7 WD25 0 WD25 7 WD25 9 WD3 1 WD3 3 WD3 4 WD3 5 WD3 7
- WD3 8 WD4 8 WD5 0 Prefer not to say

Mandatory Question (126 response(s))

Question type: Dropdown Question

I agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy for using Engagement HQ



Question options

- I agree

Mandatory Question (126 response(s))

Question type: Radio Button Question

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Which is your favourite play area	Why is this your favourite play area?	Which other play areas do you visit? (please select all that apply)	Which other play areas do you visit that are not managed by Three Rivers District Council?	What is the most important thing to you when visiting a play area?
Oaklands Avenue	Quiet, litter and dog free area. I feel safe when I take grandchildren. Activities are just right and suitable for age group.	Eastbury	Cassiobury park	Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home
Eastbury	Proximity, tennis courts	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area)	Before moving to Northwood: Ruislip lido, Cassiobury park, Rickmansworth Aqua, Eastcote House Gardens.	Proximity to other facilities e.g parking, café, toilets
Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area)	Aquadrome This is not my favourite area, but I had to put one down. Favourite play areas for South Oxhey are not listed e.g. South Oxhey Playing Fields MUGA near the Pavilion. This comes under TRDC. The other favourite area is the Astro Turf pitch near Sir James Altham Swimming Pool in Little Oxhey Lane. While I believe the land is owned by TRDC or could come under Herts C.C., the Astro pitch is maintained by Everyone Active. The first area near the Pavilion, has been badly designed and can no longer be used by young children as a MUGA especially to play football. This is because the TRDC has put a dog area right next to the MUGA. The dog owners let there dogs run all over the MUGA and the dogs also foul the play area. The fencing that used to be around the MUGA needs to be put back so that youngsters can play there again. The second area near Sir James Altham Swimming Pool has been allowed to be run down and not maintained, and is now closed. What has happened, is that the two Astro Turf pitches have been taken away and therefor children no longer have anywhere to train and play football. In one failed swoop this financial year facilities for young children have been denied. This is a shame as it forces children to kick a ball around in areas like car parks and streets causing a disturbance and eventually leading to ASB. Some young children I know do not bother anymore as these areas are not available to them, so they just sit at home and play on their XBox's and Playstations. All of this contributes to unfit children and children more likely to get involved in ASB. These issues need to be rectified in the next financial year.	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area)	I do not visit the Aquadrome area, but I had to put something down. I use to visit and play with my grandchildren at the Astro Turf pitch in Little Oxhey Lane. Not sure if the land is owned by TRDC or HCC, but the Astro Turf pitch was managed by Everyone Active. This needs to be reopened as the other Astro Turf pitch by the Pavilion has also been taken away.	
Leavesden Country Park	Clean, local & well kept, with a cafe near by	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area), Langley Lane (The Horses' Field), Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame	Cassiobury pk	Variety of types of equipment
The Swillett	Aquwadrome croxleygreen skateboard Park basketball tennis free things	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area)	Skate park and lond walks	Clean and tidy
Ashridge (Prestwick Road, South Oxhey)	Local and convenient.	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area)	.	Proximity to other facilities e.g parking, café, toilets

Which is your favourite play area	Why is this your favourite play area?	Which other play areas do you visit? (please select all that apply)	Which other play areas do you visit that are not managed by Three Rivers District Council?	What is the most important thing to you when visiting a play area?
Baldwins Lane	Lots of options nice walking area for families and good for all ages	Barton Way	Na	Clean and tidy
Baldwins Lane	Barton Way	Baldwins Lane	Cassiobury Park	Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order
Leavesden Country Park	Clean safe and has toilets cafe and parking	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area), Hayling Road, Leavesden Country Park, Skidmore Way	None	Proximity to other facilities e.g parking, café, toilets
Barton Way	Can walk there, good trampoline and range of equipment	Baldwins Lane, Ebury (Aquadrome main play area), Leavesden Country Park, Scotsbridge	Paccar	Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order
Leavesden Country Park	it's local to us and the kids love it.	Abbotswood Park, Langley Lane (The Horses' Field), Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame	cassiobury park	Equipment for a variety of ages
The Swillett	Has safe enclosed climbing areas with slide for younger children so you don't have to worry about them falling out of an opening as that can happen with young children who don't listen their impulsive. And path for riding scooter around safely for young children. big sand area with buckets and are climbing decking with buckets on chains so us oldies can help the young ones easy for us to get up and down and help. Would like more baby swings only two they swings are big hit for young ones They love making imaginary games which he is important for kids. might camps in the bushes	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area), Ebury (Aquadrome main play area), The Swillett	Sarratt. Near football pitch Good for younger kids they love zip wire Wide slide	Equipment for a variety of ages
Ebury (Aquadrome main play area)	Large with different areas, good access to lakes and cafe	Baldwins Lane, Barton Way, Scotsbridge	Cassiobury park, oxhey skate park.	Large number of equipment
Leavesden Country Park	Cafe near, I can see my child from all areas, equipment is challenging, the hill and tunnels are fab and the plane is fantastic and well used by all ages. but there is also swings and slides to keep it traditional.	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area), Ashridge (Prestwick Road, South Oxhey), Baldwins Lane, Barton Way, Ebury (Aquadrome main play area), King George V (Mill End), Leavesden Country Park, Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame, Scotsbridge, The Swillett	We love the one inside the RAF museum in colindale . and we go to cassiobury a lot (it's too big and busy for us though) Hobbledown heath has an amazing park too! Lots of tunnels huts and slides	Opportunities for risky play

Which is your favourite play area	Why is this your favourite play area?	Which other play areas do you visit? (please select all that apply)	Which other play areas do you visit that are not managed by Three Rivers District Council?	What is the most important thing to you when visiting a play area?
Leavesden Country Park	Loads of parking, good variety of equipment, well maintained	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area), Langley Lane (The Horses' Field)	Cassiobury park,	Variety of types of equipment
Ebury (Aquadrome main play area)	part of the bigger aquadrome so can combine with walks around the lake and a cafe. Good parking facility.	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area), Eastbury	Cassiobury park playground. King George's playing fields off Tolpits Lane for the playground and cycle hub. Oxhey park for the skate/bike park. Frithwood park playground. Pinner Park. Black Park	Clean and tidy
Cassiobridge (near the Harvester, Croxley Green)	Location	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area), Barton Way, Ebury (Aquadrome main play area)	N/A	Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order
Ebury (Aquadrome main play area)	Next to the water and easy access from the town	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area), Eastbury, Scotsbridge	Denham Country Park	Clean and tidy
Scotsbridge	My boy loves the tunnel, the sand pit and tower are great, he loves the trampoline and swings.	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area), Barton Way, Cassiobridge (near the Harvester, Croxley Green), King George V (Mill End), Scotsbridge, Skidmore Way, The Swillett	There is a great play park in St Albans and Harpenden , they really do have every things for different ages. The play areas are spaced out for different age ranges.	Variety of types of equipment
Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame	It suitable for different age children, has a car park, cafe' and toilets very closed	Oulton Way (Romilly Drive)	Play area in Carpenders park managed by the parish. Watford skate park and cassiobury park	Proximity to other facilities e.g parking, café, toilets
Leavesden Country Park	Close to home and has facilities like cafe and toilets	Langley Lane (The Horses' Field), Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame	Cassiobury park	Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order
Barton Way	Nearest and most to do	Baldwins Lane, Cassiobridge (near the Harvester, Croxley Green), Scotsbridge	Cassiobury park	Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home

Which is your favourite play area	Why is this your favourite play area?	Which other play areas do you visit? (please select all that apply)	Which other play areas do you visit that are not managed by Three Rivers District Council?	What is the most important thing to you when visiting a play area?
Barton Way	Local	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area), Cassiobridge (near the Harvester, Croxley Green), Ebury (Aquadrome main play area), Leavesden Country Park, Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame, Scotsbridge	Cassiobury	Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order
Leavesden Country Park	It has a great selection of equipment for all ages and the cafe/garden area is a fantastic bonus	Leavesden Country Park	The one on Tippendale Lane, Chiswell Green	Large number of equipment
Leavesden Country Park	Easy with parking, equipment always working, good for different ages. Safe.	Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame	Cassiobury park	Large number of equipment
Leavesden Country Park	Good for mix of ages	Cassiobridge (near the Harvester, Croxley Green), Gade View Gardens, Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame, Tannerswood Swings	Hemel hempstead, rickmansworth aquadrome, bedmond,	Proximity to other facilities e.g parking, café, toilets
Hayling Road	Big space	Ashburnham Drive, South Oxhey Playing Fields, Ebury (Aquadrome main play area)	Borehamwood, Watford skatepark	Variety of types of equipment
Barton Way	It's near by to where we live	Baldwins Lane	Cassiobury	Opportunities for risky play
Leavesden Country Park	Close to where we live, close by to wooded areas.	Langley Lane (The Horses' Field), Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame	Verulanium park - St Albans Clarence park - St Albans Cassiobury park Albanwood Park Manor House Park - Abbots Langley	Equipment for a variety of ages
Leavesden Country Park	Because oxhey park isn't listed	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area), Ebury (Aquadrome main play area)	Oxhey park	Equipment for a variety of ages

Which is your favourite play area	Why is this your favourite play area?	Which other play areas do you visit? (please select all that apply)	Which other play areas do you visit that are not managed by Three Rivers District Council?	What is the most important thing to you when visiting a play area?
Leavesden Country Park	A really good size and helpful all the play equipment is close together so I can always see the children. Also great equipment for a range of ages. Really makes a difference having close parking, toilets and a cafe too.	Langley Lane (The Horses' Field)	Manor House and Cassiobury	Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order
Ebury (Aquadrome main play area)	location + equipment	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area), Denham Way , Ebury (Aquadrome main play area), Hornhill, King George V (Mill End), Mead Place Climbing Boulder	william penn estate behind chorleywood club	Variety of types of equipment
Leavesden Country Park	Poor selection from ones we've visited - leavesden gives best chance to play, walk to other end of park, play again then walk back. Play equipment should be a fun part of the journey not just a destination	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area), Barton Way, Cassiobridge (near the Harvester, Croxley Green), Ebury (Aquadrome main play area), King George V (Mill End), Leavesden Country Park, Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame, Scotsbridge	Wendover woods, black park and Langley park (mr iver), ruislip lido, gadebridge(Hemel)	Equipment for a variety of ages
Leavesden Country Park	Local to me	Abbotswood Park, Langley Lane (The Horses' Field), Leavesden Country Park, Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame	Primrose, bedmond, Ashley green, shenley	Proximity to other facilities e.g parking, café, toilets
Leavesden Country Park	It has toilets and a cafe which is convenient if visiting with younger children. I also like the sensory garden with the picnic tables for younger children.	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area), Ebury (Aquadrome main play area), Langley Lane (The Horses' Field), Leavesden Country Park, Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame, Scotsbridge	Manor House Park, Abbots Langley. Love Lane Park, Abbots Langley. Gadebridge Park, Hemel Hempstead.	Equipment for a variety of ages

Which is your favourite play area	Why is this your favourite play area?	Which other play areas do you visit? (please select all that apply)	Which other play areas do you visit that are not managed by Three Rivers District Council?	What is the most important thing to you when visiting a play area?
Langley Lane (The Horses' Field)	It's a large area with a fence around so the kids are contained and know if they have left the playground. Also walking distance from home.	Abbotswood Park, Leavesden Country Park, Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame	Manor house in Abbots Langley	Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order
Leavesden Country Park	Close to home	Langley Lane (The Horses' Field)	N/a	Equipment for a variety of ages
Barton Way	It's walking distance, great sandpit and lots of space	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area), Baldwins Lane, Cassiobridge (near the Harvester, Croxley Green), Ebury (Aquadrome main play area), Leavesden Country Park	Oxhey Activity Park in Watford	Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order
Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame	Near cafe & lots of parking	Leavesden Country Park, Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame	Cassiobury park	Proximity to other facilities e.g parking, café, toilets
Barton Way	It's the nearest one to get too from where I live	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area), Baldwins Lane, Leavesden Country Park	Cassiobury park	Equipment for a variety of ages
Oaklands Avenue	Very safe for toddlers/early walkers	Abbotswood Park, Langley Lane (The Horses' Field)	Cassiobury Park	Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home
Langley Lane (The Horses' Field)	Sandpit and local Zip wire Swings	Abbotswood Park, Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area), Cassiobridge (near the Harvester, Croxley Green), Leavesden Country Park, Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame, Tannerswood Swings	Unsure	Variety of types of equipment
Leavesden Country Park	Local to us and is a great park	Ebury (Aquadrome main play area)	Manor House	Proximity to other facilities e.g parking, café, toilets

Which is your favourite play area	Why is this your favourite play area?	Which other play areas do you visit? (please select all that apply)	Which other play areas do you visit that are not managed by Three Rivers District Council?	What is the most important thing to you when visiting a play area?
Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame	A lot to do! My local park is no good even though money was spent on it	Oulton Way (Romilly Drive)	Brackley parks in northampton	
Cassiobridge (near the Harvester, Croxley Green)	It is closest to me	Cassiobridge (near the Harvester, Croxley Green)	We mostly visit cassiobury Park	Variety of types of equipment
Leavesden Country Park	It has a good variety of equipment that is well maintained and provides lots of fun all year round	Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame	Cassiobury Park, Manor Park	Proximity to other facilities e.g parking, café, toilets
Tannerswood Swings	Out of the blue..just some simple swings!	Leavesden Country Park	Manor house	
Hayling Road	Most space	Ann Shaw Gardens, Moortown Road	Ruislip	Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches
Barton Way	Variety of play equipment, free parking	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area), Baldwins Lane, Cassiobridge (near the Harvester, Croxley Green), Ebury (Aquadrome main play area), Scotsbridge	None	Variety of types of equipment
Abbotswood Park	Local and now my child is 4 she can climb most of the equipment	Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame	Abbots Langley park	Inclusive e.g. equipment, easy to navigate the site

Which is your favourite play area	Why is this your favourite play area?	Which other play areas do you visit? (please select all that apply)	Which other play areas do you visit that are not managed by Three Rivers District Council?	What is the most important thing to you when visiting a play area?
Langley Lane (The Horses' Field)	Lots of variety and easy for us to access	Leavesden Country Park, Tannerswood Swings	South Oxhey park near Watford general	Variety of types of equipment
Leavesden Country Park	This because you walk through parks to get to it. Dont have to drive and be busy main roads	Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame	Near Mini Tesco in Nascot Wood, Cassiobury Park,	Variety of types of equipment
Baldwins Lane	Closest to our house	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area), Barton Way, Cassiobridge (near the Harvester, Croxley Green), Leavesden Country Park, Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame	Chiswell Green play area	Inclusive e.g. equipment, easy to navigate the site
Leavesden Country Park	Much better facilities there. Has better play equipment you don't get at other parks. It's more than just your basic swings and slides.	Ebury (Aquadrome main play area), Hayling Road	King George's - Bushey	Large number of equipment

Which is your favourite play area	Why is this your favourite play area?	Which other play areas do you visit? (please select all that apply)	Which other play areas do you visit that are not managed by Three Rivers District Council?	What is the most important thing to you when visiting a play area?
Baldwins Lane	Skatepark	Barton Way	Oxhey skatepark	Equipment for a variety of ages
Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame	Close to home and nursery.	Leavesden Country Park	Manor House Park	Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home
Abbotswood Park	Provides space to run around in the field, skate park, tennis courts basketball and park- caters for all ages	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area)	None	Equipment for a variety of ages
Cassiobridge (near the Harvester, Croxley Green)	Play equipment suitable for my younger child, with enough space and football goals to keep my older child entertained too.	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area), Baldwins Lane, Leavesden Country Park	Harwoods adventure playground. We used to live very close by and it is an excellent facility with Both fenced in play space for younger children, pitches, sand and adventure play that is suitable for up to teenagers. It's great and worth looking at as inspiration!	Equipment for a variety of ages
Baldwins Lane	It is close, has a nice range of equipment and space between the equipment to run around, and the park is good for playing rounders etc in	Baldwins Lane, Barton Way	Cassiobury park	Equipment for a variety of ages
Ashburnham Drive, South Oxhey Playing Fields	The playground is brilliant, so are the open land and wooded areas, and Playrangers are there regularly.	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area), Ashburnham Drive, South Oxhey Playing Fields, Ashridge (Prestwick Road, South Oxhey), Beechen Wood, Hayling Road, Leavesden Country Park, Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame, Scotsbridge	The Lido in Northwood, and the woods above it, also Holland Park Gardens and the children's play space in Kensington Gardens.	Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches

Which is your favourite play area	Why is this your favourite play area?	Which other play areas do you visit? (please select all that apply)	Which other play areas do you visit that are not managed by Three Rivers District Council?	What is the most important thing to you when visiting a play area?
Baldwins Lane	Barton Way	Baldwins Lane, Barton Way, Ebury (Aquadrome main play area), Lincoln Drive, Scotsbridge	Various	Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order
Barton Way	Good play area, basketball court and open field for sports.	Baldwins Lane, Ebury (Aquadrome main play area)	None I don't think. Tend to go to local ones.	Clean and tidy
Barton Way	The park has more play equipment and more benches to sit. It feels in a more open space.	Baldwins Lane	Sometimes Cassiobury park	Clean and tidy
Baldwins Lane	Range of equipment and near green fields away from traffic	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area), Barton Way, Ebury (Aquadrome main play area), Leavesden Country Park, Scotsbridge	Cassiobury park	Large number of equipment
Baldwins Lane	Good range of activities for older kids. Local to us so walking distance. When the kids were younger our favourite would have been Barton away.	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area), Baldwins Lane, Barton Way, Cassiobridge (near the Harvester, Croxley Green), Ebury (Aquadrome main play area), King George V (Mill End), Leavesden Country Park, Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame, Lincoln Drive, Scotsbridge	Cassiobury park and Oxhey active park	Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order
Barton Way	Nearest	Cassiobridge (near the Harvester, Croxley Green)	cassiobury Park, Durrants House / Old Merchant Taylors	Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order

Which is your favourite play area	Why is this your favourite play area?	Which other play areas do you visit? (please select all that apply)	Which other play areas do you visit that are not managed by Three Rivers District Council?	What is the most important thing to you when visiting a play area?
Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame	The facilities.	Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame	N/a	Clean and tidy
Barton Way	Easy parking, large open space, clean and not broken	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area), Baldwins Lane, Barton Way, Ebury (Aquadrome main play area), Scotsbridge, Skidmore Way	Cassiobury park	Proximity to other facilities e.g parking, café, toilets
Barton Way	Close to our home. Great layout - you can keep an eye on your kids as it's very enclosed.great selection of playground equipment. Nice trees to sit under for a picnic. Well maintained good atmosphere	Ebury (Aquadrome main play area)	Na	Variety of types of equipment
Barton Way	Child likes the sandpit, larger range of equipment they can either use independently or be assisted to use	Baldwins Lane	Cassiobury park	Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order
Leavesden Country Park	Walking distance. Lots of variety for young children. Inventive equipment not just swings and slides. Outdoor gym. Dog walking around the edge. Excellent cafe from YMCA.	Abbotswood Park, Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area), Langley Lane (The Horses' Field), Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame	Abbots Lanlgey, Manor Park, south way by evergreens, Woodside Watford, Sarratt park, Tom's Lane all very good.	Equipment for a variety of ages
Baldwins Lane	It's my closest	Barton Way, Leavesden Country Park	N	Variety of types of equipment

Which is your favourite play area	Why is this your favourite play area?	Which other play areas do you visit? (please select all that apply)	Which other play areas do you visit that are not managed by Three Rivers District Council?	What is the most important thing to you when visiting a play area?
Ebury (Aquadrome main play area)	Best equipment	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area), Baldwins Lane, Barton Way, Cassiobridge (near the Harvester, Croxley Green), Ebury (Aquadrome main play area), King George V (Mill End), Leavesden Country Park, Scotsbridge, The Swillett	Cassiobury	Variety of types of equipment
Ashridge (Prestwick Road, South Oxhey)	Its close and my children can walk to it	Cassiobridge (near the Harvester, Croxley Green), Eastbury, Hayling Road	Not sure	Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order
Leavesden Country Park	Walking activities, children's activities, toilet facilities and cafe	Abbotswood Park	None	Equipment for a variety of ages
Barton Way	Closest	Baldwins Lane, Barton Way, Ebury (Aquadrome main play area), Scotsbridge, The Swillett	Cassiobury	Proximity to other facilities e.g parking, café, toilets
The Swillett	Well looked after park which is enclosed and seems safe	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area), Baldwins Lane, Barton Way, Bramshot Way Climbing Unit (South Oxhey Playing Fields), Cassiobridge (near the Harvester, Croxley Green), Ebury (Aquadrome main play area), Skidmore Way, The Swillett	Cassiobury park	Variety of types of equipment
Leavesden Country Park	My children love the big swing that you stand on and pull side to side (on the far side from the cafe).	Baldwins Lane, Barton Way, Cassiobridge (near the Harvester, Croxley Green), Ebury (Aquadrome main play area), Scotsbridge	Harwoods adventurous playground, they skate park and cassiobury park in watford	Equipment for a variety of ages

Which is your favourite play area	Why is this your favourite play area?	Which other play areas do you visit? (please select all that apply)	Which other play areas do you visit that are not managed by Three Rivers District Council?	What is the most important thing to you when visiting a play area?
Ebury (Aquadrome main play area)	Local	Ebury (Aquadrome main play area)	Cassiobury Park	Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order
The Swillet	The range of equipment suits my kids and it is also very well looked after!	Barton Way, King George V (Mill End), Scotsbridge	Not many!	Opportunities for risky play
Leavesden Country Park	Our favourite isnt on the list unless its got a different name, its the ones at Manor House - our kids like the skate park and the playground area with zip wire and the spiders web swing. Maybe the playground names should be better signed	Leavesden Country Park	I dont know whether Primrose Hill is listed	Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order
Scotsbridge	Variety of play equipment	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area), Baldwins Lane	Watford Cycle Hub King George V Fields Playground	Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home
Leavesden Country Park	It's got a cafe next to the park, easy to park and a big grassy area to play football on.	Langley Lane (The Horses' Field)	Manor House gardens park in abbots Langley village.	Variety of types of equipment
Leavesden Country Park	Lots for the children to do, equipment that encourages imaginative play meaning my child makes friends playing	Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame	Abbots Langley park, south way park, evergreen.	Proximity to other facilities e.g parking, café, toilets
Leavesden Country Park	Variety, good for younger kids	Langley Lane (The Horses' Field), Tannerswood Swings	Manor House	Equipment for a variety of ages
Leavesden Country Park	Closest	Langley Lane (The Horses' Field)	Abbots village at Manor House	Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches

Which is your favourite play area	Why is this your favourite play area?	Which other play areas do you visit? (please select all that apply)	Which other play areas do you visit that are not managed by Three Rivers District Council?	What is the most important thing to you when visiting a play area?
Langley Lane (The Horses' Field)	Large open space with different sections.	Abbotswood Park, Leavesden Country Park, Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame, Tannerswood Swings	Ashley Green park next to the village hall is the most toddler friendly and accessible out of any park that we have visited.	Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order
Barton Way	The variety!	Abbotswood Park, Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area), Barton Way, Ebury (Aquadrome main play area), Leavesden Country Park, Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame	Primrose Hill (kings Langley)	Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order
Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame	Well kept nearby facilities safe environment	Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame	Cassiobury Hill Farm Ave Ridgehurst Ave Woodside Leisure centre	Proximity to other facilities e.g parking, café, toilets
Leavesden Country Park	Leavsde park	Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame	St Alban's park	Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order
Barton Way	Big space a fairly good facilities Does need some work	Baldwins Lane	None	Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order
Leavesden Country Park	It's where my daughter goes to nursery so she likes to go in on the way home. Also like that it's age appropriate for her	Langley Lane (The Horses' Field)	Manor House Park	Equipment for a variety of ages
Leavesden Country Park	We have a special needs child we have to travel to Barnet for an accessible playground	Leavesden Country Park	There is a playground in Barnet called fair play which is really accessible, we also go to cassiobury park as they have some accessible swings and roundabouts. The oxhey playground with the skatepark has an accessible slide and roundabout	Inclusive e.g. equipment, easy to navigate the site

Which is your favourite play area	Why is this your favourite play area?	Which other play areas do you visit? (please select all that apply)	Which other play areas do you visit that are not managed by Three Rivers District Council?	What is the most important thing to you when visiting a play area?
Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame	Good parking, good facilities, good shade!	Abbotswood Park, Leavesden Country Park	Clarence Park, St Albans Stanborough Park, Welwyn	Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order
Leavesden Country Park	Nearest	King George V (Mill End)	Woodside, king George's (bushey), cassiobury	Equipment for a variety of ages
King George V (Mill End)	Large enclosed area with plenty of varied equipment for all ages	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area), Ebury (Aquadrome main play area), King George V (Mill End), Langley Lane (The Horses' Field), Leavesden Country Park, Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame, The Swillett	Manor playing fields - abbots Langley Langley bury playground	Equipment for a variety of ages
Abbotswood Park	Good open space suitable for all ages	Ashridge (Prestwick Road, South Oxhey), King George V (Mill End), Langley Lane (The Horses' Field), Leavesden Country Park, Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame	Greenwood park Chiswell Green, Goodwood Ave park, King Georges park Bushey, Manor House play area Abbots Langley, Woodside Watford,	Equipment for a variety of ages
Leavesden Country Park	Bright, newish, can wait outside with the dog and see the kids, cafe nearby, good parking. Football goal nearby	Abbotswood Park, Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area), Dowding Way, Langley Lane (The Horses' Field), Leavesden Country Park, Scotsbridge	Hunonbury village, cassiobury park, Woodside leisure centre, abbots Langley	Clean and tidy
Abbotswood Park	Most local to us - convenience	Leavesden Country Park	Cassiobury Park - main play area	
Leavesden Country Park	It is local to us (5 mins by car) and always has parking available. The play area is a good size and has a variety of activities. The on-site cafe is very good; nice and clean and usually has a good selection of food and drink.	Langley Lane (The Horses' Field)	Ashley Green memorial hall play area.	Proximity to other facilities e.g parking, café, toilets
Ebury (Aquadrome main play area)	Lots to do for my 3 year old, and have multiple climbing frames Only swings for my 1 year old that does not walk which is disappointing	Abbotswood Park, Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area), King George V (Mill End), Leavesden Country Park	Cassibury park Primrose Hill Garston park	

Which is your favourite play area	Why is this your favourite play area?	Which other play areas do you visit? (please select all that apply)	Which other play areas do you visit that are not managed by Three Rivers District Council?	What is the most important thing to you when visiting a play area?
Leavesden Country Park	Local, has a cafe and a variety of playground activities. IT also has nice walks.	Abbotswood Park, Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame, Tannerswood Swings	Boxtree Park in Harrow	Variety of types of equipment
Leavesden Country Park	It's a large area with good facilities but feel that the play area could be improved	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area), Ebury (Aquadrome main play area), Langley Lane (The Horses' Field), Leavesden Country Park, Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame	Cassiobury Park and South Way	Opportunities for risky play
Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area)	Close to home	Cassiobridge (near the Harvester, Croxley Green), Denham Way , Ebury (Aquadrome main play area), King George V (Mill End), Leavesden Country Park, Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame	Buckinghamshire	Proximity to other facilities e.g parking, café, toilets
Ebury (Aquadrome main play area)	Close to where we live	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area), Barton Way, Cassiobridge (near the Harvester, Croxley Green), Ebury (Aquadrome main play area), King George V (Mill End), Leavesden Country Park, Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame, Scotsbridge	Cassiobury	Equipment for a variety of ages
Fearney Mead	Variety of equipment, access to local transport links, walking distance to toilet and baby changing facilities. Cafe.	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area), Ebury (Aquadrome main play area), Fearney Mead	N/A	Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches
Ebury (Aquadrome main play area)	Lots of options for kids	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area)	Cassiobury park	Variety of types of equipment
Ebury (Aquadrome main play area)	Closest ti my house. It used to be excellent. However now the broken equipment does not get fixed	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area), Cassiobridge (near the Harvester, Croxley Green), King George V (Mill End), Leavesden Country Park, Scotsbridge	Ruislip lido	Opportunities for risky play

Which is your favourite play area	Why is this your favourite play area?	Which other play areas do you visit? (please select all that apply)	Which other play areas do you visit that are not managed by Three Rivers District Council?	What is the most important thing to you when visiting a play area?
Ebury (Aquadrome main play area)	Closest	Ebury (Aquadrome main play area), Mead Place Climbing Boulder	Cassiobury	Natural features e.g. planting, bug hotels
Cassiobridge (near the Harvester, Croxley Green)	Because there is a large play area for older children and a smaller area for younger children. There's ample parking, good cafe with variety of offering and the train, tennis and outdoor gym area. It's well maintained and paths are clear accessible with various buggy types. We live closer to Ebury playground but it's run-down, broken climbing frames and poor maintenance overall on the park and aquadrome.	Ebury (Aquadrome main play area)	Black Park has excellent well-maintained facilities.	Equipment for a variety of ages
Ashridge (Prestwick Road, South Oxhey)	This is not my favourite play area for my grandchildren, but had to tick one of the above. The two favourite areas on South Oxhey are not mentioned. This is the one by the Pavilion at South Oxhey Playing Fields and the other is the Astro Turf pitch near Oxhey Jets in Little Oxhey Lane. Why are these two areas not mentioned, they are the main play areas on South Oxhey What is the point of a consultation when the main play areas are not mentioned. The two areas I have mentioned use to be our favourite areas because they had Astro Turf pitches which myself and my grandchildren have enjoyed playing on for many years. Why have these Astro Turf pitches been taken away?	Ashburnham Drive, South Oxhey Playing Fields	Do not visit the above play area but had to tick one of the above. We have used the Astro Turf pitch at South Oxhey playing fields and at Oxhey Jets in Little Oxhey Lane, but these have now been taken away leaving no safe areas for youngsters to play and practice football all year round anymore.	
Hayling Road	Quiet and generally well kept	Eastbury	Around Harrow and west London	Equipment for a variety of ages
Ashridge (Prestwick Road, South Oxhey)	Carpenders Park	Eastbury	Cassobury park	Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order

Which is your favourite play area	Why is this your favourite play area?	Which other play areas do you visit? (please select all that apply)	Which other play areas do you visit that are not managed by Three Rivers District Council?	What is the most important thing to you when visiting a play area?
Leavesden Country Park	it offers free parking, cafe and toilets close to the play area. Not the best equipment but lovely surroundings.	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area), Barton Way, Cassiobridge (near the Harvester, Croxley Green), Ebury (Aquadrome main play area), Hayling Road, Leavesden Country Park, Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame	Eastbury/watford skate park King Georges Bushey Cassiobury All in Borehamwood -meadow park mainly Oxhey Playing fields???	Variety of types of equipment
Ashburnham Drive, South Oxhey Playing Fields	Close to my house	Ashridge (Prestwick Road, South Oxhey), Bramshot Way Climbing Unit (South Oxhey Playing Fields)	..	Clean and tidy
Ebury (Aquadrome main play area)	Access is okay, open to people passing through on a regular basis. Has had some accessible equipment	King George V (Mill End)	Cedars park in Harrow	Inclusive e.g. equipment, easy to navigate the site
King George V (Mill End)	It's clean and appears to be safe for the children	Ashburnham Drive, South Oxhey Playing Fields, Hayling Road	Skate park in Watford and Bushey park	Clean and tidy
Leavesden Country Park	Interesting and unusual equipment, custom made from wood. Expert craftsmanship. It shows care has been taken to design and construct the play area, rather than just getting standard cheap plastic play equipment. This play park has character.	Ebury (Aquadrome main play area)	Manor House play park (Abbots Park).	Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home
Hayling Road	Large, generally safe (except rubbish left over night by , assuming, teenagers), things for varying ages	Ann Shaw Gardens, Ashburnham Drive, South Oxhey Playing Fields, Eastbury, Ebury (Aquadrome main play area)	Oxhey Activity Park	Equipment for a variety of ages

Which is your favourite play area	Why is this your favourite play area?	Which other play areas do you visit? (please select all that apply)	Which other play areas do you visit that are not managed by Three Rivers District Council?	What is the most important thing to you when visiting a play area?
Ebury (Aquadrome main play area)	Close to where we live. Often meet friends there	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area), Barton Way, Cassiobridge (near the Harvester, Croxley Green), King George V (Mill End), Leavesden Country Park, Scotsbridge	None	Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order
Hayling Road	South Oxhey playing fields	Ashburnham Drive, South Oxhey Playing Fields, Ashridge (Prestwick Road, South Oxhey)	Skate park	Proximity to other facilities e.g parking, café, toilets
Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame	Outside nursery and parking and cafe.	Leavesden Country Park	Brent	Variety of types of equipment
Leavesden Country Park	I live next door to the park	Leavesden Country Park - teepee climbing frame	None	Equipment for a variety of ages
Langley Lane (The Horses' Field)	Best facilities and great for cycling practice	Abbotswood Park, Dowding Way, Leavesden Country Park	Hunters lane (near) One near leavesden community hub	Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home
Ebury (Aquadrome main play area)	A variety of things for children to do i.e climbing frame, slides and swings for older children	Barton Way, Cassiobridge (near the Harvester, Croxley Green), Scotsbridge	Cassiobury Park, Nascot Wood, Harwood's playground	Variety of types of equipment
Ebury (Aquadrome main play area)	It is the one nearest to where we live	Aquadrome Natural Play Space (Dog Free Picnic Area)	Unknown	Opportunities for risky play

What is the most important thing to you when visiting a play area? (Other (please specify))	What else is important to you when visiting a play area (please select all that apply)	What else is important to you when visiting a play area (please select all that apply) (Other (please specify))	Why do you visit play areas? (please select all that apply)	Is there anything you think could be improved, and how, in Three Rivers play areas?
	Variety of types of equipment, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, For a day out	Toilets should be accessible so that children and carers can spend more time in play area. Dogs and pets should be with owners and secure.
	Equipment for a variety of ages, Clean and tidy, Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, For a day out	Create family hubs - like Eastcote House Gardens - green spaces with a cafe but include play equipment (akin to Pinner park etc.)
The ability to train and play football with my grandchildren all year round. The Astro Turf pitches provide that ability, plus it is safer for the children on the Astro Turf pitch should they sustain a heavy fall.		Tactile play areas like Astro Turf pitches.	Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren	Provide fenced off Astro Turf pitches on South Oxhey.
	Clean and tidy		Mental health and wellbeing	Keep clean
	Variety of types of equipment		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, For a day out, Whilst waiting for / after another local activity, After school / nursery / toddler groups	Millendbaptist.org.uk
	Clean and tidy, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, For a day out	

What is the most important thing to you when visiting a play area? (Other (please specify))	What else is important to you when visiting a play area (please select all that apply)	What else is important to you when visiting a play area (please select all that apply) (Other (please specify))	Why do you visit play areas? (please select all that apply)	Is there anything you think could be improved, and how, in Three Rivers play areas?
	Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, After school / nursery / toddler groups	Cleanliness - no gas bottles or needles or baggies left
	Equipment for a variety of ages		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, To meet with family and friends, After school / nursery / toddler groups	More trees to provide shade in our changing climate
	Variety of types of equipment, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, To meet with family and friends	Maintenance Northwick rd is unsafe not on level ground need someone to check safety and condition of equipment weekly
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home, Natural features e.g. planting, bug hotels, Opportunities for risky play		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren	Would be good to have play areas dotted around woods such as long valley woods such as rope swings (not the ones random people add that might not be safe), wooden obstacle course etc
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches	a café or refreshments	Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends	no, I think we're lucky around here
	Equipment for a variety of ages, Tactile play e.g. sand, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Natural features e.g. planting, bug hotels, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, For a day out, After school / nursery / toddler groups	Bins in some of parks Trees to give shade in the summer.
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Opportunities for risky play		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, After school / nursery / toddler groups	Replace climbing frame that was taken from squadrome. Replace broken equipment in scotsbridge.
	Variety of types of equipment, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Natural features e.g. planting, bug hotels, Large number of equipment, Opportunities for risky play	If it has imaginative play- for example tunnels, equipment designed as a car/ house / plane with lots of uses or little huts a mud kitchen is always fantastic and kids love it	Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, After school / nursery / toddler groups	Keeping them tidy and working. many have swings and roundabouts out of order. Having a sheltered area so that they can be used on bad weather days

What is the most important thing to you when visiting a play area? (Other (please specify))	What else is important to you when visiting a play area (please select all that apply)	What else is important to you when visiting a play area (please select all that apply) (Other (please specify))	Why do you visit play areas? (please select all that apply)	Is there anything you think could be improved, and how, in Three Rivers play areas?
	Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, To meet with family and friends	More equipment for babies/todlers
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Inclusive e.g. equipment, easy to navigate the site , Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, For a day out	Better updated equipment, better facilities, areas where dogs are not permitted where small children are playing.
	Variety of types of equipment, Clean and tidy, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going	no comment
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Opportunities for risky play, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, For a day out	General upkeep of equipment and the areas they are in. Needs to be looked after. Huge improvements could be made with small amount of expenditure e.g. planting bulbs bushes. Empty bins and dog poo bins
	Variety of types of equipment		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing	I would love it if the play areas taped off/ chained up could be replaced with either a Wendy house type climbing wall, with windows, seating so children can be interactive, discover, run around, hide. As when it's wet/ too sunny a shaded place is nice for little ones to play
	Equipment for a variety of ages		Exercise for child/ren	Oulton way play area is a bog for 6 months of the year. Not accessible
	Equipment for a variety of ages, Clean and tidy, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Opportunities for risky play, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, For a day out	More swings and benches/seats
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home, Natural features e.g. planting, bug hotels, Large number of equipment, Opportunities for risky play		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren	Equipment for 9 years plus

What is the most important thing to you when visiting a play area? (Other (please specify))	What else is important to you when visiting a play area (please select all that apply)	What else is important to you when visiting a play area (please select all that apply) (Other (please specify))	Why do you visit play areas? (please select all that apply)	Is there anything you think could be improved, and how, in Three Rivers play areas?
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Tactile play e.g. sand, Inclusive e.g. equipment, easy to navigate the site , Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Natural features e.g. planting, bug hotels, Opportunities for risky play, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends	Better dog control
	Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, For a day out	It would be nice to have some swings for the older children at Leavesden Country Park, instead of just the baby ones. My daughter is getting too big for those now, but is still too small for the giant 'raft' (not sure what it's called) that is there. Also more toilet facilities as there is only one at present unless you go into the cafe.
	Variety of types of equipment, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Large number of equipment, Opportunities for risky play		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, To meet with family and friends, After school / nursery / toddler groups	In the country park there are a few dips which fill up with water if they could be filled that would be great.
	Equipment for a variety of ages, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends	Leavesden park is awful after rain, floods in places becomes so muddy
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home, Large number of equipment, Opportunities for risky play, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, To meet with family and friends, For a day out	Equipment maintained, not just taken away and never replaced. Better equipment for older children
	Equipment for a variety of ages		Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing	Maybe have separate areas from toddlers and small children to children over 12. I like to encourage my teenagers to climb and use core strength. Going to a challenging park gets them off their phones!!
	Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Large number of equipment		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, To meet with family and friends, Whilst waiting for / after another local activity	NA
	Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Natural features e.g. planting, bug hotels, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, For a day out	No

What is the most important thing to you when visiting a play area? (Other (please specify))	What else is important to you when visiting a play area (please select all that apply)	What else is important to you when visiting a play area (please select all that apply) (Other (please specify))	Why do you visit play areas? (please select all that apply)	Is there anything you think could be improved, and how, in Three Rivers play areas?
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Clean and tidy, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, For a day out	For years I had never seen anyone take a dog into any play parks. But in the last couple of months I've witnessed it lots of times. So perhaps new signage and a social media campaign reminding people dogs can't go in parks and why, would be helpful.
	Equipment for a variety of ages, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, Whilst waiting for / after another local activity	na
	Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Large number of equipment, Opportunities for risky play, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going	Working equipment, more equipment (always queue for 1 small trampoline or wait for use of 2 swings) and for wider ages - local play areas in Croxley are now aimed solely at younger children (Barton way refurb was awful), playground by harvester roundabout is only good for toddlers etc
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Clean and tidy, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Large number of equipment		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, For a day out	More of a mix of age appropriate equipment , enclosed areas to seperrate ages. No hidden gates / hills brushes covering areas
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Tactile play e.g. sand, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Opportunities for risky play, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, For a day out	The Three Rivers play areas I visit are all well maintained and looked after. They are a really important benefit to the local area and provide fantastic opportunities for children to have fun, exercise, make new friends and gain confidence.

What is the most important thing to you when visiting a play area? (Other (please specify))	What else is important to you when visiting a play area (please select all that apply)	What else is important to you when visiting a play area (please select all that apply) (Other (please specify))	Why do you visit play areas? (please select all that apply)	Is there anything you think could be improved, and how, in Three Rivers play areas?
	Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Opportunities for risky play		Exercise for child/ren, To meet with family and friends	No
	Variety of types of equipment, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home, Large number of equipment, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, For a day out	More swings please
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Tactile play e.g. sand, Clean and tidy, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Opportunities for risky play, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, To meet with family and friends	We love the variety of play areas within a short walk or drive. Please keep up with maintenance as some parks through equipment is not working well anymore (the last time we visited Cassiobridge a number of the equipment was no longer working)
	Variety of types of equipment, Clean and tidy, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Large number of equipment		Child/ren love going, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, Whilst waiting for / after another local activity, After school / nursery / toddler groups	More swings please for different age groups.
	Variety of types of equipment		Child/ren love going	definitely think a better range of inclusive equipment for all ages & for disabled is needed and toilet facilities
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, After school / nursery / toddler groups	The hill apparatus with the tunnels in Leavesden Park could be made safer. I find it very tricky to help my children up and down it, especially pregnant.
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Tactile play e.g. sand, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends	Safer - no sheer drops from heights (have a bar or rail at least in case of accidents). Leavesden cafe park needs better ground on the hills as it's impossible to get grip to climb in wet weather
	Equipment for a variety of ages		Child/ren love going	Gates that close automatically. Especially where there are multiple exits. It's helps if you have several children to keep an eye on. Also good visibility around the park so you can keep an eye on multiple children in different areas of the park at the same time. Also water bottle filling stations like at Manor House would be brilliant at other parks.

What is the most important thing to you when visiting a play area? (Other (please specify))	What else is important to you when visiting a play area (please select all that apply)	What else is important to you when visiting a play area (please select all that apply) (Other (please specify))	Why do you visit play areas? (please select all that apply)	Is there anything you think could be improved, and how, in Three Rivers play areas?
Daughter lives there	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Mental health and wellbeing	More equipment needed please, nothing much for the children to play with
	Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing	I think a major thing lacking in playgrounds is cover. Cover from the sun and cover from the rain would make them far more useful.
	Variety of types of equipment, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Natural features e.g. planting, bug hotels, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, For a day out	More parent seating at Leavesden and shaded areas
It's a mix, it depends on which one is closer to what are plans are. However as the kids get older, most parks are different equipment for different ages.	Equipment for a variety of ages		Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, Whilst waiting for / after another local activity, After school / nursery / toddler groups	Half of those play parks I have never heard of, or visited. Should be asking, why? Ill informed.
	Clean and tidy		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, For a day out, Whilst waiting for / after another local activity, After school / nursery / toddler groups	All parks in the area are old and broken. Filthy too
	Equipment for a variety of ages, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home		Child/ren love going, To meet with family and friends, After school / nursery / toddler groups	Maintenance of aging play areas
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Inclusive e.g. equipment, easy to navigate the site , Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing	Equipment fair smaller children other than baby swings. For 1, 2 & 3 year olds.

What is the most important thing to you when visiting a play area? (Other (please specify))	What else is important to you when visiting a play area (please select all that apply)	What else is important to you when visiting a play area (please select all that apply) (Other (please specify))	Why do you visit play areas? (please select all that apply)	Is there anything you think could be improved, and how, in Three Rivers play areas?
	Tactile play e.g. sand		Child/ren love going	I think that generally play equipment is well looked after and play areas are clean, which is also important to me
	Equipment for a variety of ages, Inclusive e.g. equipment, easy to navigate the site , Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, After school / nursery / toddler groups	The Play areas need to be bigger! Have more swings, Every child loves a swing and normally there is only 2 swings. Where most parks are you could easily fit more swings in. As the parks have ample space
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Tactile play e.g. sand, Inclusive e.g. equipment, easy to navigate the site , Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Large number of equipment		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing	Kept cleaner and there were wasp nests in the summer
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Opportunities for risky play	Somewhere my son can play football	Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, For a day out, Whilst waiting for / after another local activity, After school / nursery / toddler groups	More football play areas. Some kids are getting too old for swings and slides but then don't have an area that's age appropriate for them. By this I don't mean concrete areas to play football. A proper Astro like the public one that was at Oxhey Jets or the one that was at South Oxhey playing fields that was concreted over!! Both of these astros were well used by the community despite being very run down they provided a lot of fun for the youth. These areas were taken away!!! Also not an area that is shared with people who play basketball. We visit several areas where the football goal is also a basketball area. Although this is functional if someone is playing basketball you can't play football and vice versa. They need to be separate designated areas! Thanks

What is the most important thing to you when visiting a play area? (Other (please specify))	What else is important to you when visiting a play area (please select all that apply)	What else is important to you when visiting a play area (please select all that apply) (Other (please specify))	Why do you visit play areas? (please select all that apply)	Is there anything you think could be improved, and how, in Three Rivers play areas?
	Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Large number of equipment, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends	Skatepark needs updating areas for different age groups, bmx pump tracks needed in Croxley and dirt bike jumps Toilets and drinking water facilities are crucial
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, After school / nursery / toddler groups	Keep equipment safe and well maintained on top of current work.
	Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order		Mental health and wellbeing	Tired areas Renewed or kept looking new
	Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, To meet with family and friends	I think they are generally quite dated and average, investment and imagination could make them an even more valuable asset to the community.
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Inclusive e.g. equipment, easy to navigate the site , Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing	Don't ban over 11s from play areas - some still like to play and we should be encouraging that for as long as possible.
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Tactile play e.g. sand, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home, Natural features e.g. planting, bug hotels, Large number of equipment, Opportunities for risky play, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches	Beauty of the area, other things to do as well as play equipment.	Child/ren love going, To meet with family and friends, For a day out	It is excellent, but I think you might consider adding a truly terrifying swing over the gravel pit halfway up the woods covering the steep middle of Oxhey Fields with a metal chain rather than rope, so vandals can't burn it.

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	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Inclusive e.g. equipment, easy to navigate the site , Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Natural features e.g. planting, bug hotels, Large number of equipment, Opportunities for risky play, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches	Cycling opportunities such as pump tracks.	Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, After school / nursery / toddler groups	Considering having a pump track in the area for cycling. For example the one at Cottonmill is so very popular.
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home, Large number of equipment, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends	Facilities would be useful in Barton Way. No toilets nearby for very small bladders!
	Equipment for a variety of ages, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home, Large number of equipment, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, To meet with family and friends	More benches Toilets but sadly these probably wouldn't be maintained or would be vandalised
	Variety of types of equipment, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Large number of equipment		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, After school / nursery / toddler groups	Barton way could do with an older kids swing
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home, Natural features e.g. planting, bug hotels, Opportunities for risky play, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, Whilst waiting for / after another local activity	Fixing equipment promptly when broken. No dog poo. Litter free. Shady areas for summer. Nearby toilets so longer time can be spent at the park.
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing	More robust equipment that doesn't b

What is the most important thing to you when visiting a play area? (Other (please specify))	What else is important to you when visiting a play area (please select all that apply)	What else is important to you when visiting a play area (please select all that apply) (Other (please specify))	Why do you visit play areas? (please select all that apply)	Is there anything you think could be improved, and how, in Three Rivers play areas?
	Equipment for a variety of ages, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, For a day out, After school / nursery / toddler groups	Easier way to report improvements that are needed.
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Inclusive e.g. equipment, easy to navigate the site , Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Natural features e.g. planting, bug hotels, Opportunities for risky play, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches	Physical challenges - particularly upper body. Love zip line	Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, For a day out	Parking, I believe it should be free and easy to access to accommodate all and encourage people to use a range of parks. It's difficult for people who have young ones to use public transportation as you need to bring so much kids stuff with you
	Equipment for a variety of ages, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home, Natural features e.g. planting, bug hotels, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends	More public toilet access. Barton Way needs more seating.
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Clean and tidy, Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, To meet with family and friends	N/a
	Variety of types of equipment, Tactile play e.g. sand, Inclusive e.g. equipment, easy to navigate the site , Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Natural features e.g. planting, bug hotels, Large number of equipment, Opportunities for risky play		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing	We have some of the best play areas around, excellent variety. A more relaxed attitude to dogs in some areas as we often walk the dog and play. In horses field we cannot take the dog as she cannot see us. Most people are reasonable dog walkers and so having your dog in some areas would make life easier.
	Equipment for a variety of ages, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home, Large number of equipment, Opportunities for risky play, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, For a day out, Whilst waiting for / after another local activity	Already said

What is the most important thing to you when visiting a play area? (Other (please specify))	What else is important to you when visiting a play area (please select all that apply)	What else is important to you when visiting a play area (please select all that apply) (Other (please specify))	Why do you visit play areas? (please select all that apply)	Is there anything you think could be improved, and how, in Three Rivers play areas?
	Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, After school / nursery / toddler groups	Better upkeep and replacement of equipment. A lot is starting to become old / not working and not being replaced.
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Tactile play e.g. sand, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home, Opportunities for risky play, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, For a day out	Our local park near Ashridge Drive, South Oxhey is not well maintained. It will be a great asset to the area if the equipment and the wooden features are sorted and looked after. Gets easily water logged during rain so need to improve the draining of water etc
	Variety of types of equipment, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Large number of equipment, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Exercise for child/ren, To meet with family and friends, For a day out	More activities for over 12+ years More toilet facilities More seating for adults and children
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Large number of equipment, Opportunities for risky play		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, Whilst waiting for / after another local activity	More swings , every single playground I see have minimal swings but years ago we had loads of swings. Why were they all removed ???
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Large number of equipment		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, To meet with family and friends, For a day out	Litter was bad in summer months. Including glass bottles. More toddler friendly equipment or smaller climb on equipment
	Variety of types of equipment, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home, Natural features e.g. planting, bug hotels, Large number of equipment		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, To meet with family and friends	We love harwoods adventurous playground as it caters for my older (10 year old) child, who is now a bit old for the three rivers playgrounds. More play areas for pre teens and teens would be great.

What is the most important thing to you when visiting a play area? (Other (please specify))	What else is important to you when visiting a play area (please select all that apply)	What else is important to you when visiting a play area (please select all that apply) (Other (please specify))	Why do you visit play areas? (please select all that apply)	Is there anything you think could be improved, and how, in Three Rivers play areas?
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Tactile play e.g. sand, Inclusive e.g. equipment, easy to navigate the site , Clean and tidy, Natural features e.g. planting, bug hotels, Large number of equipment, Opportunities for risky play, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		To meet with family and friends	Regular checks and updates.
	Variety of types of equipment, Tactile play e.g. sand, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, After school / nursery / toddler groups	The play area at the King George 5th in Mill End is very low on sand. It'd be awesome to have some new sand!
		toilets nearby!	Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends	shelter from the rain for the adults and plenty of seating
	Variety of types of equipment, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order		Exercise for child/ren, To meet with family and friends	More climbing opportunities for older children
	Equipment for a variety of ages, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home, Large number of equipment, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, To meet with family and friends	Keep up with the up keep as they are looking a bit rundown
	Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order		Child/ren love going	Toilets nearby
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren	More for younger kids. Coffee/tea nearby
	Equipment for a variety of ages, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going	Leavesden CP gets very muddy needs more/better seating

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	Variety of types of equipment, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, For a day out, Whilst waiting for / after another local activity, After school / nursery / toddler groups	Slightly safer grounds. Not all of them have soft landing areas around large climbing frames.
	Variety of types of equipment, Clean and tidy, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home, Natural features e.g. planting, bug hotels, Large number of equipment, Opportunities for risky play, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, After school / nursery / toddler groups	More variety!
	Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home		Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends	Most playgrounds only have 2 swings for under 3 years
	Clean and tidy		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, For a day out, After school / nursery / toddler groups	Clean and tidy
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Clean and tidy, Natural features e.g. planting, bug hotels, Large number of equipment, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren	Need greater variety of installations and equipment installed needs to be more durable
	Variety of types of equipment, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home		Child/ren love going, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, For a day out, After school / nursery / toddler groups	More baby/toddler age appropriate equipment. A lot of play equipment tends to be high up and inaccessible for a small toddler . Sometimes there are only swings that are age appropriate
	Inclusive e.g. equipment, easy to navigate the site		Mental health and wellbeing, For a day out	Please have a look at fair play Barnet it has been on the news we know special needs parents who travel over an hour to go there. Leavesden country park is my closest park and I have two smaller play area in south way neither of which have any accessible equipment at all

What is the most important thing to you when visiting a play area? (Other (please specify))	What else is important to you when visiting a play area (please select all that apply)	What else is important to you when visiting a play area (please select all that apply) (Other (please specify))	Why do you visit play areas? (please select all that apply)	Is there anything you think could be improved, and how, in Three Rivers play areas?
	Variety of types of equipment, Clean and tidy, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Whilst waiting for / after another local activity	The slides at the cricket ground in Abbots are useless, literally cannot get down them.
	Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, For a day out	More variety for different ages
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, To meet with family and friends, For a day out, Whilst waiting for / after another local activity, After school / nursery / toddler groups	More varied equipment in playground
	Variety of types of equipment, Tactile play e.g. sand, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing	Leavesden country park is the worst play area, no swings for older children, it's small, the bins situated right by the gate so during summer it's full of wasps right by the entrance, it could be bigger and the cafe is overly expensive!
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Large number of equipment, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, After school / nursery / toddler groups	Parking at the new skate park near b&q
Equipment suitable for SEN children and disabilities	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Inclusive e.g. equipment, easy to navigate the site , Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Large number of equipment	Equipment suitable for SEN children and disabilities	Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing	Equipment suitable for SEN children and disabilities. This is so desperately needed (for all ages)
	Variety of types of equipment, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren	More learning activities such as puzzles, facts and games.
Parking is available	Equipment for a variety of ages, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets		Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, For a day out	Play areas which are suitable for children who don't walk so they can also participate

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	Equipment for a variety of ages, Tactile play e.g. sand, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets		Child/ren love going, For a day out, After school / nursery / toddler groups	More swings in parks for both babies and older children. Access to toilets is very important.
	Equipment for a variety of ages, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Opportunities for risky play		Child/ren love going, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, For a day out	Better play areas- less wooden and more colour and interactive
	Tactile play e.g. sand, Inclusive e.g. equipment, easy to navigate the site , Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home, Natural features e.g. planting, bug hotels, Opportunities for risky play, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, For a day out, After school / nursery / toddler groups	Sport fitness equipment next to play areas so parents could also do some exercises while children are playing. Climbing walls and facilities. More areas for teenagers
	Tactile play e.g. sand, Inclusive e.g. equipment, easy to navigate the site , Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order		Child/ren love going, For a day out, After school / nursery / toddler groups	Yes all playgrounds we visit are all in need of repair or updating. Some play equipment has been chained up for 2 years
	Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Natural features e.g. planting, bug hotels, Opportunities for risky play, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends	Provision appears to be for under 12's. Could there be an investigation into creating bigger more risky, challenging areas that would appeal to early teens? Climbing, abseiling etc? Teens need to expend energy and step out of their comfort zones. A couple of acres with some trees could work with a bit of foresight and motivation.
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Opportunities for risky play, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, For a day out, After school / nursery / toddler groups	Create a new one on the patch of green near field way/tesco
	Equipment for a variety of ages, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order		Exercise for child/ren, To meet with family and friends	Playgrounds that challenge older children, i.e. 6 plus. These kids still love to play but get overlooked by toddler zones

What is the most important thing to you when visiting a play area? (Other (please specify))	What else is important to you when visiting a play area (please select all that apply)	What else is important to you when visiting a play area (please select all that apply) (Other (please specify))	Why do you visit play areas? (please select all that apply)	Is there anything you think could be improved, and how, in Three Rivers play areas?
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Inclusive e.g. equipment, easy to navigate the site , Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Large number of equipment		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing	Ebury play area needs some sort of coverage from the very busy road with cars. An obscure fence / foliage around .. would help children feel like they're not playing in the road
	Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Natural features e.g. planting, bug hotels, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends	MAINTENANCE on equipment, paths, facilities.
Use of an Astro Turf pitch.		Just the use of an Astro Turf pitch.	Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing	Provision of Astro Turf pitches. These are ideal for youngsters to paly football and are very safe should they fall over.
	Variety of types of equipment, Tactile play e.g. sand, Inclusive e.g. equipment, easy to navigate the site , Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home, Large number of equipment, Opportunities for risky play, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, For a day out	More seating More cafes, we would love one in the south oxhey playing fields at Hayling Road, the big pub isn't in use and it's such a shame it hasn't been turned into a big cafe or restaurant, you'd make so much money and have tons of visitors
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Inclusive e.g. equipment, easy to navigate the site , Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Large number of equipment, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, For a day out	Making sure it's safe and open where the children can be seen by parents at all times

What is the most important thing to you when visiting a play area? (Other (please specify))	What else is important to you when visiting a play area (please select all that apply)	What else is important to you when visiting a play area (please select all that apply) (Other (please specify))	Why do you visit play areas? (please select all that apply)	Is there anything you think could be improved, and how, in Three Rivers play areas?
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Large number of equipment, Opportunities for risky play, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, To meet with family and friends, For a day out, After school / nursery / toddler groups	Leavesden Park needs older equipment and larger space please. Hayling road is often vandalised and with broken parts ALL parks need more seating/tables for adults visiting
	Equipment for a variety of ages, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home, Natural features e.g. planting, bug hotels, Large number of equipment		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, For a day out	Please keep green parks green and clean and more CCTV 🙏
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Tactile play e.g. sand, Inclusive e.g. equipment, easy to navigate the site , Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Opportunities for risky play, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, After school / nursery / toddler groups	Flooring consideration for those children who are in specialist buggies/ wheelchairs so that all areas can be accessed. Specialist equipment is located next to other equipment so that all the family can play together. Equipment for those who need to stay in their specialist seating for correct support. Low level equipment
	Variety of types of equipment, Clean and tidy		Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing	Better maintenance, be cleaner and free from glass and dog mess
	Variety of types of equipment, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Natural features e.g. planting, bug hotels, Large number of equipment, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, To meet with family and friends, For a day out	Ensuring nearby toilet facilities are available and open. The Manor Park toilet was closed all summer "due to vandalism", but just closing them doesn't solve the problem; it just creates another problem. Having no toilets near a children's play area is significant issue. Facilities in the village are too far away and in any case are closed for more time than they're open.
	Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home, Large number of equipment		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing	Enclosing play areas so they can not be accessed at night. Constant cleaning and maintenance is needed from people misusing after hours which will continue to happen until investment is made to make them lockable

What is the most important thing to you when visiting a play area? (Other (please specify))	What else is important to you when visiting a play area (please select all that apply)	What else is important to you when visiting a play area (please select all that apply) (Other (please specify))	Why do you visit play areas? (please select all that apply)	Is there anything you think could be improved, and how, in Three Rivers play areas?
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Tactile play e.g. sand, Clean and tidy, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Opportunities for risky play, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, For a day out	More seating for parents would be nice. Play sand needs refilling more regularly. Add the puzzle spinner points, or those ones you speak into and hear the other side. Mine also love the little spinning egg chair things
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Large number of equipment, Opportunities for risky play, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, To meet with family and friends	More in south oxhey
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Large number of equipment, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, For a day out, After school / nursery / toddler groups	Regular maintenance of the play areas including how to easily report faults.
	Variety of types of equipment, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Large number of equipment, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends	Perhaps more seating for adults in the park
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Tactile play e.g. sand, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home, Large number of equipment, Opportunities for risky play		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, After school / nursery / toddler groups	Toilet facilities
	Equipment for a variety of ages, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Proximity to other facilities e.g. parking, café, toilets , Play space located within 10 minutes walking distance of home, Large number of equipment, Areas for seating e.g. benches and picnic benches		Child/ren love going, Exercise for child/ren, Mental health and wellbeing, To meet with family and friends, For a day out, Whilst waiting for / after another local activity, After school / nursery / toddler groups	Signs to tell older children not to hog up area in groups as this can feel uncomfortable for parents and children. Keep dogs outside children play area
	Variety of types of equipment, Equipment for a variety of ages, Clean and tidy, Well looked after i.e. all equipment in working order, Opportunities for risky play		Child/ren love going	There are not enough risky play areas for children 9 to 12 at Ebury play area (New Plan) Ebury play area cannot be described as a NEAP it does not have the space or activity types to meet the definition.

Please provide further information on why it's important to you and where you live that there are high quality play spaces located nearby?	Which facilities do you use? (please select all that apply)	Please provide your comments	Please provide information on why you agree with the principles	Please provide information on why you do not agree with the principles
Physical activity and outdoor play is so important to keep children of all ages physically fit and plays an important role in reducing childhood obesity and related problems. Also mental stimulation and learn new things. Also important for mental and physical well being of parents/ grandparents and carers.	Café	There are no local shops or cafe around play areas that I use in Oxhey hall and Eastbury.. But i use them in cassiobury park and london. Local cafe is always useful specially if clean.	The principles are agreeable to me as they would benefit largely children of all ages and also Providence physical and mental stimulation to carers.	
Young family, open spaces for safe cycling and play.	Café, Restaurant, toilets	This is vital for travelling to play areas with young children.	Broadly in line with my own requirements.	
The Astro Turf pitches are needed for youngsters to be able to train and play football. This also provides a more safer environment should falls and tumbles occur.		My grandchildren prefer to be able to play football in a safe environment.		They are too vague, more detail is needed.
Na	Café, Restaurant, Shops, Pub	Na	Na	
Millendbaptist.org.uk need new sofas and chairs toys and books for children breakfast money.foodbank	Café, Restaurant, Shops, Pub	We need every one to make a loving community mindfulness respect.	Yes more police on streets and combat drugs	
.	Café, Restaurant, Shops, Pub	.	.	

Please provide further information on why it's important to you and where you live that there are high quality play spaces located nearby?	Which facilities do you use? (please select all that apply)	Please provide your comments	Please provide information on why you agree with the principles	Please provide information on why you do not agree with the principles
Na	Café, Shops	Coffee while kids play	Na	
Really important to have a playground close by that residents can walk to 10-15 minute walk	Café	Toilets	...	
No where nice in south oxhey at all	Café	Lovely cafe in Leavesden country park always busy and well used	Can't find them to read	
Way to get kids out for a walk	Basketball court, tennis courts, field	Good to have other sports equipment next to playground	Sensible	
the children need the exercise	Café	we're so lucky in leavesden country park to have the ymca run Woodlands cafe. its wonderful	they make sense	
It's important for children well being to have safe place to play meet other children teach social skills. Imaginary play. Exercise and for some disabled children the swings have a calming effect. In close parks safe from dog poo so they can roll about in the grass.		If in Aquadrome we just enjoy the environment we're walking through feeding the ducks to the park the café for me is too expensive so I'll bring my own snacks and food. We bring our own drinks Ect mit have odd treat buy ice cream	Each area should have say what's needed in play area as they are ones that will use it Children need freedom to explore imaginary play for pretend camps to be what ever they want mine call it police office or house shop Like climbing logs Your Developing all kinds of skills and the brain players are so important for development	
Essential for children's health and wellbeing.	Café	Nice to have cafe for drinks and or lunch and snacks for me and the children.	Common sense	
Parks are free and mean we can always afford to go. I hate having to drive to a park as it means finding parking (the swillet is a great park but parking is impossible) my brother who we visit lives near goral mead and the play area is poor and tiny - they have improved it but I feel that in areas where kids are in flats and areas where families are less likely to have money good quality parks are important	Café, Shops	Leavsdon country park has a reasonably priced cafe we use it alot. the aquadrome cafe is too expensive so we avoid. it is frustrating when we go and kids are wanting snacks/ ice creams because the cost is too much	I am a huge believer in play supporting children's development and i feel parks should be created with locals input. It is foolish to make parks that need constant upkeep and repairs.	

Please provide further information on why it's important to you and where you live that there are high quality play spaces located nearby?	Which facilities do you use? (please select all that apply)	Please provide your comments	Please provide information on why you agree with the principles	Please provide information on why you do not agree with the principles
I love living near a park and open place. I go there most days	Café	I regularly go to the ymca cafe in leaveaden park, fantastic cafe and good space	Every child needs space to be active and enjoy play in a safe environment	
Children need to have accessible outdoor play areas especially for those who may not have large outdoor space at home.	Café, Restaurant, toilets	More child friendly facilities would be good.	All four principles are equally as important.	
Easy to use and visit if they are nearby	Café, Shops	Cafe, shops and parking are key - as well as a picnic area	Focuses on good quality play spaces for all	
The mental impact of not having play spaces is unimaginable	Café, Shops	Aquadrome also has water skiing and sailing great to have other things to do for all ages	Access to play	
Sand pits with raised wooden shelves like at the swillett are great. The Aquadrome needs a re do. More natural wood climbing would be nice near the cafe at the Aquadrome as dog free areas are desirable for little ones to safely play	Café, toilets, car park	Toilets at the Aquadrome could do with baby changing area	Sorry my boy has woken from his nap, I need to finish up	
Children benefit to play outside	Café, Restaurant, Shops, Pub	Toilets	Communities are the people that benefit the most and they need to be considered	
Very important	Café, toilets	Toilets	Makes sense	
For exercise for children. Mental health and wellbeing. Outside in nature. Off of technology.	Café, Shops	Drinks and snack breaks for the kids. coffee for grown ups	Children need access to.the outdoors	

Please provide further information on why it's important to you and where you live that there are high quality play spaces located nearby?	Which facilities do you use? (please select all that apply)	Please provide your comments	Please provide information on why you agree with the principles	Please provide information on why you do not agree with the principles
Need to be able to walk to play areas and not rely on car		Rarely use other facilities. Take everything we need with us.		
Outdoor areas such as Leavesden Country Park have honestly saved my mental health. Entertaining children is so expensive these days and having access to free, safe, outdoor spaces is invaluable. Like many people I don't have a garden so going to the park for picnics etc is very important to me and in the summer we go almost daily for many hours.	Café, Restaurant, Shops	We regularly pop into the cafe for ice creams, coffee and snacks.		
Easy when no car. Nice to walk to.	Café, Restaurant	Love grabbing a takeaway coffee to have when it's cold.	Sounds great	
Address mud/rain, flooding in leavesden park	Café	Cafe	Na	
Keep children healthy and active		There isn't any		Never sustained
I like the fact that Croxley has a skate park but it would be good to see other equipment which encourages teenager to still play and exercise. I like the parks in Croxley and consider us as lucky to have such lovely green space. Thank you to those in Three Rivers that look after the spaces.	Café	If there is a cafe I will pop to it. I think a tuck shop would be an idea for teenagers.	The principles represents what I think we all for want for young people to develop physically and mental in their local area.	
NA	Café	NA	NA	
Children still get to go out and play and exercise but we are close to home to still be able to juggle chorse	Café	Coffee and an ice cream	Just do	

Please provide further information on why it's important to you and where you live that there are high quality play spaces located nearby?	Which facilities do you use? (please select all that apply)	Please provide your comments	Please provide information on why you agree with the principles	Please provide information on why you do not agree with the principles
For me and many of my friends with kids, play parks are probably the most important facility to us! I think we are lucky with the parks we have but keeping them clean and safe makes a huge difference to many of us!	Café, Shops, toilets	As above	N/a	
na	Café	na	na	
Reduce the need to drive, provides reasons to walk, as kids get to later primary years they could have freedom to walk themselves if nearby	Café, toilets	Good to get a drink/snack or lunch and to have a toilet nearby		Disagree with 4 - good play spaces within walking distance cuts down car travel and is therefore more sustainable
Safe and clean areas for children to play	Café	Toilets	All above are important	
It's really important to be able to have play areas nearby to home because not everyone is able to drive. It's good to be able to walk to play areas so that children learn about road safety as well as exercising to get to the park.	Café	It is nice to visit a cafe if there is one at the play area. I feel as an adult it makes me want to stay for longer at the park which is beneficial to the children.		

Please provide further information on why it's important to you and where you live that there are high quality play spaces located nearby?	Which facilities do you use? (please select all that apply)	Please provide your comments	Please provide information on why you agree with the principles	Please provide information on why you do not agree with the principles
Young children will be healthier if they are active	Café	I don't want loads near playground for adults otherwise people will leave their kids unattended.	Children need high quality play equipment to exercise and for their wellbeing. they spend a lot of time on screens and indoors so need space to build their body strength	
Great to get the kids out	Café, Restaurant, Shops	Can make a day out of it	Good idea	
We like to be able to walk/ride to local parks after school or at very short notice if the kids need a run around so having these near us is really important. It also acts as a lovely place to meet friends and allows my children to foster friendships.	Café	If there is cafes nearby we often go and get a drink or a snack.	It's important that children are able to play inclusively with others and be able to use the spaces imaginatively.	
Overall wellbeing	Café	Local cafe and meeting space	Neighbourhood watch integration will be useful strategy	
its good for children to be out in the fresh air but they have to be challenged with play	Shops	normally to buy drink/snacks/ice cream	it would be great for the community to put forward ideas as to what they would like	
For the mental health and well being of my children	Café, toilets	Na	Na	
So can walk and don't have to use car	Café	Toilets and affordable cafe	So important for kids to have the opportunity to play and explore in a safe space	
Toilets are important to us as can be tricky if you get caught short with the children. The toilet in Manor House is great but could do with staying open longer in the summer months		Other than the toilet we don't tend to use other facilities.		

Please provide further information on why it's important to you and where you live that there are high quality play spaces located nearby?	Which facilities do you use? (please select all that apply)	Please provide your comments	Please provide information on why you agree with the principles	Please provide information on why you do not agree with the principles
Yes it is important as I like to take my grandchildren out to a park for fresh air and fun but sadly our local one is not good		Nothing else to use	Of course as there is nothing local in carpenders for children to do	
Yes, helps gets the kids outside		Depends	They are good principles	
I think access to good quality free play equipment is incredibly important not just for children and their ability to play but also for their adults to have time and space to join in.	Café	You can't beat a good coffee or tea while they play	Natural play is one of the most important aspects	
Because some of an access to there parks isn't safe. I would never let my kids go alone. That doesn't mean I want more CCTV cameras. Even Manor House has a police station nearby, the park still requires CCTV! Just shows that the police don't monitor accordingly..		They are most likely locked or private!		If I don't know about these play spaces, then my kids won't know about these spaces. Should be reaching out to resources like schools to get a better footing! That way the right local people make the choices they actual desire! Not rocket science..
The area has been developed but the old facilities remain	Café, Restaurant, Shops, Pub	No	High quality would be good	
N/a	Café, Restaurant, Shops	N/a	N/A	
Easier to access		Not always	They're important	

Please provide further information on why it's important to you and where you live that there are high quality play spaces located nearby?	Which facilities do you use? (please select all that apply)	Please provide your comments	Please provide information on why you agree with the principles	Please provide information on why you do not agree with the principles
It's good for us to be able to walk to play areas and we're lucky that there are a few close by	Café	Nice to be able to enjoy a coffee or a snack	They seem sensible	
<p>If you don't live close to a nice clean functioning park with Toilets. Then you have to drive which is bad for the environment.</p> <p>If you could walk most people would walk</p>	Café, Restaurant, Shops	<p>When going to park, snacks and ice cream are key. With nice toilet facilities located</p> <p>Also it feels good pumping money back into local community</p>	<p>All Children need access to open space and playgrounds. Especially with the amount of families not having gardens. This also means children having less screen time as this options are open to everyone.</p> <p>I disagree with the financial element, as I understand that everything costs money. It is how you allocate that money is the issue. Putting it into parks is great for the people of the local and surrounding areas</p>	
Getting outside in nature is really important to us	Café	We usually get a hot drink	It's important for children to access to safe play environments	
Of course this is important. Everyone wants a nice play area for their kids to play. Not everyone drives and not everyone wants to be far away from home. A nice play area really represents the area it's within.	Café, Restaurant	We visit Rickmansworth aquadrome and we love a walk around the lake, a play in the park and some food in the cafe to finish.	I agree with the principles but think you need to be more clear on what you mean by high quality playful areas. Some of the parks in South Oxhey (Ann Shaw and Lincoln Drive) are so basic that we don't ever consider going there. When a play area has two or three things to play on the best you get is 5 minutes of play. For an 8 year old this is no good. It's better to invest into the bigger better parks updating those facilities and keeping equipment maintained rather than a space called 'a play area' that has little to no equipment.	

Please provide further information on why it's important to you and where you live that there are high quality play spaces located nearby?	Which facilities do you use? (please select all that apply)	Please provide your comments	Please provide information on why you agree with the principles	Please provide information on why you do not agree with the principles
Need things I've said to get teens away from obesity and staying indoors gaming and mental health	Café, Shops	Look for providing things for teens like bmx and dirt jumps Toilets and drinking water.... not all can afford to buy drinks at shops it's heartbreaking	Kids need a say in what they want	
Easy to work too with children as encourages outdoor play.	Café, toilets	Toilets are needed for children.	Considers well being of children and their parents/carers	
We are on a limited budget and fresh air is import at to mental health so free parks are where we spend most our time and if the parks are not well kept it's very disheartening	Café	As a park visit is a main treat we may buy a treat for the kids if there is a cafe	Think most children all like the same equipment	
It's great to be able to walk to a playground and let kids run free and blow off some steam! For those playgrounds to be safe clean and of a high standard is important.	Café, Shops	A cafe near a playground is good. But not essential for me.	They seem a solid place to start.	
They give us somewhere to go to get out of the house for an hour or so even in winter - the woods often get too boggy to go there in winter so having somewhere with suitable surfaces is useful	Shops	If we need something we will pop into one of the shops near the park	They all sound sensible	
Children need play spaces.	Café	Resources in Three Rivers are excellent.		Sometimes the public make awful choices!

Please provide further information on why it's important to you and where you live that there are high quality play spaces located nearby?	Which facilities do you use? (please select all that apply)	Please provide your comments	Please provide information on why you agree with the principles	Please provide information on why you do not agree with the principles
<p>Considering having a pump track in the area for cycling. For example the one at Cottonmill is so very popular.</p> <p>Play areas are central for physical and mental wellbeing.</p>	Café, Restaurant, Shops	Considering having a pump track in the area for cycling. For example the one at Cottonmill is so very popular.	Just agree.	
I don't drive, having something close by is crucial for us.	Café, Shops	Tend to tie in visit with a pop to the shops and library. Might treat myself to a coffee to take to the play area.	Thinks about the children while including the community.	
N/a	Café, Shops	N/a	Na	
Yes	Café	Part of a day out	Local parks	
To promote car free, local parks are important.	Café, Restaurant, Shops, Pub, library	Neglected play areas really detract from an area, Good clean play areas are great places to meet new people and build community connections.		Spending only on the most popular could leave smaller sites to fall into disrepair. A rota should be used to refresh each site in turn. With a dense population in the area, resources need to be spread out to avoid overcrowding.
Ideally within walking distance.	toilets	Nearby toilets (or well.placed bushes) are essential during potty training.		No need to waste resources on co-design - just build and maintain existing sites efficiently. Stop replacing robust long term items with rubbish new ones that break. If the council has too much money - then please reduce our council tax.

Please provide further information on why it's important to you and where you live that there are high quality play spaces located nearby?	Which facilities do you use? (please select all that apply)	Please provide your comments	Please provide information on why you agree with the principles	Please provide information on why you do not agree with the principles
Better for children to have a local play park.	Café	Normally head up to the cafe or highstreet to grab something.	All help to contribute to children's well being.	
I don't mind if they are far away, it's just as long as they have parking available	Café	Parents, particularly new parents, should have access to toilets in the cafe's nearby. As well as providing a place to eat and get a hot drink for parents too.	Keeping the places to a safe and high standard is imperative for physical health and safety. Many children don't 'play out' and have the opportunity to exercise their bodies safely in their own home for a variety of reasons.	
Na	Café, Restaurant, Shops, Pub	Parking is important. As is shade. If there is a cafe it means we are likely to stay much longer.	Na	
Invaluable place to take my child to play and meet friends, helps get us out of the house and nice to have these facilities in easy walking distance	library	Good to have play area close to the library (or on our walking route) so we can add a visit	Seems like a sensible balance between cost of provision while also aiming for high quality spaces, and also considering needs/wants of users in build	
Exercise has never been so important to kids. Education makes them sit down, they have devices and tv and mental health issues at an all time high and getting issues in younger kids. A play ground is free, creates social cohesion for a community, builds core strength, encourages appropriate risk taking and gets you outside. They are essential for our kids especially if people don't have gardens.	Café	Having something for everyone in a play space makes it enjoyable for all. It might be a seat, toilet facilities, cafe, dog walking space, outdoor gym for adults to use.	Good balance	
Yes	Shops, Skate park, parkour, table tennis, tennis courts, football pitches,	Lots of variety for when kids get bored of one		Well used sites are used more because the other smaller ones aren't up to standard, with equipment broken or taken away due to lack of maintenance. We are lucky to have amazing countryside and woodland, these should be used for natural play and play areas should be for more adventurous play like they used to be with slides, zip wires, climbing frames, see-saws etc.

Please provide further information on why it's important to you and where you live that there are high quality play spaces located nearby?	Which facilities do you use? (please select all that apply)	Please provide your comments	Please provide information on why you agree with the principles	Please provide information on why you do not agree with the principles
X	Café, Shops	X	X	
None	Café, Shops	Local shops and eating areas	do	
More Avila Lori more time will be spent	Café, Restaurant, Shops, Pub	Na	It's right that all children should be able to access free, clean, accessible facilities within the community!	
Play parks should be for everyone. Can we stop putting tiny versions of equipment in these parks. Why a tiny roundabout for 4 kids why not a roundabout for 10 kids. Why a trampoline for 1 kid, why not enough for 2 or 4 . Put swings back, the normal swings not alternatives.	Café, toilets	Put normal swings back. So 10 friends can sit together on the swings .	Things will only happen when there is a tonne of extra money that needs spending.	
The parks closest to our home act as a general meeting point for friends. As its a well used area for me, i want it to be a nice experience.		Not a lot else in the area around Barton way. For example cassiobury park (in summer) has option of water park, a frequent running train line, 2 different play grounds, rides, bouncy castles, cafes, walking and picnic spaces. Much more choice than Barton way!	Like that locals can input	
It would be lovely to have a playground with a cafe near croxley	Café, Shops	Very useful to have a cafe for snacks and toilet facilities	I agree with them. I also think environmental sustainability is key.	

Please provide further information on why it's important to you and where you live that there are high quality play spaces located nearby?	Which facilities do you use? (please select all that apply)	Please provide your comments	Please provide information on why you agree with the principles	Please provide information on why you do not agree with the principles
Not all families have outdoor space/gardens.	Café	Sometimes make use of the cafe.	Covering the basics.	
It's important I can be there on foot or via bike. It's good to travel less in the car and have as much time as possible out to play! I also have a good size garden but not good enough for football playing. I like to take the ball out with the kids and have a kick about so I don't annoy my neighbors too much!	Café, Shops	It's good to walk via local shops and enjoy what they have to offer!!!	Has to be right, worth the money spent and last a long time!!	
we have young kids	Café	the Primrose Hill park could use some more facilities, using that dilapidated building?	they are sensible	
Help burn off energy	Café	We would definitely use a cafe in Barton Way Park	Good to get community engagement	
N/a	Café	Woodlands cafe is brilliant		None are maintained well. Some need improvements
I live in a flat so it's important for my child to get outdoor time and play	Café, Shops, Pub	We like leavsdn country park because of the cafe there as well	I believe all children should have access to outdoor play.	
Important for kids development and a safe space for fresh air	Café, Restaurant, Shops	Would always get a coffee / snack if available		Should include close to local business / pop up coffee etc.
Easy to entertain our grandchildren close to home	Café, Pub	Close to The Swan and park cafe	They are good	

Please provide further information on why it's important to you and where you live that there are high quality play spaces located nearby?	Which facilities do you use? (please select all that apply)	Please provide your comments	Please provide information on why you agree with the principles	Please provide information on why you do not agree with the principles
Good outdoor activities for children.	Café, Shops	Lunch and toilet facilities	I agree with them	
Free play for my child!		X	I do	
For health & wellbeing	Café, Toilet / Baby change	More under 5 year equipment as mist parks packed with these age parents/grandparents	They are correct	
N		N	N	
All local children should have access to well equipped interesting play spaces that encourage outdoor play and stimulate the imagination		No		Not last one rest yes with respect to later one some spaces are less used simply because they are less well equipped and thus less interesting
Knowing they are safe to use and within walking distance	Café	Cafe at Leavsdn Country Park and the toilet	It's in line with my own thoughts and wants for local play areas	
As above	Café, Restaurant	We like to eat there and or get a coffee	As above	

Please provide further information on why it's important to you and where you live that there are high quality play spaces located nearby?	Which facilities do you use? (please select all that apply)	Please provide your comments	Please provide information on why you agree with the principles	Please provide information on why you do not agree with the principles
For the house prices we pay, it's important to feel like there's a looked after community, of which children are an integral part.	Café	Toilets too.	-	
	Café, Shops		Ensuring that slides etc are easily accessible eg making the steps easy to climb	
Its important to have somewhere close to home as it's easier to get the children out of the house when it's only a short walk and it makes it an easy activity to do just just fill time as well as getting exercise	Café, Restaurant	Having a cafe nearby is great for use of toilets and having somewhere to sit and have a drink/snack	High quality play areas are crucial to child development and they bring the community together	
All children need high quality safe play areas, it's good for them to play outside in a safe space where parents can see them clearly.	Café	Cafe is always great thing to have at the park, but they don't need to be extortionate!	Because those should be standard for any play area for children!	
Q	Café, Restaurant, Shops, Pub	Q	Q	
X	Café	X	Align with values and importance of play areas	
It is important for our children to have outdoor areas to play in, explore and socialise with other children. It is also good for adults mental health to be outdoors and away from TV screens.	Café	It's always a bonus to have a cafe nearby to grab a snack and drink, and we like to contribute to the local economy.	They are clear and make sense.	
Fresh air and exercise is very important for all children		Only use the parking if needed	They are important	

Please provide further information on why it's important to you and where you live that there are high quality play spaces located nearby?	Which facilities do you use? (please select all that apply)	Please provide your comments	Please provide information on why you agree with the principles	Please provide information on why you do not agree with the principles
We moved to our current address in Abbots Langley because it was close to 2 good parks and good schools.	Café, Restaurant, Shops, Pub, toilets	Toilets could have a wider opening hours schedule.	Sustainability is important. maintaining the environment is key.	
More interactive and interesting play equipment	Café	Cafe is important and toilets for kids	They are good	
Its important to get out for overall and mentally health and wellbeing	Café	It would be good to gave some community space with some activities for all family members	Reasonable costs especially in cost of living circumstances	
Please repair and update	Café	Please repair and update equipment	Yes agree	
Communities must encourage the youngsters to get out in the fresh air and have fun. Poor parenting skills in many vulnerable households result in children having no access to play areas as there's no adult to accompany them. Councils need to come up with ideas as to HOW to get kids to these areas .	Café, Toilet and hand washing / baby changing	More intelligence/ research put into demographic of the areas. For example the new Fearney Mead area seems to be for pre school motor skills development. Children in this area are mostly year 4 to 9. More challenging installations could have been built.	Play at all levels helps develop motor skills, general physical wellbeing social interaction, and mental health. Accessibility must be for all children. We must not forget the needs of all children under 18. They are still children at 16.	
Yes	Café	Role play areas would be a good addition		
Free outdoor activity		As aboce	Challenges	

Please provide further information on why it's important to you and where you live that there are high quality play spaces located nearby?	Which facilities do you use? (please select all that apply)	Please provide your comments	Please provide information on why you agree with the principles	Please provide information on why you do not agree with the principles
It's part of the community and that is why it needs to be kept up	Café	Cafe	N/A	
Having lead the environmental sustainability and parks for health team in central London councils, parks offer more than just play. From child physical and mental development to social inclusion and overall health and wellbeing - we need to do more in Three Rivers.	Café, Shops	The aquadrome and play area is a massive attraction to the locals and wider surrounding areas. If done right and with the right care, it can improve overall health aspects of any age group. It can also improve local economic opportunities.	It's also an opportunity to co create spaces for learning and educating for 3R wider sustainability strategy. Strategies seem to be disjointed in my opinion.	
There use to be two Astro Turf pitches on South Oxhey, which were very enjoyable for my grandchildren to play on, but now these have been taken away. The result is that children now kick a ball around on the streets which can cause damage and annoy neighbours.		Mainly visited these areas to use the Astro Turf pitches.		Does not include a variety of play areas e.g. Astro Turf pitches.
For our wellbeing and the kids I don't personally drive at the moment so ideally within walking distance	Café, Restaurant	There aren't enough cafes	Great plan	
There are not enough play equipment in the play area in Carpenders park		There are non in Carpenders park	Well you seen to have take all things into consideration	

Please provide further information on why it's important to you and where you live that there are high quality play spaces located nearby?	Which facilities do you use? (please select all that apply)	Please provide your comments	Please provide information on why you agree with the principles	Please provide information on why you do not agree with the principles
having a low income means parks are often our only source of exercise/ activity especially at weekends/ school holidays.	Café, Restaurant, toilets if clean	The play rangers are fab for middle age kids but by 10-13 they are difficult to engage. We need these lovely parks - could we have more events like watford council has such as summer fun days / easter egg hunts/ Inspire all events/ open air cinema and plays	Much needed resources	
Ok		..	Children deserve more	
Families need to be able to access free play spaces for all children regardless of their physical or nerodivergent needs. Play is a right for all children.	Café	Cafe areas need to be more accessible for those using specialist buggies/ wheelchairs.	Children and young people learn through playing	
Appears that very little investment is made into children playing areas	Café, Shops	It's nice to grab a coffee after, during outdoor activities	To these 4 principles would hopefully encourage people to get there kids out and mix with there community	
Being able to walk to a good quality play park with my kids is invaluable to helping us all get out and about, give us all exercise and help all of us with our mental health. I feel lucky to have really good play facilities nearby in both Manor Park and Leavesden Country Park. Having several places nearby also helps during school holidays to avoid boredom with the same place.	Café, Shops, Skate park, walks around the park. Car park for play areas not in walking distance.	Occasional use of nearby cafe. If near to shops, it can be useful to pop to get bits if needed, or to buy picnic food during the summer.		I agree with the first 3. The fourth sounds like play equipment in future is likely to be the cheap, plastic, standard stuff from a catalogue, rather than the high quality, wooden, crafted equipment currently in Leavesden and Manor parks. As stated above, I find it important to have a variety of good quality play parks to take my kids to and that these play parks offer different equipment to each other - this helps make visiting different parks much more fun.
Important for low cost way to get children active and socialising		NA	Agreed	

Please provide further information on why it's important to you and where you live that there are high quality play spaces located nearby?	Which facilities do you use? (please select all that apply)	Please provide your comments	Please provide information on why you agree with the principles	Please provide information on why you do not agree with the principles
Great as a point of interest to be able to add at the end of a walk, or as a place to drive to during the holidays.	Café, Restaurant, Pub	Love a playground that has parking. A cafe is a nice addition too. Toilets also super useful for little ones, washing hands etc	Love the idea of involving the communities in the decision making. Also agree with the fact the largest, most used sites should have the highest focus on spend - this is important.	
Yes for a large area there isn't much in south oxhey	Café, Shops	I like having facilities like the toilet and somewhere to eat	It is important for the children to have somewhere they can play	
Providing free use if play facilities is important for kids.	Café, Shops	Our local use of the stake part at Manor House Gardens, always involves a trip to the High Street and we end up spending money.	Provisions such as toilets and a place for parents to be comfortable. As long as parents can have access to coffee, and food, they will stay longer at these areas and improved life for all.	
In this day and age of technology, it is essential there are quality outside spaces available for children that are fun and inviting	Café	Nice to grab a coffee from the YMCA cafe or an ice cream in the summer		I agree with most of it, just depends on your interpretation of inclusive play?
No need for comment should not be mandatory field	Café, Restaurant, Shops	Toilets should be available	Because I do	
Clean and tidy with a variety of equipment for children to play as parents will be more inclined to take them.	Library	After baby rhyme time I would visit the park	It sounds considerate of community needs	
Most of the exciting natural green spaces are covered in Stinging Nettles and Brambles		There are no other facilities at Ebury	Children need space to let off steam. They also need a challenge. If they cannot cope with one type of equipment they need to do so by failure, not by being told they cannot This is inherent in their need to compete within them selves and sends them back to try again.	

What else should the Play Strategy consider?	Please provide information on why you agree with the 4 sites
Should consider facilities for elderly.	I think any site would be useful I would not use any of 4 sites personally
Cafe and bathroom facilities.	
<p>Access to play and train e.g. provision of Astro Turf pitches. There is no consultation so far on the closure of the Astro Turf pitch in Little Oxhey Lane. There needs to be a public consultation on this.</p>	
Na	Na
Safeguarding	<p>I agree thankyou for trying to help flowers also help</p> <p>There is no inculcated part for disabled and mental health people we have a walking group but we need a lot more active volunteers such as growing vegetables.</p>
.	.

<p>What else should the Play Strategy consider?</p>	<p>Please provide information on why you agree with the 4 sites</p>
<p>Na</p>	<p>In croxley</p>
<p>More trees or other solutions to provide shade!</p>	<p>Both Barton Way and the Aquadrome are popular playgrounds and well worth the investment. Assume the others have selected for the same reason</p>
<p>Safety More people would use if pleasant and well maintained</p>	<p>I use 3 of these sites regularly</p>
<p>More challenging options for older children and teenagers</p>	<p>Already popular with other activities close by</p>
<p>not sure</p>	<p>Leavesden County Park is very popular and will benefit from more regular upkeep and maintenance.</p>
<p>Make it safer for toddlers keep them in mind they use parks more then another children Do climbing frames with out more then one gap So we do not have panic attacks trying to stop them falling off it Otherwise it's more stressful</p>	<p>In highly Populated area people come out of the area to visit them they are big so cater for a large number and the surrounding area people enjoy as well</p>
<p>Clean and well maintained, dog free</p>	
<p>Bringing the community together-offering. community spaces- for groups to come to use- offering spaces for pop up events/ entrepreneurs / entertainers promoting inclusivity. Some parks use pec boards, sensory trails,</p>	<p>local and accessible for most but I do feel king george's in mill end should be a 5th addition as the aquadrome is quite far from mill end and maple cross.</p>

<p>What else should the Play Strategy consider?</p>	<p>Please provide information on why you agree with the 4 sites</p>
<p>Safety to ensure the play area and area around is safe for all ages.</p>	<p>They are all busy and well used with good facilities and access to the wider community</p>
<p>Ensuring the areas do not start to attract anti social behaviour. Ensuring the playground areas are complemented by appropriate facilities like toilets, parking, cafe.</p>	<p>Have only visited Ebury Play Area out of these 4 sites so cannot comment on if I agree or not. I do think Eastbury needs some attention.</p>
<p>Variety of play equipment, and long lasting</p>	<p>Large play areas with lots of use - spread throughout the district</p>
<p>not just wooden play equipment some things should be brightly coloured it stimulates the brain in a different way</p>	<p>Given the size of the district nad how important I think they are there should be more . But these are 4 key ones</p>
<p>I have pictures of other parks with great areas for toddlers, I would love to send over how other play parks have areas in age specific sections</p>	<p>They are busy parks</p>
<p>I'm happy with the 4 principles</p>	<p>I visit 3 out of 4 quite frequently</p>
<p>Facilities nearby eg toilets</p>	<p>One is close to home and well used</p>
<p>Maintenance costs</p>	<p>Barton way as its needs some updating. A very popular park. Needs to cater for all ages.</p>

What else should the Play Strategy consider?	Please provide information on why you agree with the 4 sites
	Barton way is local
Nothing	Country park is our local and where we go to nursery and we love it.
Na	Leavesden park is always busy, parking and bad weather proofed improved
For older children	
Work with schools (secondary especially) on how or what they would like for them to access the space more.	They are spread out so it's fair. The Aquadrome needs frequent upkeep and change because it is used by so many people. The others are central parks to their local areas.
NA	Na
Don't know	No

What else should the Play Strategy consider?	Please provide information on why you agree with the 4 sites
N/a	I'm glad leavesden is included
keep council tax down	
<p>Somewhere to accomodate family's with dogs - tying to a pole outside a large playground where anyone could steal them isn't relaxing. Choosing between standing outside with dog or going in with child leaves you guilt-ridden. Never benches outside/nearby where you can sit with dog but still observe child. Ways to learn whilst playing also would be good. Wendover woods sculpture play trail is great fun - look to great examples in other areas for how play equipment can be combined into nature and walks!</p>	<p>Ricky and Croxley - sites are near other local amenities/town centre. Leavesden country park is a lovely resource. Don't know hayling road.</p>
No consealed gates	Leavesden needs more of a mix for different ages

What else should the Play Strategy consider?	Please provide information on why you agree with the 4 sites
Safe ares for children to ride their bikes. Tracks with traffic lights etc like at the cycle hub on tolputs lane.	Because they cover playground in different areas that allow people in the whole area a chance to travel to.
Play areas for poor weather - covered areas etc	Most used
Nothing I can think of.	We visit 3 out of 4 of these sites frequently as they provide a wide range of equipment for kids of all ages and that would benefit the most children.
Safety instructions and accessible first aid	Abbots Langely
taking into account that these areas are easily accessible to groups to congregate at night	barton way definately needs an upgrade
Na	
Sensory play is vital	Abbot's Langley park is vital
	2 of them are ones that we use

<p>What else should the Play Strategy consider?</p>	<p>Please provide information on why you agree with the 4 sites</p>
<p>Swings, sides, plus more exciting equipment. Look at radstone park in brackley, it'smazing</p>	
<p>Shade from rain or sun.</p>	<p>To be honest I don't know the area well enough</p>
<p>Access to facilities such as toilets nearby and fresh drinking water.</p>	<p>Leavesden is incredibly popular and busy and probably needs more maintaining as a result</p>
<p>Reaching out to local supporters than lazy online surveys. Why do random adults have to make the decisions for our kids Play Strategy.</p>	
<p>Regular maintenance</p>	<p>They are the biggest</p>
<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>All ages and a dog friendly park</p>	<p>They're big sites and central Abbots Langley village park is also very busy</p>

<p>What else should the Play Strategy consider?</p>	<p>Please provide information on why you agree with the 4 sites</p>
<p>Could think about increasing the interaction with nature and making sure that the facilities are environmentally sustainable too</p>	<p>Seem sensible if they are well used</p>
<p>Every housing development that is being proposed should have a park allocated to it!</p> <p>If possible aswell - Toilets provided and changing facilities. If they are putting in a housing scheme this can easily be accommodated. Also this needs to be installed and opened before 20% of the site have moved in! If you don't stipulate this then they wont build it or leave it to last moment and it is poorly done.</p> <p>Example - Taylor Wimpey are looking to build in Leavesden. There is a mini park already established near. So they wont put a park in themselves but you could demand that they pay £100k towards the local park area Leavesden which will give you more money for the projects.</p>	<p>I agree with Leavesden as I live near there</p>
<p>Accessibility</p>	<p>We attend all Of those</p>
	<p>They are very busy areas in very busy public spaces. Hayling Road play area for example is in a lovely open space at the playing fields. Many people visit this space for various reasons other than just the park. It's a beautiful area with lots of potential. People don't want to visit areas like Lincoln drive park that is situated right in the middle of a residential street on a council estate!</p>

What else should the Play Strategy consider?	Please provide information on why you agree with the 4 sites
Seating areas	
Local amenities such as cafes and toilets	I live local to Leavesden
Not making the playground expensive just basic so there's money left to keep them maintained for a long time - kids don't want fancy they just need the basics	They are all very popular sites and very well used
Safety for younger children. I have been to oxhey adventure playground before and the fact that it is not fenced in, even in areas is tricky as my daughter is a runner!! It's hard to relax when it's busy.	Yes they seem well used. Upgrading sites such as Baldwins In or Cassio bridge might see them better used.
Equipment for a range of ages	
Look at other counties use of land. Work with what is already there. DO NOT PUT CONCRETE PATHS IN FIELDS AND SIMILAR SPACES.	Established, used.

What else should the Play Strategy consider?	Please provide information on why you agree with the 4 sites
Considering having a pump track in the area for cycling. For example the one at Cottonmill is so very popular.	They are well spread across the district.
Something for the parents! Whether it's seating or useful facilities nearby.	2 are ones we visit and they are in need of some TLC.
Na	
Environmentally Sustainable	High usage
Durability. Reasonably priced holiday camps to teach basics of how to use items like parkour/skate/scooter/table tennis/tennis/basketball.	
Longevity and not replacing for the sake of it.	

What else should the Play Strategy consider?	Please provide information on why you agree with the 4 sites
All weather facilities. Many of the designs used in Levesden Park for example can't be used when it has rained.	I live in Abbots Langley
Proprioceptive activities - it helps children to regulate their behaviour and self control. It helps with processing difficulties and sensory seeking disorders that benefit all children, and in turn parents too.	If they have been identified as the locations which have the highest usage, then they need to be prioritised.
The importance of safety.	They are very busy
That maintenance of spaces is also done to a high standard on ongoing basis (current proposal feels like it focuses on new provision, could be clearer this also includes maintenance)	Barton way is always busy when we visit, with families walking and driving to visit. Every way and meavesden feel sensible as the largest 'attractions' in the area
Should be designed by kids not just adults, always coproduce and kids should be surveyed as well.	Good geographical share
Equipment that is going to last and not rot so quickly.	

What else should the Play Strategy consider?	Please provide information on why you agree with the 4 sites
X	X
do	do
Activities/equipment /areas for older children 12+ as there is nothing available for this age range of children.	,
Play doesn't just stop when you turn 12/13 you need to supply play equipment/workout equipment or fitness trails for the older kids. What exactly do you think teens are going to do of there's no where for them to play	Baldwins Lane park fitness equipment was put in completely the wrong spot. Why right next the path. People don't use it. It should have been put at the back of the park so people who want to exercise arnt entertainment for others. A fitness trail would have been perfect around Croxley Green.
What do other good parks look like? Eg cassiobury park and the variety of activities it offers	Closed parks to me
Environmental impact and sustainability. A focus on teenagers as I think they are underserved by three rivers play areas currently	We visit three out of four of them regularly. We live in Croxley.

What else should the Play Strategy consider?	Please provide information on why you agree with the 4 sites
Well maintained.	It includes the area I use.
Ways the community can have access to tools or workshops to help keep the parks tidy!!! Maybe the occasional veg patch for a bit of fun!	Aquadrome is tired and needs some new equipment! Barton way is very popular and also getting tired! I don't know much about the other two! Mill End King George 5th needs some TLC as the sandpit has no sand left and the wooden slides and equipment is getting broken and rotten! Please come to this one soon!!!!
facilities nearby,, like toilets - kids always need to go!	spaced out within TRDC so many will benefit - LCP is very well used so needs constant managing
Older children to encourage outdoor play/activity as they grow.	They seem to be most used sites across the district
Ages of the children playing in them various equipment for different ages	Leavesden one is looking really rundown and is always busy
Toilets near by and picnic benches to eat on	They are big and popular sites
Having a cafe / pop up coffee shop would make people stay longer and generate income for local business	Good spread
Weather !	Because one is local

What else should the Play Strategy consider?	Please provide information on why you agree with the 4 sites
Safety Height No concrete tunnels	We use the aquadrome and Leavesden country park a lot.
Parents views!	
Security safety	Maintain all as required to avoid unnecessary car emissions & encourage walking
N	N
Involve local schools in design of parks	The ones I know are well used because they are better equipped and maintained you could spread load of other sites were more interesting and better laid out eg Baldwins lane it's a tediously boring poorly equipped space tucked into the back of the park
A variety of age appropriate equipment ie. More provision for babies/toddlers who are crawling or just walking so they can safely enjoy play equipment	I have visited both the Ebury site and the Leavsdn Country Park site and both areas are very popular and can become very busy and weekends and during hot weather and so regular maintenance is needed
As above	

What else should the Play Strategy consider?	Please provide information on why you agree with the 4 sites
	Good to have additional play spaces in Abbots.
Older children	
Nothing	They are areas with a lot of footfall and close by to other activities and community spaces making them ideal spaces to focus on
Maintenance for equipment, equipment will be checked/cleaned/fixed regularly.	
Teenagers	Leavesden country park is there and it's local to us and I would like to see it stay at the same standard
Equipment suitable for SEN children and disabilities (Of all ages). So frustrating as these are lacking and all children/young adults deserve fully inclusive play areas.	Good sites that with improvement could be even better
Try not to get overcharged by selected panels of companies who can profiteer from holding such positions.	Leavesden country park is a lovely space with great facilities and should be maintained. I am less familiar with the other locations but will try them out.
Younger children under age of 2	

What else should the Play Strategy consider?	Please provide information on why you agree with the 4 sites
	Leavesden is a very busy park and requires alot of main
Interesting and interactive	Leavesden most definitely needs improvement as I regularly encourage people to attend who are attending Harry Potter and to be honest it's becoming a bit old and not interesting
Place for mum and carers . Friendly diverse with range of different activities for everyone	There in my local area
Nothing	Visit these areas often
Identify areas where larger installations such as free climbing walls, high zip lines might be attractive to older children.	
Equipment for all ages. Parking and cafe	
Older children, they need outdoor activities too	Sensible

What else should the Play Strategy consider?	Please provide information on why you agree with the 4 sites
Keeping it updated with new play equipment	Biggest play area
Too much to mention here.	Because they all need development and improvement.
The use of all types of play areas that are safe for young children, and are nowhere near areas that dogs use.	
Activities for parents Indoor rest areas Cafes	Hayling Road needs a revamp Improvement of facilities Needs a cafe
How about an area of cover for when there is too much sun/ sudden rain	

What else should the Play Strategy consider?	Please provide information on why you agree with the 4 sites
You need to include more community events (Watford council do this and so do Hertsmere via Park Events Herts)	they provide play for main residential areas.
More security and CCTV in play ground	Ok
Quiet spaces/ sensory experiences	Locations in different areas of Three Rivers
Integrating different cultures.	All play areas within these areas should be regularly maintained and refurbished, our communities are growing, being built up with more families with children living in unsuitable accommodation and would value more play areas
Sustainability of play equipment (not just the financial impact). Could also consider sports facilities in parks, which are also used for play e.g . provision of astro-turf football pitches.	I really wanted to answer "Don't know" but the form forces a yes/no response. I only know 2 of the sites and haven't heard of the others before so I don't think I can reasonably respond to this question.
Na - only comment is above, three rivers have lovely play areas but they are constantly subjected to anti social behaviour	Hayling Road is a great community aspect

What else should the Play Strategy consider?	Please provide information on why you agree with the 4 sites
Ensure the older children have sufficient equipment to keep them interested and want to visit. Very important for their mental health and exercise as they get older!	3 out of 4 of these are the sites I visit the most, they are usually the busiest and deserve the most attention. The only other one I could suggest would be scotsbridge which does get busy in summer especially.
The upkeep of the areas.	Na
N/a	I live in Abbots Langley. I want the area to thrive for my children
Nothing I can think of right now	Well I agree with 1 of the sites as I live next door to it and it gets very busy. Updating it every 10 years would make sense considering the amount of useage
More cycling scootering incorporated and sand. Langley lane is great . Better car parking would help and Langley lane is a 40 mph limit which is too high for playground	Make sense though I would extend leavesden country park to include Langley lane play area
Signs to not allow dogs in play area. Clean picnic area and toilets with baby changing	The equipment looks worn out and it can get very busy with children waiting due to limited equipment
I would add another principle to ensure the variety of equipment covers the required challenges. Tame play is BORING.	

Please provide information on why you do not agree with the 4 sites	What other play area do you feel should be considered and why?
Shortage of green play spaces in Northwood.	Cafe facilities at Eastbury.
Because it does not include the MUGA near the Pavilion at South Oxhey Playing Fields. The Astro Turf pitch in Little Oxhey Lane was extremely well used by the youngsters from Oxhey Jets.	The Astro Turf Pitch in Little Oxhey Lane that was used by the young children from Oxhey Jets.

Please provide information on why you do not agree with the 4 sites	What other play area do you feel should be considered and why?
Scotsbridge has broken equipment	Scotsbridge has broken equipment that needs fixing.

Please provide information on why you do not agree with the 4 sites	What other play area do you feel should be considered and why?

Please provide information on why you do not agree with the 4 sites

What other play area do you feel should be considered and why?

Croxley and Ricky very close together

All of south oxhey

Please provide information on why you do not agree with the 4 sites	What other play area do you feel should be considered and why?
3 are too far away.	king george v mill end

Please provide information on why you do not agree with the 4 sites	What other play area do you feel should be considered and why?
Na	Abbots Langley Park on Gallows Hill. Some of the equipment is so old and doesn't work properly such as the rocking horse.

Please provide information on why you do not agree with the 4 sites	What other play area do you feel should be considered and why?
3 of those 4 sites already have good parks with lots of equipment	Rommilly way carpenders park
Why only 4 sites? What about the others? Leavesden is a big site, you taking about both play areas or just one?	Near town centre parks! Dont you want the towns and villages to succeed?

Please provide information on why you do not agree with the 4 sites

What other play area do you feel should be considered and why?

Please provide information on why you do not agree with the 4 sites	What other play area do you feel should be considered and why?
Barton is fine baldwins is not	Baldwins play area and skatepark
Funding should be more equally spread - othewise other parks may become run down and it will push everyone to just use those few parks that are well maintained	All of them

Please provide information on why you do not agree with the 4 sites	What other play area do you feel should be considered and why?
Baldwins lane could do with more things in it	Baldwins lane
Not sure. Concerned others will fall into disrepair. Refurb every 10 years might be able to stretch to 12 and spend the savings on the other sites too.	Can't think of any
Better to have many smaller well maintained sites. The items purchased previously don't ever last 10 years.	Cassiobridge. Provision of other new small areas.

Please provide information on why you do not agree with the 4 sites

What other play area do you feel should be considered and why?

Baldwins lane, croxley green has far more parking and mor facilities than Barton way, Croxley Green, has. Can't comment on the other 3

As above

Please provide information on why you do not agree with the 4 sites	What other play area do you feel should be considered and why?

Please provide information on why you do not agree with the 4 sites	What other play area do you feel should be considered and why?

Please provide information on why you do not agree with the 4 sites	What other play area do you feel should be considered and why?
Focus on the smaller, local parks. People with transport visit smaller local parks more often.	Abbots Langley - by the cricket club. Primrose Hill - kings Langley.

Please provide information on why you do not agree with the 4 sites	What other play area do you feel should be considered and why?
<p>Aquardrome has a good play area, just gets extremely crowded in a small space. Leavesden country park is too small and not enough equipment. Don't know the other 2 parks.</p>	<p>Southwest by evergreen football club?</p>
<p>Think you should consider more sites</p>	<p>Langleybury Primrose Hill</p>

Please provide information on why you do not agree with the 4 sites	What other play area do you feel should be considered and why?
<p>These sites have been well used and popular for many years. The needs of future generations of small children may not change dramatically, but needs of future teens and adolescents will. I believe we will have to provide bigger better places for our young to exercise more than the thumbs on their play stations.</p>	<p>Flatten Fearney Mead. Grass it, put in a bank of meadow flowers. A picnic table and bench, a waste bin and a dog poo bin and the residents would use that as a community space. Social interaction and reduction in anti social behaviour!</p>

Please provide information on why you do not agree with the 4 sites	What other play area do you feel should be considered and why?
<p>What about South Oxhey playing fields area near the Pavilion and the Astro Turf pitch at Little Oxhey Lane.</p>	<p>South Oxhey playing fields area near the Pavilion and the Astro Turf pitch at Little Oxhey Lane. These should be considered as they were extensively used by young children and provided a safe environment for children and keeps them off the streets. The lack of an Astro Turf pitch now at South Oxhey playing fields means that children are now resorting to kicking a ball around in the streets which is not socially acceptable and can lead to ASB.</p>
<p>You are forgetting the smaller parks. Ever though they are small parks so many parents with children use them every day</p>	<p>Greenfield Carpenders Park really needs looking at again. There is so much wasted space there so much that cat be done with it</p>

Please provide information on why you do not agree with the 4 sites

What other play area do you feel should be considered and why?

Please provide information on why you do not agree with the 4 sites	What other play area do you feel should be considered and why?
<p>This will mean that there is every chance the other areas will be allowed to decay or that they are in the wrong place to start with.</p>	<p>An overall maintenance plan, not just a financial list, should be made public. This will show better how maintenance is shared across Three Rivers</p>

Please provide information on why you agree that play spaces should incorporate natural features

It is good for children to explore nature

Crucial to child development and appreciation of the natural world.

Gives an all round education to young children.

Na

Nature is mindfulness we have people who are trained vets in our community but could volunteer there time Sarah Winstanley is very good and look after foxes.

So kids stay connected to nature.

Please provide information on why you agree that play spaces should incorporate natural features

Important

As long as they're nurtured

Some children don't live in houses and don't learn to enjoy outdoors

Yes but concentrate more on play things

it's a great way to impart the kids with knowledge about their surroundings

Chorleywood Park is a good example of where wildflowers on a mound around the skate path
My kids love it watching butterflies flowers were lovely. Only concern. They will pick flowers. Some parents do not respect our play area's I have found shame hopefully inspire some parents to help educate their children to stop look and stare and take in what's around them

Good for children

Children thrive in nature and it brings out curiosity and imagination - It would be great to create mud kitchens in parks as children will be able to use natural resources to explore through mud kitchen play

Please provide information on why you agree that play spaces should incorporate natural features

Good for children's learning

Children should be encouraged to engage and play in as natural surroundings as possible and not just in concrete playgrounds.

Learning opportunities

Yes but other things too including brightly coloured play equipment. Playgrounds have many roles in children's development and how they interact with the outdoors. Play equipment should include mentally and physically challenging tasks

It's a great way for Children to play, learn and explore

Make it interesting for children development

Makes sense

Open places and play space should replicate and incorporate the features of the environment

Please provide information on why you agree that play spaces should incorporate natural features

Being in a natural outdoor environment is very important for children's development.

So we can teach our children

Good for kids to learn about nature and learn to upkeep it.

Local groups such as scouts, guides, schools can access this for learning purposes. It's good for children of all ages to see these areas too.
Football pitches, tennis courts and basketball ball courts are good as well. Challenging play equipment which encourages teenager core strength would be great.

Na

Important to blend education with play

Please provide information on why you agree that play spaces should incorporate natural features

To make children appreciate and respect nature

Give children learning and physical exercise

I think it is important to incorporate natural features into play spaces so that children can experience nature and appreciate it, they will not be invested in helping care for the environment if they have not experienced it.

Please provide information on why you agree that play spaces should incorporate natural features

Children us their imagination when there are natural resources bonuses.

Good to learn about environment

It's good for children to learn about the animals we share our world with and their habitats.

To embed caring for environment

i like the idea of natural features

Na

Aids learning and wellbeing

Looks much nicer than the old metal and tarmac parks and leads to more imaginative play! My daughter loves to sell me blades of grass and moss at the little counter in Leavesden park. :-)

Please provide information on why you agree that play spaces should incorporate natural features

Very important to our wildlife

Important for the environment

It develops and encourages outdoor learning, especially for those children without access to outside space at home

It wants to be natural, not man made! Yet play spaces are man made for safety reasons. Both should go hand in hand but it's seems everything comes at a cost. Better budget control is required.

Wildlife is important

Very important

Important to teach children

Please provide information on why you agree that play spaces should incorporate natural features

Because this is important. It can also be more visually attractive than just the usual flat surfaces which encourages people to want to go

It helps children navigate different ground

The more we can add to a play area the better!

Please provide information on why you agree that play spaces should incorporate natural features

Biodiversity

Yes educational about the environment

Kids love natural spaces

They look nice and I think they play into imaginary play well. As well as encouraging climbing and adventure

It is good for people to feel connected with the natural world around them. It helps mental health, and encourages awareness of environmental issues.

Learning opportunity.

Please provide information on why you agree that play spaces should incorporate natural features

I agree.

Children need to learn about it! They spend too much time cooped up inside (mostly due to weather!) and the opportunity to get a bit lucky while exploring is needed!

Na

Sustainability

Kids can learn

Please provide information on why you agree that play spaces should incorporate natural features

Children should be encouraged to understand nature.

It helps with mental health and anxiety in young children. Swings and slides aren't for everyone!

Because they should be multi faceted and appeal to a child's curiosity to learn about the natural world as well as including their sense of adventure.

These are part of the benefit of visiting the park - natural features that are less common to have in private gardens

Respect for environment and develops respect going forwards. Amazing for stress.

Please provide information on why you agree that play spaces should incorporate natural features

X

Nature is vital to a child's well being

.

Looks so much nicer

Important to make playgrounds environmentally friendly and to educate children about the importance of the natural world

Please provide information on why you agree that play spaces should incorporate natural features

Links with nature. Aesthetically pleasing.

Yes!!!!

its more natural!

Positive mental wellbeing associated with the natural environment

Helps children to develop

Not really sure

Why not!

To help children learn

Please provide information on why you agree that play spaces should incorporate natural features

Nature is important for children to learn about.

Teaches kid new thing!

As appropriate

N

Think this is essential as it makes spaces far more stimulating for creative Kay

It's great to teach children about their natural environment and making it fun within a play area can add to this learning

Please provide information on why you agree that play spaces should incorporate natural features

Hate big stiff oak playgrounds, especially for a semi-rural area. The playground should be in keeping with surroundings and be built with sustainability in mind.

Calming environment

Educational

As much as I agree I don't see it as a huge necessity.

It supports with their learning and development.

Lots of concrete around good for children to experience nature

Please provide information on why you agree that play spaces should incorporate natural features

Good for the natural world, wildlife and environment.

It's a shared space

Get Off from gadgets and online and get to the nature

To help learn about the local environment

These should all be integral to the design features, but all these grandiose schemes will fail unless maintenance and depreciation costs are not fully incorporated at inception and future proofed into budgets.

Education

Please provide information on why you agree that play spaces should incorporate natural features

Keep it more natural

As above, it's important to incorporate education and learning resources for wider sustainability actions.

But these areas should be separate from the play spaces.

Great for our environment and for our own awareness

Every child likes to play in the dirt let them dig and enjoy themselves

Please provide information on why you agree that play spaces should incorporate natural features

as above

The kids love green space and natural

Children need the opportunity to explore their new environment freely.
Access for those in specialist seating needs careful consideration.

How children should be able to enjoy open space with play areas that includes the Beauty of what nature brings

The natural features need to be fun! Personally, I'm not sure all the things listed above are particularly fun. Things like tree stumps to jump between are more fun and promote active movement more than, say, 'play panels'.
Incorporating natural features is more sustainable than plastic equipment, helps children learn about and value nature and allows them to be more creative in the ways they play. Children are surrounded by more than enough plastic in everyday life, so play equipment made from natural materials and with a focus on nature will help ground the future generation with a better appreciation and understanding of natural resources.

Great to introduce children to the importance of our eco system so they understand and respect it

Please provide information on why you agree that play spaces should incorporate natural features

It's good to offer these attractions for the kids who want a bit of time out, quieter more inquisitive kids.. also a good way for adults to engage their kids learning about nature whilst out and about.

To keep it as natural as can be.

I loved here to be more on nature.

I'd like to think that the next generation will be interested in nature, preserving the planet etc and this is a good way to start them young

These are great and stimulate

It is part of nature

TRDC Climate and Sustainability Impact Assessment

Score / Colour Code	Impact and Recommendation
Dark green (4)	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.
Light green (3)	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible.
Yellow (2)	Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.
Red (1)	Considerable inconsistency with the council's sustainability objectives. Strong recommendation to review and find mitigations.
Grey (0)	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.

Guidance for use

Please answer all questions from the drop-down options in the 'impact' column (C), including 'not applicable' as needed.

Please email your completed copy of the form to Joanna.Hewitson@threerivers.gov.uk.

Key to the colour coding of answers is given at the top of the page.

Name of project/policy/procurement and date		Three Rivers Play Space Strategy 202
Brief description (1-2 sentences):		New policy for managing and maintain

Homes, buildings, infrastructure, equipment and energy			
Question	Impact (select from list)	Score (-1 to 4)	Justification or mitigation
1 What effect will this project have on overall energy use (electricity or other fuels) e.g. in buildings, appliances or machinery?	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0	
2 What effect will this project have on the direct use of fossil fuels such as gas, petrol, diesel, oil?	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0	
3 Does this project further maximise the use of existing building space? <i>E.g. co-locating services; bringing under-used space into use; using buildings out-of-hours</i>	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0	
4 Will any new building constructed or refurbished be highly energy efficient in use? <i>(e.g. high levels of insulation, low energy demand per sq. m., no servicing with fossil fuels such as gas heating, EPC</i>	Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.	2	New play spaces will include natural play features.
5 Does this make use of sustainable materials / unputs in your project? <i>E.g. re-used or recycled construction materials; timber in place of concrete</i>	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3	New play spaces will include natural play features, including planting. Where possible, play equipment which is still safe and has value will be retained to reduce the impact on landfill.
6 Does this use more sustainable processes in the creation of the project? <i>E.g. modular and off-site construction; use of electrical plant instead of petrol/diesel,</i>	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0	
7 Will this increase the supply of renewable energy? <i>e.g. installing solar panels; switching to a renewable energy tariff</i>	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0	

8	Do any appliances or electrical equipment to be used have high energy efficiency ratings?	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0	
	Average Score		2.50	

Travel				
	Question	Impact	Score (0-4)	Justification or mitigation
9	Reducing travel: what effect will this project have on overall vehicle use?	Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.	2	The local community will be encouraged to make use of sustainable transport methods to access play spaces. Play spaces will include cycle racks for this purpose. Play spaces will also be located within communities to reduce the need for people to drive.
10	Will this project use petrol or diesel vehicles or EV, hybrid?	Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.	2	The local community will be encouraged to make use of sustainable transport methods to access play spaces. Play spaces will include cycle racks for this purpose. Play spaces will also be located within
11	Will this support people to use active or low-carbon transport? <i>E.g. cycling, walking, switching to electric transport</i>	sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.	2	The local community will be encouraged to make use of sustainable transport methods to access play spaces. Play spaces will include cycle racks for this purpose. Play
12	Will it be easily accessible for all by foot, bike, or public transport, including for disabled people?	Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.	2	The local community will be encouraged to make use of sustainable transport methods to access play spaces. Play spaces will include cycle racks for this purpose. Play spaces will also be located within
13	Has the project taken steps to reduce traffic? <i>Using e-cargo bikes; timing activities or deliveries to be outside peak congestion times</i>	Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.	2	The local community will be encouraged to make use of sustainable transport methods to access play spaces. Play spaces will include cycle racks for this purpose. Play spaces will also be located within communities to reduce the need for people to
	Average Score		2.00	

Goods and Consumption				
	Question	Impact	Score (0-4)	Justification or mitigation
14	Has this project considered ways to reuse existing goods and materials to the greatest extent possible, before acquiring newly manufactured ones?	Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.	2	Where possible, play equipment which is still safe and has value will be retained to reduce the impact on landfill.
15	Does it reduce reliance on buying newly manufactured goods? <i>E.g. repair and re-use; sharing and lending goods between services or people; leasing or product-as-a-service rather than ownership</i>	Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.	2	Where possible, play equipment which is still safe and has value will be retained to reduce the impact on landfill.
16	Does it use products and resources that are re-used, recycled, or renewable?	Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.	2	Where possible, play equipment which is still safe and has value will be retained to reduce the impact on landfill.

17	Does it enable others to make sustainable choices within their lifestyles, or engage people about this?	Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.	2	The local community will be encouraged to make use of sustainable transport methods to access play spaces. Play spaces will include cycle racks for this purpose. Play spaces will also be located within communities to reduce the need for people to drive.
18	Is there a plan to reduce waste sent to landfill in manufacture?	Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.	2	Where possible, play equipment which is still safe and has value will be retained to reduce the impact on landfill.
19	Is the material used able to be re-used, re-purposed, or recycled at end of its life?	Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.	2	Where possible, play equipment which is still safe and has value will be retained to reduce the impact on landfill.
20	Has it taken steps to ensure any food it offers is more sustainable? <i>E.g. less and high-quality (high welfare) meat and dairy; minimises food waste; seasonal produce; locally sourced.</i>	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0	
Average Score			2.00	

Ecology

	Question	Impact	Score (0-4)	Justification or mitigation
21	What effect does this project have on total area of non-amenity green/blue space? (Amenity green space = playing fields, play areas, sporting lakes etc. Non-amenity= e.g. woodland, grassland, wetland, gardens, lakes, rivers, ponds etc.)	Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.	2	Although designated amenity space, play spaces, where space permits, will include areas of grassland for free play, tree planting and sensory planting to increase the biodiversity of the area.
22	Does the project create more habitat for nature? E.g. native plants, trees, and flowers	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3	Although designated amenity space, play spaces, where space permits, will include areas of grassland for free play, tree planting and sensory planting to increase the
23	Does it make changes to existing habitats and have a negative impact on nature? <i>E.g. use of pesticides, reduced extent and variety of plants, planting non-native species</i>	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3	Although designated amenity space, play spaces, where space permits, will include areas of grassland for free play, tree planting and sensory planting to increase the
24	Does it help people understand the value of biodiversity, and encourage residents to support it in their private and community spaces?	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3	Opportunities for bug hotels and activities through play panels, can help children to understand the value of biodiversity.
Average Score			3	

Adaptation

	Question	Impact	Score (0-4)	Justification or mitigation
25	Does any planned project, construction or building use include measures to conserve water?	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0	
26	Does any the project, consider how to sustainably protect people from extreme weather?	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3	Tree planting within play areas will be encouraged for shading during periods of extreme heat.
27	Has any planned building work or infrastructure considered how to mitigate flood risk? <i>E.g. Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS); de-paving areas; green roofs</i>	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3	planting within play areas will act as natural SUDs to reduce run off into surrounding areas.

28	Does any planned infrastructure or building work increase the overall footprint of hard surfacing? (as opposed to green or permeable surfacing)	Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.	2	where possible, natural safety surfacing will be utilised. For accessibility purposes, pathways will be included, but kept to a minimum to reduce hard surfacing.
29	Has the project considered its own resilience to future extreme heat, flood risk, or water shortage?	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3	Tree planting within play areas will be encouraged for shading during periods of extreme heat.
Average Score			2.8	

Engagement and Influence

Question	Impact	Score (0-4)	Justification or mitigation
30 Does this project raise awareness and understanding of the climate and ecological emergency, and the steps that people can take?	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3	Through community co-design and play activities, there is an opportunity to raise awareness of the benefits of biodiversity for nature.
Average Score			3
Total Overall Average Score			2.50

Now assesment is complete copy and paste box into your business case, committee report. (under environmental implications 6). Whole assesment can be an appendix. Procurement tenders are expected to submit complete report with application.

Climate and Sustainability Impact Assessment Summary	
Homes, buildings, infrastructure, equipment and energy	3.33
Travel	3.00
Goods and Consumption	3.17
Ecology	3.75
Adaptation	3.50
Engagement and Influence	4
Total Overall Average Score	3.5

e and proceed.
 mitigations where possible.

n to review these aspects and find mitigations.

it otherwise proceed.

5-2030

ing play spaces that are owned and managed by Three Rivers District Council.

Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (1-4)
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	3
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	0
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	0
Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where	3
Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	0

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net zero carbon:

- Insulate buildings to a high standard.
- Include energy efficiency measures when carrying out refurbishment to deliver improvement in EPC ratings.
- Replace gas boilers with renewable heating, such as heat pumps. Consider District Heat Networks where appropriate.
- Construct new buildings to Passivhaus standard.
- Design and deliver buildings and infrastructure with lower-carbon materials, such as recycled material and timber frames.
- Use construction methods that reduce overall energy use, such as modular, factory-built components, or use of electrical plant on-site.
- Install solar panels or other renewable energy generation, and consider including battery storage.
- Switch to a certified renewable energy provider e.g. utilise power purchase agreements (PPA)
- Use energy-efficient appliances.
- Install low-energy LED lighting.
- Install measures to help manage building energy demand, such as smart meters, timers on lighting, or building management systems.

Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	0
	3.33

Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)
Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3
Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3
sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3
Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3
Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3
	3.00

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net zero carbon:

- Reduce the need to travel e.g. through remote meetings, or rationalising routes and rounds.
- Share vehicles or substitute different modes of travel, rather than procuring new fleet.
- Specify electric, hybrid, or most fuel efficient vehicles for new fleet or for services involving transport.
- Support users and staff to walk, cycle, or use public transport e.g. with cycle parking, training, incentives.
- Use zero-emission deliveries
- Model and mitigate the project's effect on traffic and congestion e.g. retiming the service or deliveries

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net zero carbon:

- Procure goods through sharing, leasing, or product-as-a-service models rather than ownership.
- Use pre-owned and reconditioned goods, and reduce reliance on procuring new goods.
- Use recycled materials, and procure items that can be reconditioned or recycled at end-of-life.
- Use lifecycle costing in business cases to capture the full cost of operation, repair and disposal of an item.
- Ensure meat and dairy is high-quality, high-welfare.
- Design waste, including food waste, out of business models e.g. separating (and composting) food waste; replacing single-use items with reusable items.
- Use contact points with residents, community groups and businesses to engage and enable them to adopt low-waste, low-carbon behaviours.

Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where	3
Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where	3
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	0
	3.17

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Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)
Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where	3
Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
	3.75

<p>Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net zero carbon: (Seek advice from Landscapes Team if required)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoid converting green space to hard surfacing. - Use underutilised space for planting, such as green roofs and walls. - Plant native plants and perennials, rather than non-native ornamental species, to encourage biodiversity. - Reduce trimming of grass and hedges, and avoid use of synthetic pesticides. - Provide space for animals e.g. long grass areas, bird boxes, bat boxes, 'insect hotels', ponds, hedgehog hides and passages, log piles - Consider the ecological impacts from manufacture and use of procured goods, e.g. water pollution; water consumption; land use change for farming; pesticide use; organic/regenerative farming methods

Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	0
Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where	3

<p>Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net zero carbon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Install water-saving devices in taps, showers and toilets - Re-use grey water in new developments - Capture and re-use rainwater where possible e.g. water butts for use in car washing, watering garden, toilets - Ensure all new building or refurbishment (especially of homes) models and mitigates future overheating risk, with adequate ventilation and shading - Avoid increasing areas of hard surfacing. - Convert hard surfacing to green and permeable surfacing where possible, and install Sustainable Drainage systems (SUDS). - Plant drought-tolerant plants and mulch landscapes to avoid water loss through evaporation.

Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where	3
Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
	3.50

Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)
Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
	4
	3.5

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net zero carbon:
 - 'Make every contact count', by using contact points with residents, businesses and community groups to promote understanding of the climate emergency.

Short Equality Impact and Outcome Assessment (EIA) Template

EIAs make services better for everyone and support value for money by getting services right first time.

EIAs enable us to consider all the information about a service, policy or strategy from an equalities perspective and then action plan to get the best outcomes for staff and service-users¹. They analyse how all our work as a council might impact differently on different groups²

They help us make good decisions and evidence how we have reached these decisions.³

See end notes for full guidance. For further support or advice please contact the Community Partnerships Team

Equality Impact and Outcomes Assessment (EIA) Template

First, consider whether you need to complete an EIA, or if there is another way to evidence assessment of impacts, or that an EIA is not needed⁴

Title⁵	Play Space Strategy 2025 - 2030	ID No⁶	LL007
Team/Service⁷	Leisure and Natural Infrastructure		
Focus of EIA⁸	New strategy which sets out the priorities for play space provision over the next 5 years, including where, what and how resources will be effectively allocated to ensure children and their families in Three Rivers continue to receive access to high quality provision.		
Assessment of overall impacts and any further recommendations⁹			
<p>The strategy will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide quality local and destination play spaces where families and community groups can meet and come together to interact socially, creating community cohesion and resilience. • Ensure our play spaces are clean, green and safe • Maintain freely accessible play spaces such that financial barriers do not prevent families' ability to access areas which can support their physical and mental health and wellbeing • Include Inclusive play e.g. basket swing, natural flow of the site, stimuli and private play – factoring in the PiPA (Plan Inclusive Play Areas - https://www.pipa-play.org/play-area-design) themes and the 6 senses of the PiPA wheel. • Three Rivers District Council is committed to ensuring that local communities have opportunities to share their ideas and express their opinions on their play space and any proposals to change them. 			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three Rivers District Council will also at times assess the wider benefits play provision has on local communities. For example, does having high quality play provision add too whether or not people consider their local area as a great place to live? In addition, some consultations will consider how local communities use play spaces and whether or not a play space is a conduit for using other facilities in the local area, e.g. cafes, restaurants and the wider impact on the local economy. 	
Potential Issues	Mitigating Actions
Children with additional needs may not be able to access play equipment	Include Inclusive play e.g. basket swing, natural flow of the site, stimuli and private play – factoring in the PiPA (Plan Inclusive Play Areas - https://www.pipa-play.org/play-area-design) themes and the 6 senses of the PiPA wheel.
Play spaces do not meet all of the community's requirements	Ensure community co-design through public consultation and ensure where possible there is a diverse response from all sectors of the community.
Actions Planned ¹⁰	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusivity and access to play to be a key requirement within specifications and as part of tender analysis – in particular, assessing designs against the PiPA Wheel. Public consultation to be sent to local schools so that all children can be involved Public consultation to be available online for a diverse audience to complete 	

EIA sign-off: (for the EIA to be final an email must sent from the relevant people agreeing it or this section must be signed)

Equality Impact Assessment officer: Charlotte Gomes

Date: 14.01.2025

Equalities Lead Officer: Shivani Dave

Date: 28.01.2025

Guidance end-notes

¹ The following principles, drawn from case law, explain what we must do to fulfil our duties under the Equality Act:

- Knowledge: everyone working for the council must be aware of our equality duties and apply them appropriately in their work.
- Timeliness: the duty applies at the time of considering policy options and/or before a final decision is taken – not afterwards.
- Real Consideration: the duty must be an integral and rigorous part of your decision-making and influence the process. • Sufficient Information: you must assess what information you have and what is needed to give proper consideration.
- No delegation: the council is responsible for ensuring that any contracted services which provide services on our behalf can comply with the duty, are required in contracts to comply with it, and do comply in practice. It is a duty that cannot be delegated.
- Review: the equality duty is a continuing duty. It applies when a policy is developed/agreed, and when it is implemented/reviewed.
- Proper Record Keeping: to show that we have fulfilled our duties we must keep records of the process and the impacts identified.

NB: Filling out this EIA in itself does not meet the requirements of the equality duty. All the requirements above must be fulfilled or the EIA (and any decision based on it) may be open to challenge. Properly used, an EIA can be a tool to help us comply with our equality duty and as a record that to demonstrate that we have done so.

² Our duties in the Equality Act 2010

As a council, we have a legal duty (under the Equality Act 2010) to show that we have identified and considered the impact and potential impact of our activities on all people with ‘protected characteristics’ (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, and marriage and civil partnership).

This applies to policies, services (including commissioned services), and our employees. The level of detail of this consideration will depend on what you are assessing, who it might affect, those groups’ vulnerability, and how serious any potential impacts might be. We use this EIA template to complete this process and evidence our consideration

The following are the duties in the Act. You must give 'due regard' (pay conscious attention) to the need to:

- avoid, reduce or minimise negative impact (if you identify unlawful discrimination, including victimisation and harassment, you must stop the action and take advice immediately).
- promote equality of opportunity. This means the need to: – Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by equality groups – Take steps to meet the needs of equality groups – Encourage equality groups to participate in public life or any other activity where participation is disproportionately low – Consider if there is a need to treat disabled people differently, including more favourable treatment where necessary
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. This means: – Tackle prejudice – Promote understanding

³ EIAs are always proportionate to:

- The size of the service or scope of the policy/strategy
- The resources involved
- The numbers of people affected
- The size of the likely impact
- The vulnerability of the people affected

The greater the potential adverse impact of the proposed policy on a protected group (e.g. disabled people), the more vulnerable the group in the context being considered, the more thorough and demanding the process required by the Act will be.

⁴ When to complete an EIA:

- When planning or developing a new service, policy or strategy
- When reviewing an existing service, policy or strategy
- When ending or substantially changing a service, policy or strategy
- When there is an important change in the service, policy or strategy, or in the city (eg: a change in population), or at a national level (eg: a change of legislation)

Assessment of equality impact can be evidenced as part of the process of reviewing or needs assessment or strategy development or consultation or planning. It does not have to be on this template, but must be documented. Wherever possible, build the EIA into your usual planning/review processes.

Do you need to complete an EIA? Consider:

- Is the policy, decision or service likely to be relevant to any people because of their protected characteristics?
- How many people is it likely to affect?
- How significant are its impacts?
- Does it relate to an area where there are known inequalities?

How vulnerable are the people (potentially) affected? If there are potential impacts on people but you decide not to complete an EIA it is usually sensible to document why.

⁵ **Title of EIA:** This should clearly explain what service / policy / strategy / change you are assessing

⁶ **ID no:** The unique reference for this EIA. This will be added by Community Partnerships

⁷ **Team/Service:** Main team responsible for the policy, practice, service or function being assessed

⁸ **Focus of EIA:** A member of the public should have a good understanding of the policy or service and any proposals after reading this section. Please use plain English and write any acronyms in full first time - eg: 'Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)'

This section should explain what you are assessing:

- What are the main aims or purpose of the policy, practice, service or function?
- Who implements, carries out or delivers the policy, practice, service or function? Please state where this is more than one person/team/body and where other organisations deliver under procurement or partnership arrangements.
- How does it fit with other services?
- Who is affected by the policy, practice, service or function, or by how it is delivered? Who are the external and internal serviceusers, groups, or communities?
- What outcomes do you want to achieve, why and for whom? Eg: what do you want to provide, what changes or improvements, and what should the benefits be? • What do existing or previous inspections of the policy, practice, service or function tell you?
- What is the reason for the proposal or change (financial, service, legal etc)? The Act requires us to make these clear.

⁹ **Assessment of overall impacts and any further recommendations**

-
- Make a frank and realistic assessment of the overall extent to which the negative impacts can be reduced or avoided by the mitigating measures. Explain what positive impacts will result from the actions and how you can make the most of these.
 - Countervailing considerations: These may include the reasons behind the formulation of the policy, the benefits it is expected to deliver, budget reductions, the need to avert a graver crisis by introducing a policy now and not later, and so on. The weight of these factors in favour of implementing the policy must then be measured against the weight of any evidence as to the potential negative equality impacts of the policy,
 - Are there any further recommendations? Is further engagement needed? Is more research or monitoring needed? Does there need to be a change in the proposal itself?

¹⁰ **Action Planning:** The Equality Duty is an ongoing duty: policies must be kept under review, continuing to give 'due regard' to the duty. If an assessment of a broad proposal leads to more specific proposals, then further equality assessment and consultation are needed.

Three Rivers District Council

Watersmeet's 50th Anniversary 2025

March 2025

Watersmeet 50th Anniversary

1 Summary

- 1.1 Watersmeet was opened on 1 May 1975 by the Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire.
- 1.2 To celebrate this 50th anniversary there are a series of special events designed to honour the venue's legacy and bring the community together. Throughout 2025, a diverse programme of events will be offered to engage residents of all ages, celebrate the theatre's relationship with the community and create lasting memories.

2 Logo

- 2.1 A special celebratory logo has been created to use throughout the anniversary year, and will feature on print advertising, social media and the website.



3 Planned Events

- 3.1.1 The 50th anniversary events will feature a diverse program designed to appeal to local residents of all ages. The schedule includes activities that are both engaging and accessible, ensuring that there is something for everyone in the community. With a mix of entertainment, educational tours and family-friendly days, this series of events aims to celebrate the rich history of the past fifty years while fostering community spirit.
- 3.2 **70s Film Festival**
 - 3.2.1 As part of the anniversary celebrations a program of iconic 1970s films and their remakes will be screened weekly during February and March 2025. This curated selection of films will bring audiences back to the culture and cinematic styles of the 70s, offering a nostalgic experience for older generations and an exciting glimpse into the era for younger attendees.
 - 3.2.2 Film titles and their remakes will include: Saturday Night Fever, Murder on the Orient Express, Man With the Golden Gun and The Great Gatsby.
- 3.3 **Venue Tours**
 - 3.3.1 During half term week, on 17 February three guided tours of the theatre will be offered to councillors and residents of Three Rivers.
 - 3.3.2 The tours will provide a behind-the-scenes look at Watersmeet's history and operational features. Attendees will have the opportunity to explore areas typically closed to the public, learn about the theatre's past productions, and hear stories about the performers who have graced its stage over the years.

These tours will offer both longtime patrons and newcomers a deeper appreciation of the theatre's role in the community over the past fifty years.

3.4 Community Fun Day

3.4.1 A community fun day will be held on Bank Holiday Monday 5 May.

3.4.2 As a highlight of the anniversary celebrations, this day will bring together residents of all ages for a day of fun and games. The event will feature traditional fairground activities, giant games, inflatables, dance displays and external stalls offering a vintage tuck shop, face painting and external market stalls. With something for everyone, the day aims to celebrate the community spirit and provide a relaxed and informal atmosphere where residents can enjoy quality time together.

3.5 Coffee Morning

3.5.1 A special Friends of Watersmeet and volunteer coffee morning will be held on Friday 9 May to honour and thank the Friends of Watersmeet and the dedicated volunteers who have supported the theatre and its community over the years. This informal gathering will offer past and current volunteers a chance to enjoy refreshments, connect with one another, and share memories. It's also an opportunity to formally recognise the invaluable contributions they've made in helping the theatre reach this 50-year milestone.

3.6 70s themed disco

3.6.1 A themed 70s disco night will be held on Saturday 14 June inviting everyone to dress up in their best retro attire and dance to the iconic hits of the era.

3.6.2 A DJ will play classic disco tunes, decorations will be themed and a dance floor will be in place. The event will transport patrons back to the golden age of disco. Themed drinks, costume contests and photo opportunities will add to the fun, making it a memorable night for all ages to celebrate the spirit of the 70s.

3.7 Tea Dance

3.7.1 A tea dance will be held in the auditorium on Tuesday 17 June offering an afternoon of elegance, music, and socialising. This hosted tea dance will feature ballroom and social dancing styles, creating an inviting space for both seasoned dancers and newcomers to enjoy.

3.8 Bingo afternoon

3.8.1 To conclude the celebratory events on Thursday 23 October, for the first time ever, Watersmeet will host a bingo afternoon where participants can look forward to a unique afternoon of this traditional game featuring non-cash prizes.

3.8.2 Instead of traditional monetary rewards, winners will have the chance to receive a variety of gifts. This special bingo afternoon aims to foster a friendly and relaxed environment, making it perfect for residents to create a memorable afternoon where everyone has a chance to win something and enjoy the community spirit.

4 Options and Reasons for Recommendations

4.1 No recommendations are contained in this report.

5 Financial Implications

5.1 The Friends of Watersmeet have offered to contribute £5,000 to the events taking place throughout the celebration year and will be used at events as detailed below.

Celebration	Expenditure	Predicted Income	Friends of Watersmeet Offset	Cost to Venue
Golden celebration film festival	£1,315.00	£500.00	£815.00	£0.00
Half-Term Venue Tours	£452.35	£90.00	£362.35	£0.00
Community Funday	£3,100.00	£0.00	£3,100.00	£0.00
Friends of Watersmeet Coffee Morning	£1,200.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,200.00
70s Disco	£4,000.00	£4,000.00	£0.00	£0.00
Afternoon tea and tea dance	£799.60	£400.00	£399.60	£0.00
Bingo afternoon	£1,323.05	£1,000.00	£323.05	£0.00

(All bar income, donations and other 50 year celebration event income will be offset to the venue, ensuring that the programme will not create any direct cost to Watersmeet.)

5.1.1

Golden celebration film festival – February to March 2025, 4 films		
Components to be costed	Unit cost	Total
Target income based on £6 per adult, £4 concessions (£5 avg) x 100 across the 4 film titles.	£5.00	£500.00
Cost of films x 4 films	£160.00	(£640.00)
One cocktail/mocktail included in the ticket price	£2.00	(£200.00)
Staffing – box office x 1.5 hours, bar x 3 hours (per film screening)	£12.45	(£224.10)
Marketing	£250.90	(£250.90)
Sub total		(£815.00)
Friends of Watersmeet subsidy		£815.00
Total		£0.00

5.1.2

Half-Term Venue Tours – 17 February 2025, 3 per day		
Components to be costed	Unit cost	Total
Donations will be collected on the day and put towards the venue – estimate worked on £2 each for 15 people.	£30.00	£90.00
Refreshments (based on 15 per tour x 3 tours)	£1.00	(£45.00)

Staffing x 2 (incl. welcome desk and bar staff) x 8 hours	£12.45	(£199.20)
Technician	£72.00	(£72.00)
Marketing	£100.35	(£136.15)
Sub total		(£362.35)
Friends of Watersmeet subsidy		£362.35
Total		£0.00

5.1.3

Community Fun Day – Monday 5 May 2025		
Components to be costed	Unit cost	Total
Prices for equipment hire ie obstacle course (incl. insurance)	£600.00	(£1,800.00)
Hire of fairground attractions	£300.00	(£300.00)
Giant games hire (Jenga, Connect 4, sumo suit, limbo)	£200.00	(£200.00)
Prizes – by donations	£0.00	£0.00
Marketing	£250.00	(£250.00)
Staffing – box office x 1, bar x 3	£12.45	(£250.00)
Security x 2		(£300.00)
Sub total		(£3,100.00)
Friends of Watersmeet contribution		£3,100.00
Total		£0.00

5.1.4

Friends of Watersmeet Coffee Morning - Friday 9 May 2025		
Components to be costed	Unit cost	Total
Cost catering based on 120 volunteers and guests to include hot drinks, pastries/cakes	£3.00	(£360.00)
Source gift for volunteers – based on 120	£7.00	(£840.00)
Staffing – no costs, during office hours		(£0.00)
Total		£1,200.00

N.B. The venue will purchase out of its allocated budgets small tokens of thanks to the dedicated volunteers. As the Friends of Watersmeet continue to be a valued part of the venues operation, no contribution will be requested for this event.

5.1.5

70s Disco - Saturday 14 June 2025		
Components to be costed	Unit cost	Total
Estimated ticket sales 400 (capacity of 600)	£10.00	£4,000.00
Cost of Disco equipment & DJ	£380.00	(£380.00)
Late night licence	£21.00	(£21.00)
Security staff x 8	£300.00	(£1,200.00)
Technical equipment hire	£760.00	(£760.00)
Bar staff x 5 hours x 8 staff	£72.00	(£576.00)
Technical staff x 6 hours x 2 staff	£72.00	(£144.00)
Chairs in/out – 3 hours x 4 staff	£72.00	(£216.00)
Deep clean	£220.00	(£220.00)
Box office/cloak room staff x 1	£72.00	(£72.00)
Marketing	£411.00	(£411.00)
Sub total		£4,000.00
Friends of Watersmeet contribution		£0.00

Total		£0.00
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5.1.6

Afternoon tea and tea dance – Tuesday 17 June 2025		
Components to be costed	Unit cost	£
Tickets (Including Tea and Coffee) x 50 guests	£8.00	£400.00
Tea Dance host	500.00	(£500.00)
Staffing x 2 bar staff x 4 hours	£12.45	(£99.60)
Marketing	£200.00	(£200.00)
Sub total		(£399.60)
Friends of Watersmeet contribution		£399.60
Total		£0.00

5.1.7

Bingo afternoon – Thursday 23 October 2025		
Components to be costed	Unit cost	£
Bingo entry and 12 games in 2 hours (break in the middle) x 100 people	£10.00	£1,000.00
Bingo Hosting including consumables, host, and prizes. (External Company)	£795.00	(£795.00)
Bar staff x 2 x 4 hours	£12.45	(£99.60)
Box Office x 1 x 1 hour	£12.45	(£12.45)
Chairs in/out – 3 hours x 4 staff	£72.00	(£216.00)
Marketing	£200.00	(£200.00)
Sub total		(£323.05)
Friends of Watersmeet contribution		£323.05
Total		£0.00

6 Policy/Budget Reference and Implications, Financial, Legal, Staffing, Equal Opportunities, Climate Change and Sustainability, Community Safety, Public Health, Customer Services Centre, Communications and Website, Ris and Health & Safety

6.1 None

7 Recommendation

7.1 That the Climate Change, Leisure and Housing Committee note the Watersmeet Anniversary summary of detail for 2025.

Report author: Ben Terry, Adele Cassidy

Data Quality

Local organisation quotations, online information, venue hire rates, historical information.

Data checked by:

Ben Terry, Watersmeet General Manager

Data rating:

1	Poor	
2	Sufficient	x
3	High	

Background Papers

APPENDICES / ATTACHMENTS

None

WATERSMEET'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Presentation to Climate Change,
Leisure & Housing Committee

Page 413

12 March 2025

Ben Terry – General Manager
Adele Cassidy – Marketing Officer



watersmeet **50**
celebrating 50 years

Background

Watersmeet was opened on 1 May 1975 by the Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire.



Page 414

To celebrate this 50th anniversary there are a series of special events designed to honour the venue's legacy and bring the community together.

Throughout 2025, a diverse programme of events will be offered to engage residents of all ages, celebrate the theatre's relationship with the community and create lasting memories.



watersmeet **50**
celebrating 50 years

Logo

A special celebratory logo has been created to use throughout the anniversary year and will feature on print advertising, social media and the website.

watersmeet 50
celebrating 50 years



Event Timeline

The 50th anniversary events will feature a diverse program designed to appeal to local residents of all ages. The schedule includes activities that are both engaging and accessible, ensuring that there is something for everyone in the community.

With a mix of entertainment, educational tours and family friendly days, this series of events aims to celebrate the rich history of the past fifty years while fostering community spirit.



17 FEB

Venue tours

17 FEB - 27 MAR

70s film festival

5 MAY

Community fun day

9 MAY

Friends of Watersmeet
Coffee morning

14 JUNE

70s disco

17 JUNE

Tea dance

23 OCTOBER

Bingo

Summary of events

Venue tours: During half term week, three guided tours of the theatre will be offered to councillors and residents of Three Rivers.

Community fun day: A community fun day will bring together residents of all ages for a day of fun and games.

Friends of Watersmeet coffee morning: A special Friends of Watersmeet and volunteer coffee morning will be held to honour and thank the Friends of Watersmeet and the dedicated volunteers who have supported the theatre and its community over the years.

70s disco: A themed 70s disco night will be held inviting everyone to dress up in their best retro attire and dance to the iconic hits of the era.

Tea dance: A tea dance will be professionally hosted, offering an afternoon of elegance, music, and socialising.

Bingo: For the first time ever, Watersmeet will host a bingo afternoon featuring non-cash prizes. The event will be hosted and produced by an



Financial implications

The Friends of Watersmeet have offered to contribute £5,000 to the events taking place throughout the celebration year and will be used at events as detailed below.

Celebration	Expenditure	Predicted Income	Friends of Watersmeet Offset	Cost to Venue
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(All bar income, donations and other 50 year celebration event income will be offset to the venue, ensuring that the programme will not create any direct cost to Watersmeet.)



Thank you for listening.

Any questions?



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TRDC Climate and Sustainability Impact Ass

Score / Colour Code
Dark green (4)
Light green (3)
Yellow (2)
Red (1)
Grey (0)

Guidance for Use:

Please answer all questions from the drop-down options in the 'Impact' column (C), including 'Not applicable' as needed.

Please email your completed copy of the form to
Joanna.Hewitson@threerivers.gov.uk

Key to the colour coding of answers can be found at the top of the page.

Homes, buildings, infrastructure, equipment and energy	
Question	
1	What effect will this project have on overall energy use (electricity or other fuels) e.g. in buildings, appliances or machinery?
2	What effect will this project have on the direct use of fossil fuels such as gas, petrol, diesel, oil?
3	Does this project further maximise the use of existing building space? <i>E.g. co-locating services; bringing under-used space into use; using buildings out-of-hours</i>
4	Will any new building constructed or refurbished be highly energy efficient in use? <i>E.g. high levels of insulation, low energy demand per sq. m., no servicing with fossil fuels such as gas heating, EPC "A" or BREAM "excellent"</i>
5	Does this make use of sustainable materials / inputs in your project? <i>E.g. re-used or recycled construction materials, timber in place of concrete</i>

6	Does this use more sustainable processes in the creation of the project? <i>E.g. modular and off-site construction; use of electrical plant instead of petrol/diesel</i>
7	Will this increase the supply of renewable energy? <i>e.g. installing solar panels; switching to a renewable energy tariff</i>
8	Do any appliances or electrical equipment to be used have high energy efficiency ratings?
	Average Score

Travel

Question

9	Reducing travel: what effect will this project have on overall vehicle use?
10	Will this project use petrol or diesel vehicles?
11	Will this project support people to use active or low-carbon transport? <i>E.g. cycling, walking, switching to electric transport</i>
12	Will this project be easily accessible for all by foot, bike, or public transport, including for disabled people?
13	Has the project taken steps to reduce traffic? <i>E.g. Using e-cargo bikes; timing activities or deliveries to be outside peak congestion times</i>
	Average Score

Goods and Consumption

Question

14	Has this project considered ways to re-use existing goods and materials to the greatest extent possible, before acquiring newly manufactured ones?
----	--

15	Does the project reduce reliance on buying newly manufactured goods? <i>E.g. repair and re-use; sharing and lending goods between services or people, leasing or product-as-a-service rather than ownership</i>
16	Does the project use products and resources that are re-used, recycled, or renewable?
17	Does the project enable others to make sustainable choices within their lifestyles, or engage people about this?
18	Does the project have a plan to reduce waste sent to landfill in manufacture?
19	Will the material(s) used on the project be able to be re-used, re-purposed, or recycled at end of its life?
20	Has the project taken steps to ensure any food offered or consumed is more sustainable? <i>E.g. less and high-quality (high welfare) meat and dairy, minimise food waste, seasonal and locally sourced produce.</i>
Average Score	

Ecology

Question

21	What effect does this project have on total area of non-amenity green/blue space? (Amenity green space = playing fields, play areas, sporting lakes etc. Non-amenity= e.g. woodland, grassland, wetland, gardens, lakes, rivers, ponds etc.)
22	Does the project create more habitat for nature? <i>E.g. planting native plants, trees, and flowers, creation of ponds or wetlands, provision of bird or bat boxes, installation of log piles or insect hotels</i>
23	Does the project make changes to existing habitats or have a negative impact on biodiversity? <i>E.g. use of pesticides, reduced extent and variety of plants, planting non-native species, light pollution, noise pollution, water pollution, disturbance to habitat, soil erosion, fragmentation of habitat</i>
24	Does the project help people understand the value of biodiversity, and encourage residents to support it in their private and community spaces?
Average Score	

Adaptation

Question	
25	Does any planned project, construction or building include measures to conserve water? <i>E.g. low-flow taps and showerheads, water-efficient devices</i>
26	Does the project consider how to protect people from the effects of extreme weather? <i>E.g. including shading to prevent overheating</i>
27	Has any planned building work or infrastructure on the project considered how to mitigate flood risk? <i>E.g. implementing Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), de-paving areas, installing green roofs</i>
28	Does any planned building work or infrastructure on the project increase the total surface area covered by hard surfacing (as opposed to green or permeable surfacing)?
29	Has the project considered its own resilience to extreme heat, flooding, or drought resulting from climate change?
Average Score	

Engagement and Influence	
Question	
30	Does this project raise awareness and understanding of the climate and ecological emergency, and the steps that people can take to mitigate and adapt to these?
Average Score	

Total Overall Average Score

Now the assesment is complete, please include a copy of the completed submit a copy of the form by email to Joanna.Hew

Climate and Sustainability Impact Assessment Summary
Homes, buildings, infrastructure, equipment and energy
Travel
Goods and Consumption
Ecology
Adaptation
Engagement and Influence

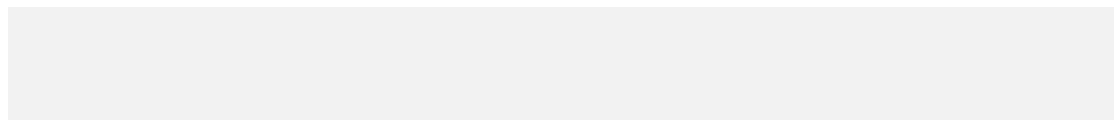
Total Overall Average Score

Assessment

Impact and Recommendation

- Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this project.
- Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.
- Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.
- Considerable inconsistency with the council's sustainability objectives. Score of -1 to -4.**
- Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.

Name of project/policy/procurement and date:	
Brief description (1-2 sentences):	



Impact (select from list)	Score (-1 to 4)
Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.	2
Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.	2
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3

Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3
	2.50

Impact	Score (0-4)
Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.	2
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3
Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
	3.00

Impact	Score (0-4)
Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3

Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3
Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3
Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.	2
Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.	2
	2.60

Impact	Score (0-4)
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
	0

Impact	Score (0-4)
Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3
Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
	3.0

Impact	Score (0-4)
Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3
	3
	2.35

assessment as part of your CIL application, and
mitson@threerivers.gov.uk

2.50
3.00
2.80
2.80
3.00
3

2.9

th this aspect.

is aspect where possible and proceed.

these aspects and find mitigations where possible.

Strong recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations.

achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.

Watersmeet 50 year anniversary

Watersmeet turns 50 in May 2025 and to acknowledge this occasion, Watersmeet will be h the year. This presentation will be given March 2025 and will provide an update to the LEC C

Justification or mitigation	Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (1-4)
By staging additional events at Watersmeet, there will be an increase in utility usage. To mitigate we switch everything that's possible to sensors and aim to purchase energy efficient hardware, replacing end of life structures with more efficient alternatives.	Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.	2
By staging additional events at watersmeet, there will be an increase in utility usage. To mitigate our gas usage, we will switch off heating rooms that are not in use and turn down heating in public areas. To investigate a business case review for additional	Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.	2
	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	0
	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
companys. Reuse and recycle wood from previous projects. There is an increased effort in sourcing more sustainable products for the bar.	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3

	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
This will allow for future projects such as: Infrastructure for electric vehicle charging Infrastructure for Air Source Heatpumps Infrastructure for replacement and additional solar panels	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
End of life or new equipment, will be replaced with more energy efficient solutions.	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where	3
		2.50

Justification or mitigation	Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)
An increased audience where more people may drive to the venue to see an event and additional staffing would also have an impact on fossil fuel usage. To mitigate that we will promote using public transport and car sharing or walking when possible. It will have no other impact on fossil fuel	Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.	2
Unknown	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
We will promote using public transport and car sharing or walking when possible and feature this on the website over and above driving to the venue.	sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3
We have good access to public transport and walking routes and accessible parking located outside the venue.	Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed as is with this aspect.	4
	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
		3.00

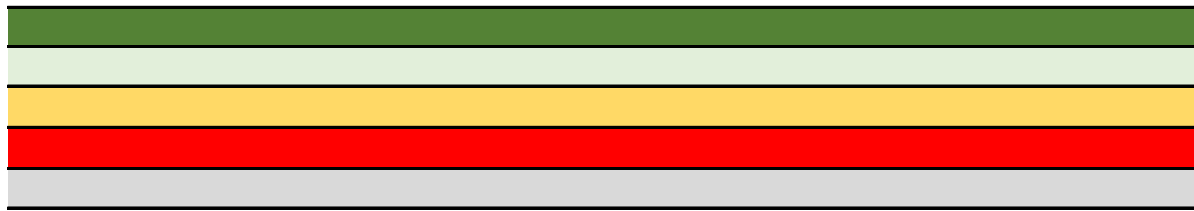
Justification or mitigation	Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)
Yes.We are not replacing items and will try to repair something in the first instance.	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3

	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	0
We promote a digital first approach to our customers and promote the more energy saving methods to reach the venue.	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3
All coffee mornings and the tea dance will use crockery and the bar continues to try to reduce its single use items.	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3
With more events, brings an increase in flyers and therefore potentially additional recycling/reusing of the paper will take place.	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3
Explore options to research and identify local companies who can supply, sustainably packaged goods to the venue e.g. bar stock. Explore options for recyclable coffee cups and options for disposal.	Some possible negative impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to review these aspects and find mitigations where possible.	2
		2.80

Justification or mitigation	Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)
	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	0
	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
Work in collaboration with Climate Change and Sustainability to support their special events programme by screening a sustainability themed film to raise community	Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this area, but otherwise proceed.	0
		#DIV/0!

Justification or mitigation	Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)
As taps and toilets begin to run, water management mechanisms will be replaced with energy saving options ie taps with sensors or push to operate.	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where	3
We can use marketing via social media to promote Watersmeet as a 'warm' or 'cool' place to see a film for a low price.	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where	3
	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	0
	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	0
	Neutral or not applicable. Recommendation to consider how benefits could be achieved in this	0
		3.00

Justification or mitigation	Impact (select from list)	Revised Score (0-4)
and Sustainability to support their special events programme by screening a sustainability themed film to raise community awareness.	Some positive impact for sustainability. Recommendation to further enhance this aspect where possible and proceed.	3
		3
		2.9



hosting a range of events throughout
committee y programme of events.

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net-zero carbon:

- Insulate buildings to a high standard.
- Include energy efficiency measures when carrying out refurbishment to deliver imprc
- Replace gas boilers with renewable heating, such as heat pumps. Consider District H
- Construct new buildings to Passivhaus standard.
- Design and deliver buildings and infrastructure with lower-carbon materials, such as frames.
- Use construction methods that reduce overall energy use, such as modular, factory-electrical plant on-site.
- Install solar panels or other renewable energy generation, and consider including ba
- Switch to a certified renewable energy provider e.g. utilise power purchase agreeme
- Use energy-efficient appliances.
- Install low-energy (LED) lighting.
- Install measures to help manage building energy demand, such as smart meters, tir management systems.

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net-zero carbon:

- Reduce the need to travel e.g. through remote meetings, or rationalising routes and
- Share vehicles or substitute different modes of travel, rather than procuring new fleet
- Specify electric, hybrid, or most fuel efficient vehicles for new fleet or for services involved
- Support users and staff to walk, cycle, or use public transport e.g. with cycle parking
- Use zero-emission deliveries
- Model and mitigate the project's effect on traffic and congestion e.g. re-timing the schedule

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net-zero carbon:

- Procure goods through sharing, leasing, or product-as-a-service models rather than
- Use pre-owned and reconditioned goods, and reduce reliance on procuring new goods
- Use recycled materials, and procure items that can be reconditioned or recycled at end of life
- Use lifecycle costing in business cases to capture the full cost of operation, repair and disposal
- Ensure meat and dairy is high-quality, high-welfare, if procured or consumed

- Ensure meat and dairy is high quality, high welfare, if procured or consumed.
- Choose seasonal and locally sourced produce, and plant-rich meals.
- Design waste, including food waste, out of business models e.g. separating (and collecting) single-use items with reusable items.
- Use contact points with residents, community groups and businesses to engage and encourage low-carbon behaviours.

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net-zero carbon:

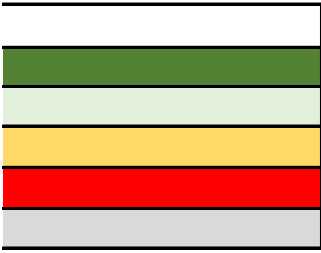
- Avoid converting green space to hard surfacing.
- Use underutilised space for planting, such as green roofs and walls.
- Plant native plants and perennials, rather than non-native ornamental species, to enhance biodiversity.
- Reduce trimming of grass and hedges, and avoid use of synthetic pesticides.
- Provide space for animals e.g. long grass areas, bird boxes, bat boxes, 'insect hotels', tree hollows, passages, log piles
- Consider the ecological impacts from manufacture and use of procured goods, e.g. embodied carbon, land use change for farming; pesticide use; organic/regenerative farming methods

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net-zero carbon:

- Install water-saving devices in taps, showers and toilets
 - Re-use grey water in new developments
 - Capture and re-use rainwater where possible e.g. water butts for use in car washing,
 - Ensure all new building or refurbishment (especially of homes) models and mitigates adequate ventilation and shading
 - Avoid increasing areas of hard surfacing.
 - Convert hard surfacing to green and permeable surfacing where possible, and instal (SuDS).
 - Plant drought-tolerant plants and mulch landscapes to avoid water loss through evap
-

Ways to optimise sustainability and work towards net-zero carbon:

- 'Make every contact count' by using contact points with residents, businesses and cc understanding of the climate and ecological emergencies.
-



ovement in EPC ratings.
Heat Networks where appropriate.

recycled material and timber

built components, or use of

tery storage.
nts (PPA)

ers on lighting, or building

rounds.
t.
volving transport.
, training, incentives.
ervice or deliveries

ownership.
ds.
end-of-life.
nd disposal of an item.

posting) food waste; replacing
I enable them to adopt low-waste,

courage biodiversity.
s', ponds, hedgehog hides and
water pollution; water consumption;

watering garden, toilets
; future overheating risk, with

I Sustainable Drainage systems
oration.

community groups to promote

Short Equality Impact and Outcome Assessment (EIA)

EIAs make services better for everyone and support value for money by getting services right first time.

EIAs enable us to consider all the information about a service, policy or strategy from an equalities perspective and then action plan to get the best outcomes for staff and service-users¹. They analyse how all our work as a council might impact differently on different groups²

They help us make good decisions and evidence how we have reached these decisions.³

See end notes for full guidance. For further support or advice please contact the Community Partnerships Team

Equality Impact and Outcomes Assessment (EIA) Template

First, consider whether you need to complete an EIA, or if there is another way to evidence assessment of impacts, or that an EIA is not needed⁴

Title ⁵	Watersmeet 50 th Anniversary	ID No ⁶	WT003
Team/Service ⁷	Watersmeet / Customer Experience		
Focus of EIA ⁸	The 50th anniversary events will feature a diverse program designed to appeal to local residents of all ages. The schedule includes activities that are both engaging and accessible, ensuring that there is something for everyone in the community. With a mix of entertainment, educational tours and family-friendly days, this series of events aims to celebrate the rich history of the past fifty years while fostering community spirit.		
Assessment of overall impacts and any further recommendations ⁹			
All features of the celebrations will be open to all communities within Three Rivers and beyond.			
Potential Issues		Mitigating Actions	
For neurodiverse attendees, whilst they would be encouraged to join in all of the activities, they may not feel comfortable to do so.		Explore the use of a quiet space within the venue.	

<p>Parking restrictions and limited accessible bays may deter people coming to events during daytime.</p>	<p>Encourage public transport, community cars, car sharing and walking to the venue.</p>
<p>Actions Planned ¹⁰</p>	
<p>Review and monitor accessibility products to meet the needs of patrons.</p> <p>Maintaining and developing the accessibility provision including, physical infrastructure and support.</p> <p>In order to meet accessibility requirements within the venue, Watersmeet offers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A fully accessible restroom and elevator - Infrared induction hearing system including audio describe facility for up to ten patrons attending cinema events <p>Engagement with community groups and organisations working with diverse communities to encourage involvement with Watersmeet</p>	

EIA sign-off: (for the EIA to be final an email must sent from the relevant people agreeing it or this section must be signed)

Equality Impact Assessment officer: *Ben Terry*

Date: 08 January 2025

Equalities Lead Officer: Shivani Davé

Date: 28/01/2025

Guidance end-notes

¹ The following principles, drawn from case law, explain what we must do to fulfil our duties under the Equality Act:

- Knowledge: everyone working for the council must be aware of our equality duties and apply them appropriately in their work.
- Timeliness: the duty applies at the time of considering policy options and/or before a final decision is taken – not afterwards.
- Real Consideration: the duty must be an integral and rigorous part of your decision-making and influence the process. • Sufficient Information: you must assess what information you have and what is needed to give proper consideration.
- No delegation: the council is responsible for ensuring that any contracted services which provide services on our behalf can comply with the duty, are required in contracts to comply with it, and do comply in practice. It is a duty that cannot be delegated.
- Review: the equality duty is a continuing duty. It applies when a policy is developed/agreed, and when it is implemented/reviewed.
- Proper Record Keeping: to show that we have fulfilled our duties we must keep records of the process and the impacts identified.

NB: Filling out this EIA in itself does not meet the requirements of the equality duty. All the requirements above must be fulfilled or the EIA (and any decision based on it) may be open to challenge. Properly used, an EIA can be a tool to help us comply with our equality duty and as a record that to demonstrate that we have done so.

² Our duties in the Equality Act 2010

As a council, we have a legal duty (under the Equality Act 2010) to show that we have identified and considered the impact and potential impact of our activities on all people with ‘protected characteristics’ (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, and marriage and civil partnership).

This applies to policies, services (including commissioned services), and our employees. The level of detail of this consideration will depend on what you are assessing, who it might affect, those groups’ vulnerability, and how serious any potential impacts might be. We use this EIA template to complete this process and evidence our consideration

The following are the duties in the Act. You must give 'due regard' (pay conscious attention) to the need to:

- avoid, reduce or minimise negative impact (if you identify unlawful discrimination, including victimisation and harassment, you must stop the action and take advice immediately).
- promote equality of opportunity. This means the need to: – Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by equality groups – Take steps to meet the needs of equality groups – Encourage equality groups to participate in public life or any other activity where participation is disproportionately low – Consider if there is a need to treat disabled people differently, including more favourable treatment where necessary
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. This means: – Tackle prejudice – Promote understanding

³ EIAs are always proportionate to:

- The size of the service or scope of the policy/strategy
- The resources involved
- The numbers of people affected
- The size of the likely impact
- The vulnerability of the people affected

The greater the potential adverse impact of the proposed policy on a protected group (e.g. disabled people), the more vulnerable the group in the context being considered, the more thorough and demanding the process required by the Act will be.

⁴ When to complete an EIA:

- When planning or developing a new service, policy or strategy
- When reviewing an existing service, policy or strategy
- When ending or substantially changing a service, policy or strategy
- When there is an important change in the service, policy or strategy, or in the city (eg: a change in population), or at a national level (eg: a change of legislation)

Assessment of equality impact can be evidenced as part of the process of reviewing or needs assessment or strategy development or consultation or planning. It does not have to be on this template, but must be documented. Wherever possible, build the EIA into your usual planning/review processes.

Do you need to complete an EIA? Consider:

- Is the policy, decision or service likely to be relevant to any people because of their protected characteristics?
- How many people is it likely to affect?
- How significant are its impacts?
- Does it relate to an area where there are known inequalities?

How vulnerable are the people (potentially) affected? If there are potential impacts on people but you decide not to complete an EIA it is usually sensible to document why.

⁵ **Title of EIA:** This should clearly explain what service / policy / strategy / change you are assessing

⁶ **ID no:** The unique reference for this EIA. This will be added by Community Partnerships

⁷ **Team/Service:** Main team responsible for the policy, practice, service or function being assessed

⁸ **Focus of EIA:** A member of the public should have a good understanding of the policy or service and any proposals after reading this section. Please use plain English and write any acronyms in full first time - eg: 'Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)'

This section should explain what you are assessing:

- What are the main aims or purpose of the policy, practice, service or function?
- Who implements, carries out or delivers the policy, practice, service or function? Please state where this is more than one person/team/body and where other organisations deliver under procurement or partnership arrangements.
- How does it fit with other services?
- Who is affected by the policy, practice, service or function, or by how it is delivered? Who are the external and internal serviceusers, groups, or communities?
- What outcomes do you want to achieve, why and for whom? Eg: what do you want to provide, what changes or improvements, and what should the benefits be? • What do existing or previous inspections of the policy, practice, service or function tell you?
- What is the reason for the proposal or change (financial, service, legal etc)? The Act requires us to make these clear.

⁹ **Assessment of overall impacts and any further recommendations**

-
- Make a frank and realistic assessment of the overall extent to which the negative impacts can be reduced or avoided by the mitigating measures. Explain what positive impacts will result from the actions and how you can make the most of these.
 - Countervailing considerations: These may include the reasons behind the formulation of the policy, the benefits it is expected to deliver, budget reductions, the need to avert a graver crisis by introducing a policy now and not later, and so on. The weight of these factors in favour of implementing the policy must then be measured against the weight of any evidence as to the potential negative equality impacts of the policy,
 - Are there any further recommendations? Is further engagement needed? Is more research or monitoring needed? Does there need to be a change in the proposal itself?

¹⁰ **Action Planning:** The Equality Duty is an ongoing duty: policies must be kept under review, continuing to give 'due regard' to the duty. If an assessment of a broad proposal leads to more specific proposals, then further equality assessment and consultation are needed.

**Climate Change, Leisure and Housing Committee
Wednesday, 12 March 2025**

PART I

Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2028 - Action Plan - Year One Review

(ADCCC)

1 Summary

1.1 Committee are asked to review and note the Year One Review of the council's Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2028 Action Plan.

2 Details

2.1 As part of the council's Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2028, an Action Plan was produced detailing key projects and aims to be taken or delivered by the Service during the five years, that will ensure the delivery of our key objectives.

2.2 These objectives are as follows –

- To prevent and relieve homelessness
- To support our most vulnerable customers into permanent, suitable and sustainable accommodation.
- To improve the standard of housing across the district.

2.3 Appendix One of this report contains the Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2028 Action Plan and provides updates and progress on the actions listed.

2.4 If the action has been marked as Blue the Service considers this action complete, if marked Amber, the project has begun but has been delayed or been intentionally delayed. If marked Red, the action is late, and a new proposed date has been provided. If the action has been marked Green, this means this action is ongoing or on target.

2.5 In the case where an action or project has been delayed, or is late, the reasons this delay have been provided, and a new date for completion has been set.

2.6 This report will provide further detail and context on the progress against these actions in the plan.

2.7 Action Plan aims - Objective 1 – Prevent and relieve homelessness

2.7.1 1.1 Ensure flexible use of the council's homelessness prevention fund – Ongoing

The council's homelessness prevention fund, provided by Central Government and ring fenced to Housing Services for the prevention of homelessness, continues to be used in a targeted manner to produce better outcomes for our customers.

This grant funding has been used for a variety of purposes during the first year of our strategy, including paying for grant funded posts within the Service, temporary accommodation costs when required and financial assistance with deposits required by customers to access the private sector to prevent or relieve their homelessness.

Housing Services have had confirmation that the prevention fund granted to the council from central government for 2025/20226 will be £645,592.00, therefore, this work will continue into 2025/2026 and over the course of the strategy.

2.7.2 1.2 Implement a cost-of living prevention project – Late

Whilst this action was aimed to be delivered in 2024, unfortunately, due to a lack of resources and other urgent priorities for the Service, this project was delayed.

As confirmed above, due to an increase in the Homelessness Prevention Grant available to the Service from Central Government, there will be budget available for this project in 2025 and work on how this project will take shape has already commenced.

Project to be delivered in 2025.

2.7.3 1.3 All tenants of Registered Providers threatened with eviction are prevented from homelessness – Late

Whilst this action was aimed to be delivered in 2024, unfortunately, due to other urgent priorities for the Service, this project was delayed.

Project has now commenced with initial discussions with some Registered Providers held and the project will be delivered in 2025.

2.7.4 1.4 Ensure staff are aware of the any new trends which will predict our busier periods to enable them to prepare sufficiently – Ongoing

Any trends that are identified by the Service, or our partners, are raised with Officers at regular, and, if required in emergency circumstances, ad hoc team meetings.

2.7.5 1.5 Better understanding of rough sleeping in the district – Partially complete.

The council's Housing Development Officer has undertaken GIS training that has enabled this Officer to make use of this software to undertake a mapping exercise of current and historic locations of rough sleepers in the district.

Whilst this historic mapping exercise is complete, ongoing mapping over the course of strategy will enable the Service to identify any new trends with rough sleeper locations in the district and allow us to target our support.

2.7.6 1.6 Promotion of homelessness services – Complete

Housing Options Officers are now attending the council's Healthy Hubs once a month, providing residents with extended opportunities to engage with Housing Services for advice and assistance with their housing needs. These visits are conducted on a rota basis and advertised so residents are aware of this opportunity to receive face to face housing advice or assistance.

The Service have worked in partnership with Communications to produce videos that promote the council's Housing Service that have been broadcast to residents via the council's social media channels. These videos give residents an informal opportunity to gain an insight on what support the Housing Service can provide and encourages residents who require advice and assistance with their housing to contact the council.

The Housing Navigator has reestablished the council's Homelessness Forum, conducted quarterly, with increased participation and engagement from our partners. The Forum provides partners with information on our current services, including any updates to our structure or new recruitment, quarterly homelessness and temporary accommodation figures for the district and an opportunity to discuss trends identified by the Service or our partners.

2.7.7 1.7 All customers to be referred to any support service they require – Complete

Our internal procedures have been updated to ensure that any customer that engages with the Housing Service are referred to the appropriate support they may require.

In addition to this, the Service has made financial contributions to relevant services, to ensure that customers engaging with us are given the appropriate priority. This includes financial and budgetary advice provided by Citizens Advice (CA) and housing focused mental health support provided by Hertfordshire MIND.

2.7.8 1.8 Correct and up to date information is always available to customers – Ongoing

Relevant legislative updates are continually reviewed, and policy and procedure are updated to ensure compliance with this. If any changes are required, the information available to customers, via the council's website and any material produced for customers, is updated.

2.7.9 1.9 New Hope to provide the council's Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) provision – Complete

In partnership with Hertfordshire County Council, the council's Housing Operations Manager held discussions with New Hope Trust to explore the potential of the SWEP provision for the council being provided by this organisation.

However, the Service were unable to agree a cost-effective agreement, therefore, the council will continue to provide our SWEP provision internally on an ad hoc basis (accommodation procured when required).

2.7.10 1.10 Housing Allocations Policy to remain up to date with legislative updates – On target

As per the current Service Plan for Housing Services, the council's Housing Allocations Policy is due for review in 2025. This is currently on target and meetings have been already been held to begin this review, with further planned with key partners for early 2025.

Any proposed changes to the policy, including those that are legislatively required, will be brought to the Climate Change, Housing and Leisure Committee for approval for a four-week public consultation. Following this consultation, the results will be reviewed, and the final proposed strategy will be presented to the Policy and Resources Committee in November 2025 for adoption.

2.7.11 1.11 Revamp of the current Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme (RDGS) – Postponed

The current version of the incoming Renters Rights Bill (expected to become legislation in late 2025) contain significant reform to private rented sector legislation.

Therefore, the revamp of the council's private rental scheme, the Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme, has been intentionally postponed to align with the introduction of this legislation.

At the time of this paper, the Bill has had its second reading in House of Lords and is now at the Committee stage.

2.7.12 1.12 Increase the level of mediation work and home visits to households – Complete

With the aim to reduce the amount of homelessness applications made to the council as a result of parental or family evictions, the Service have updated our internal procedures to ensure that a home visit is conducted to every customer that makes a homelessness application to the council (if applicable).

This home visit by Officers ensures that every option to prevent the customers homelessness is explored, including, in the case of parental or family eviction, the option of staying with parents or family members whilst alternative accommodation is sought.

To assist with these often-difficult negotiations, Officers within the Service have undertaken mediation training that was delivered by an external partner in March 2024.

2.7.13 1.13 Work in partnership with Planning Policy and Regulatory Services to ensure the ongoing delivery of affordable housing in the district – Ongoing

The council's Housing Development Officer completed a review of the housing needs of customers in temporary accommodation and those waiting for a suitable offer of accommodation via the council's Housing Register in November 2024.

This review ensures that when we are negotiating with developers about the projected mix of affordable housing within a specific development, the Service are achieving the correct mix for our current requirement.

This requirement will be consistently reviewed throughout the term of the strategy and our demands to developers will be adapted to suit.

2.7.14 1.14 Review the target for housing and the affordable housing provision within this plan, following the adoption of the council's Local Plan – Postponed

This has been intentionally postponed to align with the delivery of the council's Local Plan, expected in September 2026.

2.8 **Action Plan aims – Objective 2 – Support our most vulnerable customers into permanent and suitable accommodation**

2.8.1 2.1 Efficient use of the council's five Next Steps Accommodation Programme (NSAP) properties – Ongoing

These properties continue to be let to those households engaging with the Service who require this level of support. Ongoing tenancy support continues to be provided

to the tenants via grant funding and is provided by the Tenancy Sustainment Team at New Hope.

Of the original five households placed in these properties, two of these households have now secured an assured tenancy in a social housing property within the district, representing a significant success for this programme.

2.8.2 2.2 Efficient use of the council's five Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme (RSAP) properties – Ongoing

These properties continue to be let to those households who require this level of wrap around support and have been rough sleeping, or at risk of rough sleeping in the district. Ongoing tenancy support continues to be provided to the tenants via grant funding and is provided by the Tenancy Sustainment Team at New Hope.

2.8.3 2.3 Vulnerable customers housed in the council's temporary accommodation to be provided support – Ongoing

20 x households who have been placed in temporary accommodation are currently provided with tenancy support from New Hope Trust. This support is currently funded by HCC and Officers will continue to engage with HCC to encourage that this funding continues over the course of the strategy.

The funding for this support will continue for 2025/26.

2.8.4 2.4 A single homeless pathway for adults with complex needs who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to be established in Three Rivers. – Complete

This project is no longer relevant following Hertfordshire County Council's introduction of the Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) project.

The council's Housing Navigator is working in partnership with HCC as part of this project with the aim to establish this pathway on a county wide basis.

2.8.5 2.5 Maximise funding opportunities – Ongoing

The council has been successful in obtaining funding from the Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) that will provide a significant number of properties within the district as affordable housing.

A number of properties delivered via this fund will be utilised as temporary accommodation, whilst the remaining properties will be, in the first instance, used to accommodate those on relevant resettlement schemes.

Following this first use and in the medium to long term, these properties will contribute to the overall affordable housing provision available in district.

2.8.6 2.6 RSI-6 funding granted by MHCLG to continue to provide a Housing Navigator post – On target

Funding for this post has been allocated for 2025/26 and 2026/27, subject to approval from SLT.

2.8.7 2.7 Support victims of Domestic Abuse – Complete

A Domestic Abuse Caseworker has been integrated into the Service, providing victims of domestic abuse who are engaging with Housing Services with specialist support and guidance.

Alignment with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 has been introduced to all relevant policy and procedure within the Service.

If there are any further updates to legislation in this area over the course of this strategy, these policies and procedures will be updated to reflect this on an ongoing basis.

2.8.8 2.8 Further allocation of AeFO MoU funding awarded – Complete

No further funding is to be allocated via this route by Central Government, therefore, this action is no longer relevant and has been marked as complete.

2.8.9 2.9 Oversee the integration of a Domestic Abuse Caseworker within the Housing Service – Complete

A Domestic Abuse Caseworker (DAC) has been integrated into the Service, providing victims of domestic abuse who are engaging with Housing Services with specialist support and guidance.

The DAC has undertaken professional Independent Domestic Abuse Advocate (IDVA) training in August 2024, that was funded by the Service.

The DAC will continue to undergo relevant training to ensure that the council is aware of, and undertakes, our statutory obligations to these victims and ensure that the best possible support and advice is available to customers in this circumstance.

2.8.10 2.10 Ensure the Council is fulfilling our statutory responsibilities to members and ex-members of the Armed Forces, and their family members – Complete

As part of her professional development, and importantly, as the council are signatories to the Armed Forces Covenant, the council's Housing Solutions Manager undertakes ongoing training and development in this area.

This ensures that the Service are aware of any updates to our responsibilities to this cohort and can fulfil these accordingly (policy and procedural updates etc.)

2.8.11 2.11 Ensure the Council is undertaking best practice with regard to our responsibilities as signatories of the Armed Forces – Complete

The council's Strategic Housing Manager has undertaken a review into best practice for this cohort. These proposals will be discussed with the council's Armed Forces Champion and, if any changes are proposed, these will be brought forward as part of the review of the council's Housing Allocations Policy in 2025.

It is important to note that the Government have released new statutory guidance in relation to improving access to social housing for members of the Armed Forces in December 2024. Whilst we are adhering to this new guidance in the interim period, this guidance, and any recommendations contained, will be incorporated into the council's Housing Allocations Policy when the review into this Policy is conducted.

2.9 Action Plan aims – Objective 3 – Improve the standard of housing across the district

- 2.9.1 3.1 Improve awareness of conditions in the private housing sector – On target
- A private sector housing stock condition survey for the district will be commissioned in 2026.
- 2.9.2 3.2 Improve standards in the private rented sector – On target
- An action plan will be developed and implemented following recommendations highlighted as part of the private sector housing stock survey in 2026.
- 2.9.3 3.3 Enable people to remain in their homes and ensure they are appropriate for their needs – Ongoing
- The Service is making best use of the funding provided from the Better Care Fund and continue to provide disabled adaptations for residents within the district.
- The Service has approved 43 x applications for Disabled Facility Grants (DFG) within the district from 1 April 2024 to 22 January 2025 and have had an increased funding pot of £825,485 allocated for 2025/26. This funding will ensure applicants who require adaptations to their properties within the district will be able to access the funding required for these to be undertaken, enabling them to stay in their current home.
- 2.9.4 3.4 Clear guidance for discharging our homeless duties into the private rented sector – Complete
- The council's Private Rented Sector Offer Policy was reviewed, updated and agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee in 2024.
- 2.9.5 3.5 Establish a Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) monitoring programme – Late
- Difficulty with the recruitment of a suitably qualified Senior Housing Enforcement Officer since the adoption of the strategy, coupled with other urgent priorities for the Residential Environmental Health team, have caused the delay of this action.
- Recruitment for this post has now been successfully undertaken, and the team is now fully staffed with 2 x full time Officers from November 2024. Therefore, this action will be progressed in 2025, and inspection visits have will be booked for the licensed HMOs within the district in the coming weeks.
- Further work will be conducted by Officers to identify unlicensed HMO's within the district and take any relevant enforcement action required.
- 2.9.6 3.6 Establish a protocol for dealing with complaints of housing disrepair, specifically those relating to damp and mould – On target
- Initial discussions have been undertaken, and the action is on target for completion in 2026.
- 2.9.7 3.7 Housing Enforcement Policy – Postponed
- This action has been intentionally postponed due to the significant legislative reform expected from the introduction of the Renters Right Bill.
- At the time of this paper, the Renters Rights Bill has had its second reading in the House of Lords and is at the Committee stage.

2.9.8 3.8 Ensure we are fully prepared for when the Renters Rights Bill becomes an Act of Parliament – Postponed

Following the announcement of the general election to take place in July 2024, the Renters (Reform) Bill was postponed and following a change of Government, has now been amended by the current Government. The Bill is now known as the Renters Rights Bill.

Therefore, this action was intentionally postponed and has now commenced in preparation for the legislation (likely by introduced by the end of 2025). As stated above, significant legislative reform is expected, however, Government stated that additional new burdens funding may be made available to Local Authorities to assist with the changes required. The amount of funding that may be available to the council is unknown at this point, however, the Service expects clarification in due course.

2.9.9 3.9 Encourage our Registered Providers and developers to build net zero homes, promote sustainable living and make space for nature within any development in the district – Ongoing

In partnership with Regulatory Services, Officers within the Service continue to engage with developers and Registered Providers during the early stages of relevant planning applications to encourage that these principles are adopted.

2.9.10 3.10 Ensure that PRS landlords within the district are aware and fully informed of the funding opportunities available to them to make significant improvements to the standard of their properties - Ongoing

In partnership with the Climate Change and Sustainability Officer, the Private Housing Coordinator will be organising a Landlords Forum in 2025 to provide landlords within the district information about the funding opportunities available to them to make improvements to the standard of their properties.

Letters detailing ongoing grant opportunities available to private sector landlords will be sent to estate agents within the district and landlords who have a property on the council's private rented scheme in March 2025. The Service will track any response to these letters.

2.9.11 NEW ACTION 3.11 Civil Penalty Notice (CPN) Policy – On target

To ensure compliance with the Renters Rights Bill, the Service will be required to adopt a Civil Penalty Notice (CPN) Policy.

The Renters Rights Bill will encourage the council to make significant use of civil penalty notices in response to a landlord breaching relevant legislation, therefore, a new policy will be required to govern this.

3 Options and Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 For Committee to review and note the Year One Review of the council's Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2028 Action Plan.

4 Policy/Budget Reference and Implications

- 4.1 The recommendations in this report are within the Council's agreed policy and budgets.

- 4.2 The recommendations in this report relate to the achievement of the following performance indicators.
 - 4.2.1 HN01 – Maximum number of households living in temporary accommodation on the last day of the quarter.
 - 4.2.2 HN03 – Maximum number of households in temporary accommodation throughout the year.
 - 4.2.3 HN06 – Promote access to the private sector lettings in order to prevent and relieve homelessness.
 - 4.2.4 HN11 – Percentage of households prevented or relieved from homelessness.
- 4.3 The impact of the recommendations on this/these performance indicator(s) is:

The annual review of the Action Plan of the council's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2028 will ensure that the council continue to take action to reduce the number of households in temporary accommodation and ensure we are taking action to consistently prevent or relieve the homelessness of our customers.

Legal, Staffing, Community Safety, Public Health, Customer Services Centre.

None specific.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 The Action Plan that has been produced as part of the Council's Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2028 contains several actions to be implemented. Specific actions on this plan have been included to address the expensive cost of temporary accommodation to the council.
- 5.2 For those actions/projects that require financial input, the Service will make use of the Homelessness Prevention Grant. This is ring fenced funding provided by Central Government for the purpose of prevention and relief of homelessness in the district.

6 Equal Opportunities Implications

- 6.1 An Equal Opportunities Impact Assessment was completed for the Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and the Action Plan when adopted in January 2024.

7 Public Health implications

- 7.1 Annual review of our progress against the Action Plan will contribute to the prevention of deterioration of health and wellbeing issues that can be attributed to poor housing condition by improving the overall standard of housing across the district.

8 Communications and Website Implications

- 8.1 Once the annual review has been noted by Committee, the assistance of Communications will be required to upload the updated Action Plan to the council's website.

9 Environmental Implications

9.1 A Sustainability Impact Assessment was completed for the Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and the Action Plan when adopted in January 2024.

10 Risk and Health & Safety Implications

10.1 The Council has agreed its risk management strategy which can be found on the website at <http://www.threerivers.gov.uk>. In addition, the risks of the proposals in the report have also been assessed against the Council’s duties under Health and Safety legislation relating to employees, visitors and persons affected by our operations. The risk management implications of this report are detailed below.

10.2 The subject of this report is covered by the Housing Services service plan. Any risks resulting from this report will be included in the risk register and, if necessary, managed within this/these plan(s).

Nature of Risk	Consequence	Suggested Control Measures	Response <i>(tolerate, treat, terminate, transfer)</i>	Risk Rating <i>(combination of likelihood and impact)</i>
Failure to implement the actions on the Action Plan over the course of the strategy	A decrease in the prevention and relief of homelessness in the district A decrease in the standards of property within the district	The Actions in the action plan completed within the term of the strategy	Treat	6

10.3 The above risks are scored using the matrix below. The Council has determined its aversion to risk and is prepared to tolerate risks where the combination of impact and likelihood scores 6 or less.

Very Likely Remote ----- Likelihood	Low 4	High 8	Very High 12	Very High 16
	Low 3	Medium 6	High 9	Very High 12
	Low 2	Low 4	Medium 6	High 8

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Data Quality

Data sources:

N/A

Data checked by:

N/A

Background Papers

Nil

APPENDICES / ATTACHMENTS

The updated Action Plan of the council's Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-28

**THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL
HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY 2023-28
ACTION PLAN**

REF	AIMS	ACTIONS	OUTCOMES	LEADS	TARGET	PROGRESS	COMPLETE DATE
1.0	OBJECTIVE 1: PREVENT AND RELIEVE HOMELESSNESS						
1.1	Ensure flexible use of the Council's Homelessness Prevention Fund.	Housing Services will continue to review how the grant funding is used to ensure it is targeted in the most appropriate manner.	Grant funding is used efficiently and effectively to prevent and relieve homelessness in the district.	Housing Operations Manager / Strategic Housing Manager	Ongoing	The council's homelessness prevention fund continues to be used in a targeted manner to produce better outcomes for our customers.	Ongoing
1.2	Implement a cost-of-living homelessness prevention project.	Housing Services to design and fund a Cost-of-Living homelessness prevention project in partnership with Registered Providers.	An increase in homelessness prevention in the district.	Housing Operations Manager / Strategic Housing Manager	2024 – updated to 2025	Work has begun on shaping this project and budget available for progression and delivery in 2025.	2025
1.3	All tenants of Registered Providers (RP's) threatened with eviction are prevented from homelessness wherever possible.	Devise an early identification and intervention protocol with all Registered Providers to highlight factors such as rent arrears, antisocial behaviour, and tenancy sustainment.	Agreed protocol with all RPs so that tenants threatened with eviction for any reason will receive advice and options	Registered Providers and Housing Operations Manager	2024 – updated to 2025	Registered Providers have been contacted for initial discussions that will continue into 2025.	2025

1.4	Ensure staff are aware of any new trends which will predict our busier periods to enable them to prepare sufficiently	Monitor and analyse the statistics related to the Housing Service	To predict new demands to the Service, specifically related to the ongoing cost of living crisis	Strategic Housing Manager / Housing Development Officer	Ongoing	Any identified trends raised at team meetings.	Ongoing
1.5	Better understanding of rough sleeping in the district.	To develop improved ways of recording and assessing rough sleeping in the district with the use of GIS mapping software. Sightings are to be recorded on a map to identify any hotspot area.	Hotspots and trends identified in the district	Housing Operations Manager and Housing Development Officer	Ongoing	GIS training completed by the council's Housing Development Officer completed in November 2024. Mapping exercise of rough sleeper locations produced and will continue to be added.	Partially complete. Ongoing mapping to be conducted during term of strategy.
1.6	Promotion of homelessness prevention services	Publicise and promote the Council's homelessness prevention services and encourage customers to contact us early or when at risk of rough sleeping, before any crisis.	Increased early intervention and an increase in homelessness prevention	Housing Operations Manager/ Strategic Housing Manager	2024	Homelessness Forum has been re-established with increased engagement from partners. Housing Options Officers attend the council's Healthy Hubs once a month to provide advice and assistance to those visiting. Promotion of the council's Housing	2024

						Service via social media channels.	
1.7	All customers to be referred to any support services they require	Update all procedures to ensure that officers refer all customers engaging with the service to any support service they may require (CGL, MIND, Citizens Advice etc.) in a prompt manner	Increased support for customers	Strategic Housing Manager	2023	Procedures updated to ensure all customers referred to support required.	December 2023
1.8	Correct and up-to-date information is always available to customers	Consistently review information on the Council's website in relation to Homelessness is clear, concise and up to date with relevant legislation	Customers are fully informed of advice and assistance the Council can offer. Increased early intervention.	Housing Operations Manager / Senior Housing Options Officer / Communications	Ongoing	Legislative and procedural updates to website completed when required and consistently reviewed.	Ongoing
1.9	New Hope to provide the Council's Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) provision.	Explore the possibility of New Hope Trust providing the Council's SWEP Provision.	SWEP beds provided by New Hope Trust in the Haven Centre	Housing Operations Manager	2024	Provision of SWEP explored with New Hope, however, unable to come to a cost-effective agreement. SWEP provision to be continued to be provided internally.	October 2024
1.10	Housing Allocations Policy to remain up to date with legislative updates	Review of the Council's Housing Allocations Policy to take place in 2025	Housing Allocations Policy to incorporate legislative updates and ensure it contributes to the prevention and relief	Strategic Housing Manager	2025	Meetings with key partners to be scheduled for early 2025 to discuss possible changes to the	On target

			of homelessness in the district			council's Housing Allocations Policy. Policy to be updated by November 2025.	
1.11	Revamp of the current Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme (RDGS)	Look at different products/services we can offer as part of our Scheme and ensure the Scheme complies with any guidelines set out in the Renters (Reform) Bill.	Increase the Council's access to PRS Properties	Strategic Housing Manager/ Private Housing Coordinator	2024 – updated to 2025.	Project has been intentionally postponed to align with the introduction of Renters Rights Bill. The Bill is due for its third reading on 15 January 2025, before progression to the House of Lords.	2025 (or when Renters Rights Bill becomes legislation.)
1.12	Increase the level of mediation work and home visits to households	Housing Options Officers to visit every household that is a family/friends eviction at an early stage to identify any prevention opportunities.	Minimise the level of family/friends evictions.	Housing Operations Manager	2024	Internal procedural updates have ensured that Officers are visiting every applicant at home to explore every option to prevent homelessness. This includes the option of remaining with parents (if a parental eviction). Mediation training has been completed by Officers.	February 2024 March 2024
1.13	Work in partnership with Planning Policy and Regulatory	The Housing Development Officer will work in partnership with	Successful enforcement of Policy CP4 of the Adopted Core Policy.	Housing Development Officer	Ongoing	The council's Housing Development Officer has completed a review of the housing	Ongoing

	Services to ensure the ongoing delivery of affordable housing in the District.	Planning Officers to ensure any appropriate development offers the Council the required mix of affordable housing requested before any planning application is granted.				need of customers in temporary accommodation and those waiting for accommodation via the council's Housing Register to ensure that we are achieving the correct mix of property sizes required.	
1.14	Review the target for housing and the affordable housing provision within this plan, following the adoption of the new Local Plan.	Ensure that the affordable housing mix requested at any appropriate development is in line with the council's current housing requirements.	The right size and type of affordable housing are built in the district.	Housing Development Officer / Strategic Housing Manager	2026 (or following the Council's adoption of the new Local Plan)	Whilst a review of the housing needs of customers in temporary accommodation and the council's housing register has been conducted, this will be revisited once the Local Plan has been adopted.	To be commenced on the adoption of the council's Local Plan (expected September 2026)
2.0	OBJECTIVE 2: SUPPORT OUR MOST VULNERABLE CUSTOMERS INTO PERMANENT AND SUITABLE ACCOMMODATION						
2.1	Efficient use of the Council's five Next Steps Accommodation Program (NSAP) properties	Continue to nominate vulnerable customers, who will require a level of wrap-around support, to these properties when vacancies arise	NSAP Properties will only be used for vulnerable customers	Strategic Housing Manager / Housing Operations Manager	Ongoing	Two of the five original tenants of these properties have been successful in securing an assured tenancy in social housing via the council's Housing Register.	Ongoing

						Properties continue to be let to those who require wrap around support.	
2.2	Efficient use of the Council's five Rough Sleeper Accommodation Program (RSAP) properties	Continue to nominate vulnerable customers who have been rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping and who will require a level of wrap-around support, to these properties when vacancies arise	RSAP Properties will always only be used for vulnerable customers, who have been rough sleeping or are at risk of rough sleeping	Strategic Housing Manager / Housing Operations Manager	Ongoing	Properties continue to be let to those in this cohort who require wrap around support.	Ongoing
2.3	Vulnerable customers housed in the Council's temporary accommodation to be provided support.	We will work collaboratively with Hertfordshire County Council to enable vulnerable customers in temporary accommodation to be provided with intensive support by New Hope Trust (or similar agency)	Vulnerable customers to be supported in temporary accommodation	Strategic Housing Manager / Housing Operations Manager	Ongoing	20 x families in the council's temporary accommodation currently provided with support by New Hope Trust and funded by HCC. This funding has been confirmed for 2025/26.	Ongoing
2.4	A single homeless pathway for adults with complex needs who are homeless or at risk of homelessness is to be established in Three Rivers.	Work in partnership with the Strategic Partnerships Team at Hertfordshire County Council to establish this pathway in the district	Single adults with complex needs will have a dedicated pathway to support them into long-term settled accommodation	Housing Operations Manager	2023	Following the launch of the Making every Adult Matter (MEAM) project by Hertfordshire County Council, the council will be working in partnership to	Action superseded by HCC/TRDC partnership project.

						establish this pathway on a county wide basis.	
2.5	Maximise funding opportunities	Building upon recent success (NSAP, RSAP, RSI), and use established relationships with partners to identify funding streams and opportunities to bid for any funding dedicated to new initiatives for this cohort of customers.	Any potential funding granted, following a successful bid, is used to fund more long-term accommodation opportunities for vulnerable customers.	Strategic Housing Manager	Ongoing	Council successful in funding bid for Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) Round 1 and 2.	Ongoing.
2.6	RSI-6 funding granted by MHCLG to continue to provide a Housing Navigator post	The Housing Navigator provides intensive support to our vulnerable customers. Funding for the Council's Housing Navigator ends in 2025, therefore a bid for further funding will be completed at this time	If funding is granted, the Housing Navigator post will be funded until 2028	Housing Operations Manager / Strategic Housing Manager	2025	Funding for this post provided by Central Government for 25/26.	On target.
2.7	Support victims of Domestic Abuse	Fulfil our duties in relation to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and any subsequent legislative updates. Ensure all	Increased support and options for survivors of Domestic Abuse	Housing Operations Manager	Ongoing	Alignment with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 has been included in all relevant Policy and procedure for the Service.	Currently complete. However, Service will continue to update policy

		policies and procedures reflect this.				To be updated following any further legislative update. Domestic Abuse Caseworker has been integrated into the Service.	in line with any new legislative updates over course of the strategy.
2.8	Further allocation of AeFO MoU funding awarded	Funding application to be submitted to MHCLG for further funding to assist in providing long term accommodation to ex-offenders on their release from incarceration.	More opportunities for long term accommodation options for customers in these circumstances	Housing Operations Manager	Ongoing	No further funding available, therefore, no bid for further funding able to be submitted.	AeFO funding from central government discontinued.
2.9	Oversee the integration of a Domestic Abuse Caseworker within the Housing Service.	To support victims of Domestic Abuse and ensure they are aware of all available support available to them.	Victims of Domestic Abuse are fully supported, and the Council is aware of the risks to them.	Housing Operations Manager	2023	Domestic Abuse Caseworker integrated into the service and procedural updates complete ensuring that any customer who is a victim of domestic abuse receives specialised support. Independent Domestic Violence Advocate	December 2023

						(IDVA) training undertaken by the council's Domestic Abuse Caseworker.	August 2024
2.10	Ensure the Council is fulfilling our statutory responsibilities to members and ex-members of the Armed Forces, and their family members	The Housing Solutions Manager will undertake ongoing professional development in the form of regular training on the Council's responsibilities as signatories of the Armed Forces Covenant	The Council is aware of any updates to our responsibilities to this cohort at an early stage and can fulfil as required	Housing Operations Manager/Housing Solutions Manager	2024	Council's Housing Solutions Manager undertakes ongoing training when applicable.	2024
2.11	Ensure the Council is undertaking best practice with regard to our responsibilities as signatories of the Armed Forces Covenant.	The Strategic Housing Manager to undertake a review of the Service's policies and procedures	This cohort is achieving the best possible outcomes available following engagement with the Council	Strategic Housing Manager	2024	Review into best practice for this cohort completed by council's Strategic Housing Manager. Proposals to be discussed with council's Armed Forces Champion and any changes proposed will be brought forward as part of the review of	November 2024

						the council's Housing Allocations Policy in 2025.	
3.0	OBJECTIVE 3: IMPROVE THE STANDARD OF HOUSING ACROSS THE DISTRICT						
3.1	Improve awareness of conditions in the private housing sector	Commission a private sector housing stock condition survey	Better understanding of conditions in the private sector	Strategic Housing Manager	2026	On target	2026
3.2	Improve standards in the private rented sector	Develop and implement an action plan following the private sector housing stock survey	Improve conditions and landlord knowledge in the private rented sector	Strategic Housing Manager	2026/27	On target	2026/27
3.3	Enable people to remain in their homes and ensure they are appropriate for their needs	Make the best use of funding from the Better Care Fund regarding Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG)	People living in homes appropriate for their needs.	Strategic Housing Manager / Hertfordshire Building Control	Ongoing	43 x applications for Disabled Facilities Grants from residents within the district approved from 1 April 2024 – 22 January 2025	Ongoing
3.4	Clear guidance for discharging our homeless duties into the private rented sector	Review the Private Rented Sector Offer Policy	Properties used to prevent or relieve homelessness are to an acceptable and agreed standard	Strategic Housing Manager	2024	Policy reviewed, updated and agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee.	January 2024
3.5	Establish a Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) monitoring programme	Identify unlicensed HMOs in the district and monitor HMOs that are currently licensed by the Council for adherence to legislative updates.	HMOs in the district to be safe and suitable for customers to occupy	Strategic Housing Manager	2024 – updated to 2025	Delayed due to lack of resources (staffing) and other more urgent priorities.	2025

3.6	Establish a protocol for dealing with complaints of housing disrepair, specifically those relating to damp and mould	Agree on a protocol to deal with complaints of housing disrepair from tenants in social housing in the district.	Housing Disrepair issues rectified swiftly without the use of formal enforcement powers on partners.	Strategic Housing Manager	2026	Early discussions held with colleagues at Registered Providers. On target.	2026
3.7	Housing Enforcement Policy	Draft a new Housing Enforcement Policy to provide clear guidelines to Housing Enforcement Officers and customers about our process for dealing with complaints about housing disrepair/ statutory nuisance	Policy adopted by the Council.	Strategic Housing Manager/Housing Development Officer	2024 – updated to 2025	Intentionally postponed due to significant legislative reform expected from the introduction of the Renters Rights Bill.	September 2025
3.8	Ensure we are fully prepared for when the Renters Rights Bill becomes an Act of Parliament	Prepare the Service for significant changes to the sector, ensuring the structuring and resourcing is fit for purpose. Ensure all staff are fully trained in new legislation.	The Service is prepared for the Act.	Strategic Housing Manager	2024 – updated to 2025	Intentionally postponed due to the delay of the Renters Rights Bill becoming legislation.	2025
3.9	Encourage our Registered Providers and developers to build net zero	Initiate conversations with RP's and developers at the early stage of a proposal.	An increase in net zero homes built within the district over the period of the strategy.	Housing Development Officer	Ongoing	Officers continue to engage with developers and Registered Providers at early stages in the	Ongoing

	homes, promote sustainable living and make space for nature within any development in the district.					application process to encourage these principles.	
3.10	Ensure that PRS landlords within the district are aware and fully informed of the funding opportunities available to them to make significant improvements to the standard of their properties.	The Climate Change and Sustainability Officer to make presentations to landlords at the Council's ongoing Landlord's Forums. Actively promote these opportunities to any landlord engaging with the Council.	An increase in landlords engaging with the Council using these funding opportunities to improve the standards of their property.	Private Housing Coordinator	Ongoing	Landlord Forum to be conducted in 2025 in partnership with the Climate Change and Sustainability Officer. Annual letter sent to landlords on the council's Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme and estate agents informing landlords in the district of funding opportunities.	Ongoing
3.11	Civil Penalty Notice Policy	In response to the obligations and guidance as currently stated within the Renters Rights Bill, the Service will draft and adopt a new Civil Penalty Notice (CPN) Policy.	Improve conditions in the private rented sector and pursue rogue landlords in the district.	Strategic Housing Manager	2025	On target	2025

Key –

Blue – Complete

Red – Late

Green – Ongoing

Amber – Delayed/postponed

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CLIMATE CHANGE, LEISURE AND HOUSING COMMITTEE - 01/11/2024 - 14/01/2026

WORK PROGRAMME

No.	Items to be considered	Link to Strategic Plan	Date of Next Meeting	Purpose of the Report	How the work will be done	Responsible Officer	Outcome Expected
1.	South Oxhey Leisure Centre roof top Solar Panel Business Case		2 Jul 2025	A report to propose the installation of Solar Panels on the roof of South Oxhey Leisure Centre and identify how they will be funded.	South Oxhey Leisure Centre roof top Solar Panel Business Case	Joanna Hewitson, Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy Officer	
2.	Croxley Common Moor Management Plan 2025-2029		2 Jul 2025		Croxley Common Moor Management Plan 2025-2029	Kelly Barnard, Leisure Contracts and Landscape Officer	
3.	Croxley Hall Woods Management Plan		2 Jul 2025	A new management plan for Croxley Hall Woods	Croxley Hall Woods Management Plan	Alex Laurie, Principal Tree Officer	
4.	Housing Allocations Policy 2025 Review		2 Jul 2025	Request to proceed to a four week public consultation on the proposed changes to the council's Housing Allocations Policy	Housing Allocations Policy 2025 Review	Jason Hagland, Strategic Housing Manager	

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Agenda Item 12

No.	Items to be considered	Link to Strategic Plan	Date of Next Meeting	Purpose of the Report	How the work will be done	Responsible Officer	Outcome Expected
5.	Withey Beds Management Plan 2025-2035		2 Jul 2025		Withey Beds Management Plan 2025-2035	Kelly Barnard, Leisure Contracts and Landscape Officer	
6.	P3 Budget Management Report		15 Oct 2025	This report covers this committees financial position over the medium term (2025-2028) as at Period 3 (end of June 2025)	P3 Budget Management Report	Sally Riley, Finance Business Partner	
	P6 Budget Management Report		14 Jan 2026	This report covers this committees financial position over the Medium term (2025-2028) as at Period 6 (end of September 2025)	P6 Budget Management Report	Sally Riley, Finance Business Partner	