



**LAND & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**  
**CATHKIN BRAES COUNTRY PARK**  
**DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN 2013 - 2018**



***Cathkin Braes Country Park Vision***

***To ensure Cathkin Braes Country Park continues to provide a high quality countryside experience that meets the recreation, leisure, education and environmental needs of the community whilst protecting and promoting the biodiversity value, natural landscape character and historical significance of the country park.***

## CATHKIN BRAES COUNTRY PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Introduction to Cathkin Braes Country Park**

- 1.1.1 Cathkin Braes County Park covers a large area in the south east of Glasgow, approximately 8km from the city centre.
- 1.1.2 It is rich in history and a familiar landmark on the southern skyline reaching 200m above sea level, the highest point in Glasgow. The park is renowned for its panoramic views over the city and beyond.
- 1.1.3 The east side of the park was designated a City-wide Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) in 1989 and the farmland in the west in 2009. The whole park is a proposed Local Nature Reserve.
- 1.1.4 The country park represents one of Glasgow's richest habitat mosaics, with areas of long-established or ancient woodland, species-rich unimproved grassland, dwarf shrub heath, marsh, bracken and thorn scrub areas. The mosaic in turn supports a diverse range of animals, notably invertebrates and birds.
- 1.1.5 The natural environment of the park with its good network of paths is ideal for walking, picnics, informal recreation and environmental study.
- 1.1.6 The park's mix of terrain and undulating nature has made it the chosen location for the 2014 Commonwealth Games Mountain Bike event. The final circuit route has been agreed and once the Games are finished the circuit will be developed into 'Legacy' routes that can be used by members of the public for years to come.

## 1.2 Summary Information

Park Name:	Cathkin Braes Country Park
Location	Cathkin Braes Country Park Cathkin Road Glasgow G45
Postal Address:	Land and Environmental Services Glasgow City Council Exchange House 231 George Street Glasgow G1 1RX
Size of Site:	168 hectares
Telephone Number:	Land and Environmental Services General Enquiries Phone: 01412875064
Email:	<a href="mailto:les@glasgow.gov.uk">les@glasgow.gov.uk</a>
Ownership:	Glasgow City Council
Area Committee:	Linn
Electoral Wards:	Ward 1, Linn
	There is political interest from 4 City Councillors, 8 Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSP's), 1 Members of Parliament (MP's), 6 Scottish Members of European Parliament (MEP's).
Classification:	Country Park, Site of Importance for Nature Conservation and proposed Local Nature Reserve
Park Staff	Technical Services Manager - Management and Development Function  Neighbourhood Services Area Manager – Maintenance and Construction Function.
Plan Written By:	Parks and Greenspace Development
Previous Plan:	This is year 1 of the Management Plan
Partners:	Cathkin Braes Steering Group, South Lanarkshire, Forestry Commission and NHS (Branching Out)

### **1.3 Glasgow's Parks and Open Spaces**

- 1.3.1 Glasgow has over 90 Parks and Formal Gardens within the city boundaries and such is the diversity of these parks there is somewhere to suit everyone. Quality parks and open spaces are key factors in making our towns and cities attractive and viable places to live and are an integral part of the community. Parks and open spaces are major public resources which underpin many aspects of daily life, including providing opportunities for formal and informal sport and recreation, children's play, nature conservation, improving health and well being, combating pollution, facilitating urban renewal and attracting economic development.
- 1.3.2 Everyone, irrespective of age, race, gender or ability, benefits from parks and open spaces. These areas are also an essential element of the regeneration process in Glasgow and in recognition of this, the City Plan has set out standards for the provision of open space, emphasising the importance of the "green network" in the city. Glasgow is extremely fortunate in that it has a rich heritage of parks and open spaces, many of which have been in existence for over 100 years.
- 1.3.3 Glasgow City Council is committed to retaining and improving the quality of its parks and open spaces and will use the Green Flag judging criteria as a basis for determining areas for improvement and to determine priorities for the annual project submissions to the Parks Development Programme.

### **1.4 Strategic Policy Framework**

- 1.4.1 Glasgow has 91 parks and greenspaces which are strategically managed around the guiding principle that together they provide something for everyone but individually each park has a specific purpose which allows certain parks to be primarily for amenity value, whilst others are managed for wildlife. It is recognised that these plans will be produced prior to the publication of the Glasgow Open Space Strategy which is currently in the public consultation stage and is due for publication in 2012. Therefore it is unknown how these plans will fit into 'the bigger picture' of Glasgow's greenspace. The park management plans should ideally be implemented with the benefit of this city-wide strategic context. The management plans will be reviewed to reflect the strategy when complete.
- 1.4.2 The consideration of these major parks as part of the overall green network throughout the city will assist in ensuring an overall view of the future planning of greenspace takes place. This is a necessity, as is linking with other key strategies such as the Core Path Plan and Glasgow Open Space Strategy in which issues of connectivity and sustainability are important, as is local access to greenspace for communities throughout Glasgow.
- 1.4.3 In 2005, the council published the 'Strategic Best Value Review of Parks and Open Spaces' (the Best Value Review).
- 1.4.4 The Best Value Review identified 8 specific objectives in the form of recommendations for improved service delivery for all of the city's parks and open spaces. These set the context for the development of this management plan and are, in summary:
- To deliver a clear commitment to encourage greater use of parks.
  - To introduce a range of measures that will deliver service improvements in line with the council's key objectives and customer expectations.

- To develop and enhance the range of facilities and amenities within parks through partnership working and other approaches.
- To reconfigure the service to deliver quality and best value.
- To deliver a comprehensive parks service through education and conservation initiatives, preservation of traditional parkland, and promotion of horticultural excellence and defining service standards.
- To create a better understanding and awareness of the parks service through improved marketing and promotion.
- To communicate effectively with staff, external agencies, communities and other council services.
- To develop a corporate approach to the planning and delivery of services by implementing the cross-cutting proposals identified during the review.

1.4.3 In addition to the Best Value Review, this plan has been informed by a number of national and local policies and objectives – see **appendix 6.1**.

## **1.5 Management Plan Framework**

1.5.1 This plan sets out the future management, maintenance and development of Cathkin Braes Country Park and has been produced by Glasgow City Council to provide not only a long-term vision but also details on both developmental and operational duties required to achieve that vision.

1.5.2 The plan covers the period 2013 to 2018 and has a detailed plan of works for that period.

## **1.6 Purpose of the Management Plan**

1.6.1 Like any management plan its purpose is to:

“Provide a framework within which all future management is carried out. The plan enables any person involved to understand how and why decisions are taken and the reasoning behind the policies and proposals for action.”

1.6.2 This plan’s target audience is the local community, stakeholders, elected members, and council officers and its style and content should ensure continuity of purpose and consistency in service delivery. It is intended to be a flexible, working document that will be reviewed and updated annually. Reviews will form part of the Green Flag Award process by taking actions to address judge’s feedback.

1.6.3 The principal aim of this management plan therefore is;

- **To aid the efficient and effective management, maintenance and development of Cathkin Braes Country Park.**

1.6.4 In doing so the council will:

- Involve all stakeholders, officers and elected members to monitor, review and amend the plan.
- Identify and bid for additional resources where necessary.

## **1.7 Green Flag Award Scheme**

- 1.7.1 The Green Flag Award scheme is an established national standard for quality in greenspace management in England and Wales. It has been piloted as a scheme for benchmarking the quality of parks and greenspaces in Scotland since 2007 by Greenspace Scotland in partnership with The Civic Trust in England.
- 1.7.2 Following the success of the pilots the Green Flag Award scheme is now available in Scotland administered by a consortium comprising Keep Britain Tidy, GreenSpace and the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV).

## **1.8 How to use this Plan**

- 1.8.1 This plan will discuss the context of Cathkin Braes Country Park, examines where we are now and the actions to be taken to where we want to get to. The plan will also examine actions that will be carried out over the next five years, reviewed annually and updated to ensure the efficient and effective management and maintenance of Cathkin Braes Country Park. The plan conforms to Green Flag Award scheme criteria which provide the eligibility for submission.



## **SECTION 2 WHERE ARE WE NOW?**

### **2.1 History**

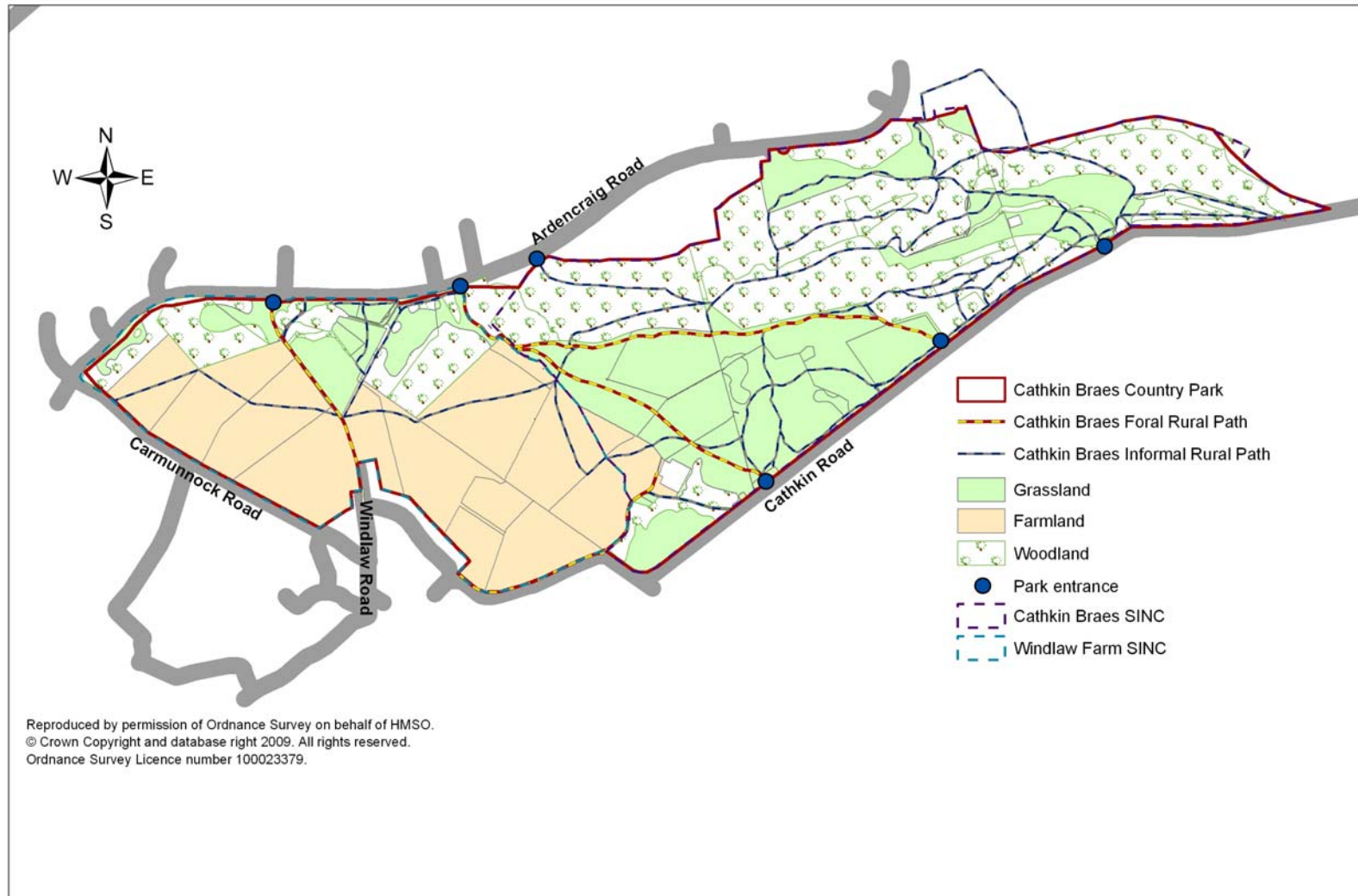
- 2.1.1 The area was originally known as the Cathkin Hills and during the Iron Age a Celtic tribe known as the Damnonii lived here. The discovery of many artefacts has been recorded and several cairns exist to this day.
- 2.1.2 Queen Mary's seat is a large cairn in the area where Mary Queen of Scots is reputed to have observed the defeat of her forces at the Battle of Langside on 13<sup>th</sup> May 1558.
- 2.1.3 Both Castlemilk and the Cathkin Hills formed part of the Carmunnock parish. Much of Cathkin Braes was originally part of the Castlemilk Estate in the form of two farms, Windlaw and Muirside, owned by Sir John Stuart (Baronet).
- 2.1.4 The eastern part of the Country Park was gifted to the city in 1887 by Mr James Dick, a wealthy businessman, in celebration of his marriage. One of the conditions of this gift was that the area should be held 'in perpetuity as a place of resort for the community and the inhabitants of the City of Glasgow' and that the open spaces were retained in a natural state and open for public enjoyment.
- 2.1.5 The Cathkin Braes Park wood appears on the Military Survey maps of 1750 but Big Wood does not appear until the first 1860 OS Map. However it is thought that the mature woodlands are derived from planting during estate ownership. The early OS maps show the remaining land as mainly open and in agricultural use, a condition which prevailed until some 40 years ago. By the 1980s both Windlaw and Muirside farms had been all but abandoned.
- 2.1.6 In more recent times Cathkin Braes has been utilised as a park. A park pavilion was built around 1890 and was used regularly until the early 1980s when it had to be demolished for structural reasons. At the beginning of the last century major events were held at the pavilion site including music concerts attracting crowds in excess of 10,000.
- 2.1.7 Glasgow Corporation acquired the western part of the site from Castlemilk Estates in the 1940s.
- 2.1.8 In 1994 Cathkin Braes was developed as a Country Park including 72 acres of the land gifted by James Dick.
- 2.1.9 A small portion in the east of the park was transferred to South Lanarkshire in a local government reorganisation in 1996. This land however is still under the ownership and management of Glasgow City Council.

### **2.2 The Locality**

- 2.2.1 Cathkin Braes Country Park is located approximately 8km south east of the centre of Glasgow.
- 2.2.2 The wooded braes slope rises above the residential areas of Castlemilk and Fernhill to the open habitats of the plateau above, which is bounded by Cathkin Road (B759) along the southern edge. The Windlaw Farm meadows extend west from the plateau grasslands to Carmunnock Road and the village of Carmunnock. Ardenraig Road forms much of the northern boundary.

- 2.2.3 Cathkin Braes Country Park combines with other neighbouring key greenspaces, such as Cart and Kittoch SSSI, Castlemilk Woodlands and Linn Park Local Nature Reserve, to form an extensive green corridor (albeit fragmented in parts).
- 2.2.4 This green network very much defines the landscape character of the south of the city.

## 2.3 Map of Key Facilities



## SECTION 2.4 A WELCOMING PLACE



**View across the City**

Our aim is to ensure that Cathkin Braes Country Park is welcoming and accessible to all users.

This section of the Management Plan examines Cathkin Braes Country Park as a Welcoming Place under the following headings.

- **Entrances and Access**
- **Signage**
- **Park Furniture**
- **Accessible to All**

If you have a view about any of these issues tell us what you think.

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## 2.4 A WELCOMING PLACE

- 2.4.1 Cathkin Braes Country Park represents one of Glasgow's richest habitat mosaics. The unspoiled land boasts ancient woodland, natural grasslands, heath, marsh and scrub. A range of formal and informal paths throughout the site allow visitors to explore the different habitats and enjoy the panoramic views across the City and beyond.
- 2.4.2 **Entrances and Access.** The park covers an area of 168 hectares (415 acres) and has a variety of entrances and exits.
- 2.4.3 There are three entrances from Cathkin Road on the south side of the park, two of which have car parking facilities. The main car park has recently been extended to form an event space at this entrance. This is to accommodate the Commonwealth Games mountain bike event but will be available for use once the Games have finished. There are also entrances to the north from Ardenkraig Road, and to the west from Carmunnock Road and Windlaw Road.
- 2.4.4 **Signage.** In common with all of Glasgow's parks Cathkin Braes Country Park has signage at the entrances identifying the name of the park. There are 5 lecterns placed in strategic points within the park containing detailed maps of the Park. There is currently no park information cabinets located within Cathkin Braes Country Park. ***It is intended to install an information cabinet at the car park on Cathkin Road which has been identified as a suitable site for an information cabinet.***
- 2.4.5 Directional signage in the form of finger posts are located throughout and some interpretation is present at key features. The park would benefit from more interpretation of the ecological features such as grassland and woodland habitat to better inform users of their uniqueness and content. ***More internal directional signage and interpretation is required within the park to inform users of the location of these points.***
- 2.4.6 At the time of writing this plan signage for the western side of the park, the Windlaw Farm area, was being developed. The purpose of this signage is to inform dog walkers in particular of the sensitivity of the habitats in this area especially during the bird breeding season when ground nesting birds would be particularly vulnerable to disturbance by dogs.
- 2.4.7 There are at present no directional signs to the park on the surrounding roads and footpaths. However, Glasgow City Council has established a working group to review directional signage on roads and footpaths to direct visitors to attractions throughout the city. ***It is intended to make representation to this working group to have all of Glasgow's strategic parks including Cathkin Braes Country Park adequately signed on both roads and footpaths.***
- 2.4.8 The landmark identifier panels at Queen Mary's seat viewpoint have been removed due to vandalism. There are no plans at this time to replace these panels. The view point is not as it once was as trees now obscure much of it. ***An assessment will have to be given as to whether this should remain an advertised view point and therefore whether management of the trees is required to maintain open and clear views.***
- 2.4.9 **Park Furniture.** Cathkin Braes Country Park has seating and litter bins at the car park area. There are also some seating areas along the main path through the park. Damaged items are either repaired or replaced as required however they do not have specific regular maintenance assigned to ensure they are

cleaned and or painted, stained or varnished at least once per annum. At present these tasks are carried out at the discretion of the Neighbourhood Services Manager on an individual needs basis. ***To demonstrate consistency of approach and presentation all items of furniture within Cathkin Braes Country Park should be put on an appropriate annual maintenance regime.***

- 2.4.10 **Accessible to All.** Cathkin Braes Country Park offers access to the infirm and disabled and all sectors of the community; there are no barriers to entry. However due to the topography of the park some access is restrictive.
- 2.4.11 The car park on Cathkin Road just east of Carmunnock has disabled parking and a viewpoint suitable for wheelchair access.
- 2.4.12 The park's topography, height and landscape character is quite unique in Glasgow's urban setting which has led to interest from a number of organisations and sectors of the community to utilise these features in a variety of ways.
- 2.4.13 **Mountain Bike Course.** The park will be the venue for the Mountain Bike event at the 2014 Commonwealth Games. After the Games are finished the Commonwealth circuit will be adapted to provide routes suitable for members of the public. ***The legacy of the Commonwealth Games will provide four permanent mountain biking circuits in the country park which will be graded according to skill level.***
- 2.4.14 Although Scotland is a world leader in the provision of mountain biking facilities, few venues are located within or near to built up areas. Access to the sport can therefore be difficult for those people whose travel options are limited. The provision of a facility within Cathkin Braes Country Park will help enable access to the sport for Glaswegians and residents of neighbouring areas, benefiting local communities.
- 2.4.15 The park has previously been used by mountain bikers on an informal basis. The formation of designated mountain bike routes with directional and information signage to separate riders and walkers is a welcome introduction to the park to avoid conflict between the two user groups.
- 2.4.16 The country park with an overall size of 168ha is large enough to accommodate formal mountain bike routes without spoiling the use of the park for other more passive recreational activities and environmental education.
- 2.4.17 Some existing footpaths are being upgraded and new paths put in place to deal with the heavy footfall during the Games and to allow spectators to easily reach view points in order to better watch the races. After the Games these paths will then contribute to and improve the path network throughout the country park.
- 2.4.18 Works for the Commonwealth Games mountain bike route will be complete by the end of December 2012. Games specific signage and any other temporary works will be put in place for the beginning of the Games in 2014.
- 2.4.19 Works for the Commonwealth Games has taken into account the sensitivity of the habitats present at Cathkin Braes Country Park causing little lasting disturbance to the ecology of the site.
- 2.4.20 **Wind Turbine.** Planning permission has been granted for the erection of one wind turbine within the park boundary. This is the first wind turbine to be

erected in Glasgow City Council Local Authority area. The elevation of Cathkin Braes makes it a suitable site for such a venture. However the biodiversity value of the site means that this scheme could not be rolled out on a wider scale within the park.

2.4.21 Travel arrangements to Cathkin Braes Country Park are:

- Bus - Various routes operate from the city centre to Arden Craig Road and Carmunnock Road.
- Car – Parking is available at the Cathkin Road entrances and along Arden Craig Road.
- Cycling – The park is suitable for cyclists and dedicated mountain bike paths are currently being built.
- Walking – The park can be easily accessed from Arden Craig Road (3 entrances) and Windlaw Road.

## SECTION 2.5 HEALTHY SAFE AND SECURE



**Path through the grassland**

Our aim is to ensure the safety of all staff and users of Cathkin Braes Country Park.

This section of the Management Plan examines Cathkin Braes Country Park as a Healthy, Safe and Secure place under the following headings.

- **Equipment and Facilities**
- **Security**
- **Dog Fouling**
- **Health and Safety Policies**
- **Location of Facilities in the Park**

If you have a view about any of these issues tell us what you think.

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## 2.5 HEALTHY SAFE AND SECURE

- 2.5.1 **Equipment and Facilities.** There is a recognised procedure for the issue repair and maintenance of machinery tools and equipment.
- 2.5.2 Any machines issued for use shall be documented on a Daily Machinery Issue Form.
- 2.5.3 It shall be the responsibility of the operator(s) to ensure that machines are returned in good working order. It shall be the responsibility of the store person or other delegated employee to document the return of allocated machinery on the Daily Machinery Issue Form.
- 2.5.4 In the case where grass-cutting machinery has developed a fault during the working day, the operator will assess if the fault can be rectified by him/her, and if so, the work shall be carried out and recorded on the Depot Minor Repair Form. If not, it shall be reported to the issuer.
- 2.5.5 The issuer will instigate the procedure for the Recording of Breakdown and Repair of Machinery. In the case where hand tools require repair/replacement, the defective items shall be quarantined as per the procedure for the Recording of Breakdown and Repair of Machinery, and thereafter a purchase requisition raised to effect the repair/replacement.
- 2.5.6 ***Land and Environmental Services will continue to monitor, review and develop safety procedures to ensure equipment and facilities are safe to use.***
- 2.5.7 There are no equipped play areas in the park. However the park offers an excellent opportunity to be explored through natural play.
- 2.5.8 **Security.** The park is visited regularly by maintenance operatives and the Countryside Rangers, particularly during the summer months, which helps to provide a sense of security. They are present less frequently in the winter. The police cycle patrols and patrol vans regularly pass around the park. ***LES in conjunction with Glasgow Community Safety Services will review the security arrangements within the park.***
- 2.5.9 **Dog Fouling.** In Glasgow there is a city-wide campaign called “Bag it and Bin it” to encourage dog owners to pick up dog fouling and dispose of it safely. Dog owners who do not bag and bin dog fouling can face a fine of £50. It has been established that there is no special requirement for special dog waste bins and owners are encouraged to deposit dog fouling in the normal waste bins in the park or take it home to their domestic waste bin. The park management rules are clear about dog fouling and the control of dogs in the park and these should be posted at all information cabinets in the park. Enforcement of dog fouling is an issue as Land and Environmental Services do not have officers in parks able to impose fines on offending dog owners. ***To address this issue LES plan to develop a partnership with the Glasgow Community Safety Services Team for them to visit identified hotspots and deliver effective enforcement measures.***
- 2.5.10 **Health and Safety Policies.** Land and Environmental Services has a dedicated team to develop, review, audit and monitor health and safety in all areas of LES responsibility. A copy of the Health and Safety Manual is available at the Neighbourhood Services Operations Depot at King’s Park, this being the depot responsible for all maintenance and equipment in Cathkin

Braes Country Park. Regular revisions to the manual are issued and master records maintained by the Policy Development Team.

- 2.5.11 **Location of Facilities.** Cathkin Braes Country Park has map lecterns and directional fingerpost signs at strategic points throughout the park. Interpretative signage is located at the main Cathkin Road car park as are seating facilities and litter bins. There are two main viewpoints one of which has disabled access.

## SECTION 2.6 WELL MAINTAINED AND CLEAN



**Big Wood**

Our aim is to maintain the highest standards of horticulture, cleanliness and grounds maintenance.

This section of the Management Plan examines Cathkin Braes Country Park as a well maintained and clean place under the following headings.

- **Litter**
- **Grounds Maintenance**
- **Vandalism and other Damage**

If you have a view about any of these issues tell us what you think.

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## 2.6 WELL MAINTAINED AND CLEAN

2.6.1 The instruction to carry out maintenance within the park comes from:

- An electronic data base which generates weekly job tickets for routine maintenance operations.

Additional or unpredictable maintenance works are identified through:

- Regular management inspections (walking the job).
- Staff reporting damage, the need for repair or additional maintenance.
- Other services using the park.
- The public.

2.6.2 Grounds maintenance works are carried out by the Neighbourhood Services team located at King's Park Depot.

2.6.3 **Litter.** Litter is removed from the park and the bins emptied three times per week in summer and once per week in winter though this will be monitored by the Neighbourhood Services Manager and additional litter removals introduced if required. Once removed from the park waste collected enters the council's normal waste stream where recyclables are removed and the remainder is taken to an appropriate land fill site.

2.6.4 **Grounds Maintenance.** Standard routine maintenance operations are scheduled on cyclical maintenance programmes which identify the frequency and timing of individual operations throughout the year. However, there is also work required that is either reactive, infrequent, species specific and of a specialist nature.

2.6.5 Cathkin Braes Country Park provides a countryside experience very close to a busy city. The focus on the maintenance of the parks grounds has less of a traditional park maintenance focus. Closely mown amenity grass and formal planting beds are not a feature of this park, although some amenity grass exists at the Queen Mary's Seat view point. The natural beauty and countryside nature of the park are very much the forefront of the experience the Council wishes to deliver here for visitors and the maintenance schedule for the park reflects this. **Appendix 6.2** outlines the maintenance schedule in more detail.

2.6.6 **Vandalism and other Damage.** The system for identifying running repairs, dealing with vandalism and other damage to structures requires the Neighbourhood Services Area Manager team to contact Access Glasgow (the Council's arms length property maintenance provider) and report the repair required. Access Glasgow is responsible for authorising the works, which are funded from a central repair fund established to deal with ongoing repairs.

## SECTION 2.7 SUSTAINABILITY



**Grassland Management at Windlaw Farm**

Our aim is to protect and enhance the areas of core nature conservation interest and adopt environmental management principles to help reduce the impact of management operations on the environment.

This section of the Management Plan examines Sustainability issues affecting Cathkin Braes Country Park under the following headings.

- **Environmental Management System**
- **Use of Pesticides**
- **Use of Horticultural Peat**
- **Green Waste Disposal**
- **Horticultural and Arboricultural Standards**

If you have a view about any of these issues tell us what you think.

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## 2.7 SUSTAINABILITY

- 2.7.1 **Environmental Management System.** Glasgow's parks are registered to BSI Environmental Management System – ISO 14001 since the 24 May 2004, which is a national quality auditing system. This certification process operates on a 3 year cycle and is independently audited by UKAS accredited auditors twice every year with the 6th audit being a re-certification visit. The certificate number is EMS 74572 and the scope is for 'The management and maintenance of crematoria, cemeteries, parks, country parks, livestock, landscape work and glasshouses. The operation and maintenance of golf courses, playing fields, outdoor events and outdoor recreation facilities.'
- 2.7.2 **Use of Herbicides. *A herbicide policy needs to be developed that considers the minimisation of the use of herbicides.*** The current specification allows for 4 herbicide applications per annum to grass edges and obstacles in grass areas. The specification also allows for 3 applications to hard standing areas. Only affected areas are treated and the use of strategies that are sensitive to public concerns and the environment are used. All operatives involved in the application of herbicides are trained to the approved certification level required.  
The only herbicide used in Glasgow's parks for the control of unwanted vegetation is Glyphosate. This is mainly used for the control of unwanted vegetation on hard standings, footpaths and spot treatment of weeds in shrub beds. The Neighbourhood Services Area Manager maintains a record of all herbicide use.
- 2.7.3 **Use of Horticultural Peat.** There is no peat used in the park other than that used in the production of the bedding plants for the seasonal bedding displays. All of the bedding plants are produced by our nursery at Bellahouston Park which has achieved a 57% reduction in peat usage through a change in production methods. The nursery no longer uses compressed peat and achieves a further 20% saving on the annual quantity required by incorporating wood fibre into the compost. The nursery has also substantially reduced the quantities of pesticide used by switching to a product (Intercept) which is mixed into the compost in one application rather than multiple applications by conventional means. ***The service will continue to seek alternatives to peat and reduce the use of pesticide in the production of bedding plants.***
- 2.7.4 **Green Waste Disposal.** The amenity grass areas are cut and arisings left to recycle. The areas of grassland managed as wildflower meadows are cut once a year and the arisings baled. These bales can be taken by local farmers for winter animal feed. Any left over bales are composted. Material arising from shrub pruning is chipped and recycled back into the shrub beds. Where work is undertaken on trees, the smaller branches are chipped and recycled in the park or on informal footpaths; larger commercial sized timber is stored and sold in lots when sufficient quantities are gathered.
- 2.7.5 **Habitat Enhancement Planting.** For the Local Nature Reserve element of the park only native species of Scottish provenance are purchased. This is either from known reputable suppliers or from the council's own wildflower nursery, where local seed is collected and then grown on for planting out in wildlife sites across the city.
- 2.7.6 **Arboriculture Standards.** Individual tree inspections are carried out in the park on a five yearly basis to maintain health and safety obligations, with ad hoc surveys being carried out as and when required (e.g. after storm damage, or preceding new building/landscape development, major public events etc.).

- 2.7.7 **Vehicle Usage.** Land and Environmental Services have introduced a new pattern of working to provide a 7 day week and achieve efficiency savings city-wide. The new pattern of working 4 days on and 4 days off effectively means that only half the workforce requires to be transported on a day to day basis. This allows for substantial reductions in the size of the vehicle fleet required and more efficient utilisation of the remaining vehicles. Similar efficiencies are also achieved with the utilisation of plant and equipment as these are common to both shifts. A full assessment of the reductions in numbers of vehicles and plant is ongoing.
- 2.7.8 **Energy Conservation.** Land and Environmental Services is an amalgamation of three major operational council services: Parks, Roads and Cleansing, all of which had their own operational depots. Land and Environmental Services are rationalising these depot arrangements wherever possible to take advantage of efficiencies of scale utilising larger premises more efficiently to house a generic workforce to service the operational requirements of Parks, Roads and Cleansing in 3 areas of the city. These depot rationalisations deliver substantial savings in energy consumption as the premises are either demolished, utilised by third parties or mothballed utilising minimum utilities to maintain security and keep frost free.
- 2.7.9 **Pollution Reduction.** All of the measures, interventions and initiatives in this section contribute to reducing the potential polluting effects of delivering a parks service. Rationalising our operational depots reduces our overall energy consumption, using fewer vehicles and plant helps with our air quality and carbon footprint, sourcing local provenance trees and shrubs preserves biodiversity and reduces the travel distance. A tree management plan reduces waste and prevents the introduction of inappropriate plantings, composting green waste reduces the amount going to landfill, reducing the amount of peat and seeking alternative composts helps to preserve biodiversity, spot treating unwanted vegetation with herbicide reduces the quantity applied and reduces any potential pollution risk and being registered to a national quality Environmental Management System ensures that a focus is maintained on this aspect of the service.

## SECTION 2.8 CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE



**Species rich grassland at Cathkin Braes**

Our aim is to protect and enhance biodiversity throughout the site, promote understanding of and interest in biodiversity and to maintain and promote the historic significance of the park.

This section of the Management Plan examines Cathkin Braes Country Park as a Conservation and Heritage place under the following headings.

- **Natural Features Wildlife and Flora**

If you have a view about any of these issues tell us what you think.

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## 2.8 CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE

2.8.1 **Natural Features Wildlife and Flora.** Cathkin Braes Country Park comprises one of Glasgow's richest habitat mosaics. Woodland and grassland dominate with smaller areas of heath and marsh also present.

2.8.2 Glasgow City Council produced a Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) in 2001. Habitat and Species Action Plans relevant to Cathkin Braes Country Park are:

LBAP Habitats	LBAP Species
Broad-leaved and Mixed Woodland	Bluebell
Acid Grassland	Burnet-saxifrage
Neutral Grassland	Bog-mosses
Dwarf Shrub Heath	Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary
Marsh	Common Frog
	Common Toad
	Reed Bunting
	Skylark

2.8.3 **Woodland.** The mature woodlands covering some 36ha are considered to be of a regionally significant size. The new plantations as they mature will help to make a more substantial and robust ecological unit and landscape feature.

2.8.4 The woodlands in general have a long-established, semi-natural appearance, and because of past management have a varied canopy and a fairly diverse ground flora with a good range of old woodland indicators.

2.8.5 The woodland provides habitat for a great variety and number of birds both resident and migratory.

2.8.6 ***During 2013 the Council will publish a strategic long-term forest plan for the woodlands within Cathkin Braes Country Park.*** This management plan for the woodlands, the 'Cathkin Braes Strategic Woodlands Plan' (CBSWP), will encompass managerial objectives and actions over a 20 year period.

2.8.7 It is intended to pursue external funding through the Woodland Improvement Grant within the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) to help deliver the CBSWP.

2.8.8 In year 5 of the CBSWP it is proposed to put the woodlands forward for accreditation as a sustainably managed forest through the FSC Certification programme.

2.8.9 **Scrub** is a feature of the southern plateau area where gorse and broom occur in dense stands with sporadic hawthorn. Although locally this can be considered a threat to some species rich grassland areas, in general, they add to the habitat mosaic and are important refuges and nest sites for birds.

2.8.10 **Hedgerows.** The farmland to the east has a network of long established hedgerows. Hawthorn is the dominant species. The hedgebank flora is limited and very few old woodland species are present.

2.8.11 ***The hedgerow would benefit from introducing a management regime and its diversity could be extended through planting.***

- 2.8.12 **Dwarf Shrub Heath.** Heathland, both dry and wet, occurs throughout the park, although tends to be limited to small areas of rock outcrop or ridges on the northern slopes, where Heather and Blaeberry can be frequent. A large area of wet heath is a feature of the southwestern part of the park, supporting Cross-leaved Heath and Heath-spotted Orchid.
- 2.8.13 **Farmland.** Also included in the Country Park boundary is part of Windlaw Farm, which adjoins the southern plateau and extends westwards towards Carmunnock road. There are some 49 hectares of actively managed land, which reinforces the open, rural countryside atmosphere of the park.
- 2.8.14 The farmland has been somewhat intensively managed until 2003 when various biodiversity friendly management practices were introduced. This initiative has benefited from grant aid via various agri-environment funded schemes.
- 2.8.15 Currently there are over 16 hectares managed as species-rich meadows and a further 16 hectares managed to ensure no damage to farmland bird populations, notably Skylark. A further 1.6 hectares are sown with unharvested crops, which support large populations of over wintering birds.
- 2.8.16 **Grassland.** A key feature of the site is the extensive area of species-rich unimproved grassland. Grazing ceased on this site in the last 30 years and there had been no further management of the grasslands until recent initiatives were set up to try and restore some areas. The lack of management over the years has resulted in the herb diversity being locally reduced due to the increase in grasses.
- 2.8.17 ***Positive management of the grasslands to improve herb diversity will continue with a priority focus on the core relic species rich areas.***
- 2.8.18 The meadow grasslands at Windlaw Farm contrast with the relic acid and neutral grasslands found on the southern plateau. These meadow have been variously improved but recent management has been increasing species diversity. ***The wildlife friendly management of the farmland meadows will continue.***
- 2.8.19 **Marsh.** There are several areas of species-rich marsh in the southern grassland and also locally as flushes on the northern slopes and below. All the marshy areas are linked to drains and burns. The marshes are quite varied and in general botanically rich. They also support good populations of invertebrates.
- 2.8.20 The Windlaw area of the park also has an important wetland feature situated in a shallow depression surrounded by meadows. Several ponds have been excavated in the area and water plants introduced to these to increase diversity.
- 2.8.21 The marsh is notable for its bird interest in particular a large population of over-wintering Jack Snipe and also resident Reed Bunting.
- 2.8.22 **Flora.** Species diversity is generally very high with over 200 vascular plants recorded. Additionally there is quite a diverse range of lower plants such as mosses, liverworts, lichens and fungi.
- 2.8.23 **Fauna.** In total over 80 species of bird have been recorded with several notable rarities including Green Woodpecker, Spotted Flycatcher, Skylark and Reed

Bunting. Bird numbers and variety are boosted by the Windlaw farmland which hosts many pairs of Skylark and over-wintering habitat encourages large flocks of Linnet, Tree Sparrow and Yellowhammer.

- 2.8.24 The birds using the marsh area at Windlaw are counted once a month as part of the national Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS). ***WeBS counts will continue to be made on a monthly basis.***
- 2.8.25 There is good data available for butterfly and moth species, with a transect having been counted for butterflies over a number of years. This transect was counted jointly by volunteers and the Countryside Rangers. 12 species of butterfly have been recorded. The most notable is the Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary.
- 2.8.26 ***It would be beneficial to reinstate the butterfly transect at Cathkin Braes, in particular to monitor the Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary population.***
- 2.8.27 There is limited data on mammals using the site, but records include Roe Deer, Red Fox, Mole, Badger, Field Vole, Grey Squirrel, Shrew and Rabbit.
- 2.8.28 Common Frog and Common Toad are the only amphibians recorded for the park.
- 2.8.29 **Local Nature Reserve.** Cathkin Braes Country Park is a proposed Local Nature Reserve (LNR). At the time of writing this plan full LNR status was being sought. ***The LNR management plan which will detail the habitat management considerations for the park will then become an appendix to this plan.***
- 2.8.30 The overall aim of the LNR declaration is to ensure that the rich mix of habitat features at Cathkin Braes are restored, enhanced or retained in a favourable condition. Additionally opportunities to further diversify and enrich the habitats of the adjoining open farmland will be pursued with a vision to extend and improve the important green network via Pedmyre and Carnbooth to the Cart and Kittoch Valley SSSI.

## SECTION 2.9 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



**Grassland management with conservation volunteers**

Our aim is to encourage community involvement in the park through consultation, events, activities and the potential for a Friends of Cathkin Braes Country Park to be established.

This section of the Management Plan examines Cathkin Braes Country Park as a Community Involvement place under the following headings.

- **Online Customer Survey System**
- **European Commission (EU) Survey 2007**
- **Environmental groups and organisations survey 2006**
- **Glasgow Citizen's Panel, autumn 2006 and spring 2007, autumn 2007 and spring 2008**
- **School Pupils survey 2004**
- **Strategic Best Value Review Consultations 2004**
- **Friends Groups**
- **Achievements**

If you have a view about any of these issues tell us what you think.

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## 2.9 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- 2.9.1 **Surveys.** In managing the park and preparing the plan the views of the community and stakeholders are crucial. These are obtained through surveys, meetings and liaison with members of the local community.
- 2.9.2 **European Commission (EU) Survey 2007.** The EU contracted Gallup-Hungary to carry out a survey on perceptions of quality of life in 75 European cities including Glasgow, in 2006. This survey complemented the work carried out in the context of the European Urban Audit. 500 randomly selected individuals were contacted from each city to answer 23 questions about the quality of life including parks and greenspaces, in their cities. Approximately 75% of respondents from Glasgow were rather satisfied or very satisfied with parks and greenspaces in their city. Parks and greenspaces in Glasgow were in the top quarter of European cities where a significant majority of respondents were satisfied with their parks and open spaces.
- 2.9.3 **Environmental groups and organisations survey 2006.** The council's Land Services undertook a survey in 2006, using a questionnaire sent out to 149 environmental organisations regarding issues of use and benefits of parks and open space provision and the role and involvement of local groups. 61% of the 79 of the environmental organisations that responded said parks and open spaces in Glasgow are accessible to all. All respondents said parks and open spaces in Glasgow are very important. A significant number, 42% of respondents said they use parks and open spaces for environmental projects and outdoor activities.
- 2.9.4 **Glasgow Citizen's Panel, autumn 2006 and spring 2007, autumn 2007 and spring 2008.** The survey was conducted by Ipsos MORI Scotland on behalf of Glasgow City Council using face to face interview among 1013 and 1007 Glasgow residents in autumn 2006 and spring 2007 respectively. The results identified that parks remain the most widely used council service in all citizens' panel survey. 60% of respondents or their household members used parks in the last year or so in the autumn 2006 survey. This number increases to 67% in spring 2007. Satisfaction levels with parks were 83% in autumn 2006 and 81% in spring 2007. Although a majority of respondents (63% and 53% in autumn 2006 and spring 2007 respectively), were satisfied with children's play parks, a significant minority were dissatisfied with the play parks due to litter and graffiti, maintenance and range of equipments. Almost all respondents (93%) feel that it is important that the council should deliver its services in a way that avoids damage to the wildlife and natural growing plants (biodiversity) in Glasgow (autumn 2006).
- 2.9.5 **Strategic Best Value Review Consultations 2004/ School Pupils survey 2004.** A broad range of range of exercises to ascertain stakeholder views and needs to improve the quality and effectiveness of parks were carried out including employee consultation, focus groups, school consultation, public consultation and inter-service workshops. Over 670 and 3000 responses were received from the public and schoolchildren respectively. Most respondents would like to see improved security and safety measures, increased community involvement, maximising usage for all, improved infrastructure in particular play equipment and effective communication about park provision and enforcement. It is intended as part of the consultation exercise for this management plan to re-visit the consultation undertaken in 2004.
- 2.9.6 **Friends Groups.** The park does not have a dedicated friends group. The Cathkin Braes Steering Group has provided a means for everyone with an

interest in the park including members of the local community to bring together ideas, problems and issues and presents a forum for discussion.

2.9.7 **Achievements.** Community involvement is now a major theme within the Parks Service as recommended by the Strategic Best Value Review 2005 (SBVR) of Glasgow parks and open spaces. The information gathered from local people, councillors, community groups and the voluntary sector is helping to shape management decisions regarding present and future development of parks. Current approaches to community involvement in parks and open spaces in Glasgow include:

- Consultations
- User groups
- Surveys
- Events

## SECTION 2.10 MARKETING



Interpretation panel at Cathkin Road car park

Our aim is to actively promote Cathkin Braes Country Park to all potential users.

This section of the Management Plan examines the Marketing of Cathkin Braes Country Park under the following headings.

- **Events**

If you have a view about any of these issues tell us what you think.

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## 2.10 MARKETING

- 2.10.1 There is no specific marketing plan for Cathkin Braes Country Park. Marketing plans are produced for specific events or occasions as part of the planning process in advance of the event taking place. A range of media is used to promote Cathkin Braes Country Park and the activities that occur within it.
- 2.10.2 The Glasgow City Council web site contains information on all of the city's parks and the events and activities in them. The site is regularly updated and a weekly events programme 'What's on in our Parks' is posted every week.
- 2.10.3 A leaflet about the park was produced in 2007.
- 2.10.4 **Events.** There is an established events programme for Cathkin Braes Country Park throughout the year. Like most parks, many of the events occur during the summer months and they range from charity events, sporting events, environmental events and local events.
- 2.10.5 The use of parks for events is important for the cultural and sporting life of the city. The newly created event space near the car park for the purposes of the Commonwealth Games will be retained and offers opportunity to be used for local festivals or for other major events. Local events provide much needed family entertainment and often involve showcasing of different cultures helping to promote local community cohesion. Larger events such as the World Pipe Band Championships or major sporting events attract visitors to the City and play a vital role in promoting tourism.
- 2.10.6 Events held in Cathkin Braes Country Park include:
- Tiny Trekkers
  - Magnificent 7 (Guided Walk)
  - TCV Volunteer Days
- 2.10.7 The council's Countryside Rangers provide an environmental education facility and utilise the park regularly with school groups and local volunteers. They also have plans to roll out a Forest Schools programme through 2013. ***The Forest Schools initiative will be developed in Cathkin Braes led by the Countryside Ranger Service.***
- 2.10.8 There are currently plans to promote the Magnificent 7 walking route to encourage users to walk the route themselves. This walk is a circular route in the south of the city taking in 7 greenspaces, including Cathkin Braes and Windlaw Farm. At a slow pace and stopping for lunch the guided walk can take up to seven hours. The promotion of the walk for people to do themselves will involve a leaflet with a map and may include some directional signage. ***The countryside ranger guided walk will still continue and promotional material produced to encourage walkers to enjoy the route themselves.***
- 2.10.9 In order to encourage responsible use of the new mountain bike facility in the park. Groups of school children will be taken on the routes by trained 'Trail Cycle Leaders'. These leaders will highlight the dangers of riding off route and the damage this can cause to the surrounding sensitive habitats.
- 2.10.10 Branching Out is an innovative development for adults who use mental health facilities in the Greater Glasgow and Clyde area. It is run by Forestry Commission and the NHS in partnership. Participants take part in various



activities in an outdoor woodland setting such as environmental art, health walks and conservation and bush craft activities. Cathkin Braes Country Park is regularly used as a venue for this initiative.

- 2.10.11 The council's 'Biodiversity News' and 'Friends of Glasgow's Parks' newsletter can be a source of information about projects happening in the park for the local community and beyond.

## SECTION 2.11 MANAGEMENT



**Autumn view**

Our aim is to provide a responsive, flexible and high quality management service

This section of the Management Plan examines the Management of Cathkin Braes Country Park under the following headings.

- **Service Profile**
- **Partnerships**
- **Park Management**

If you have a view about any of these issues tell us what you think.

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## 2.11 MANAGEMENT

2.11.1 **Service Profile.** Land and Environmental Services (LES) is a major operational department which has the responsibility for providing cleansing, parks, roads, transport and design services for the city in the most effective, efficient and co-ordinated way. It provides the majority of services that were previously the responsibility of Land Services and Environmental Protection Services, and these are;

- Parks and Environment – Natural Environment, Landscape Design and Development and Bereavement Services.
- Neighbourhood Services – Provision of refuse collection, street cleaning, parks, nurseries, cemeteries and crematoria, road and footway maintenance, street lighting, winter maintenance and grounds maintenance operations. These services are structured in line with the three strategic planning areas in the city.
- Waste Management Operations – Waste disposal, recycling and landfill.
- Design Services – Roads, public realm and bridges.
- Strategic Projects – Project management, East End Regeneration Route, waste strategy, wind farm and Commonwealth Games.
- Traffic Operations – Traffic systems, road safety and road works control.
- Service Development – Business support and policy and development.
- Environmental Health and Trading Standards – Public health, air quality, environmental complaints handling, contaminated land, food hygiene, licensing, non-domestic noise, workplace health and safety, pest control, vehicle emissions, trading standards, calibration and test facility and consumer complaints.
- Scientific Services – Scientific testing and analysis of samples relating to environmental matters, food, microbiology, water and agricultural products

2.11.2 **Partnerships.** Land and Environmental Services continue to work jointly with others and have partnership arrangements which include major regeneration and environmental improvement projects such as the East End Regeneration Route, public realm projects, Quality Bus Corridors, urban woodland schemes, the Clean Glasgow campaign and play area and neighbourhood improvements in housing areas. In addition, LES have partnership arrangements with other local authorities for vehicle emission testing, tackling illegal money lending and scientific laboratory services.

2.11.3 Specifically the partnership arrangements operating in Cathkin Braes Country Park are:

- South Lanarkshire Council
- Forestry Commission and NHS (Branching Out)
- Cathkin Braes Steering Group

2.11.4 **Park Management.** Land and Environmental Services aims to provide a responsive, flexible and high quality management service, which will use the Green Flag Assessment criteria as a monitoring tool to ensure the highest of standards are achieved and maintained.

2.11.5 The Executive Director of Land and Environmental Services has a city-wide responsibility for the delivery and management of a comprehensive parks service. The Head of Service also has direct management responsibility for the specification of operations and developments within the park and an overview of partner operations and services.

2.11.6 Currently LES Neighbourhood Services carry out grounds maintenance works from King's Park operational depot. The development of the management plan and Green Flag Assessment provides an opportunity for the input of the Neighbourhood Services team to actively assist with the development of the plan, delivery of the actions and participate in the review process.

2.11.7 **Green Flag UK Standard.** It would be desirable for all of Glasgow's Strategic Parks to meet and where possible exceed the standards set by the Green Flag Award scheme which is a nationally recognised quality award scheme for parks and gardens. The Green Flag Awards are administered by a consortium comprising Keep Britain Tidy, GreenSpace and the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV).

2.11.8 Green Flag Sites must be freely accessible to the public and have a site specific management plan. Sites are judged against eight criteria and the management plan actions for Cathkin Braes Country Park are aligned with these criteria which are as follows:

- A Welcoming Place
- Healthy, Safe and Secure
- Clean and Well Maintained
- Sustainability
- Conservation and Heritage
- Community Involvement
- Marketing
- Management

2.11.9 **The aim is to achieve and retain Green Flag status within the timescale of the plan.**

2.11.10 **Park Assets.** Glasgow City Council recognises parks as assets and re-values them on a five year rolling programme. The current valuation for Cathkin Braes Country Park is based on a value for community land. In 2009 CABE space published a paper **Making the invisible visible: the real value of park assets** which argued that this form of valuation does not reflect the true value in monetary terms for the nation's parks. Elements such as the hard and soft landscaping, the trees and topsoil also have a measurable asset value. The paper argues that this improved understanding of the current value of park and green space assets is an important first step in better strategic management. ***LES intend to examine the merits of this valuation system through using the development of management plans as pilot valuation areas to underpin proposed investment strategies contained within the management plan actions.***

2.11.11 **Financial and Resource Implications.** The financial implications of this plan are ambitious but achievable. The plan also identifies further works and assessments in a variety of management areas which will have resource implications for Land Environmental Services. The results of this analysis will identify further priority areas for investment and it is anticipated that this could require a further investment to deliver these new priorities.

2.11.12 **Potential Funding Sources.** Potential funding sources to fund elements of Cathkin Braes Country Park Management Plan have been considered from a holistic perspective in relation to the actions proposed for Cathkin Braes Country Park. This is because the funding source potential for these elements would not necessarily be mutually exclusive and the criteria of some funders

may allow for grant assistance to be given to different elements of the proposals.

2.11.13 In conducting the funding sources review there were a number of general points to be considered:

- Funding is normally made available only towards the capital costs of projects and revenue funding is normally excluded, although sources such as the National Lottery can make revenue funding available to support activity following on from a capital award. Such revenue funding support is typically granted for an initial period (e.g. 3 to 5 years – depending upon the National Lottery Funding programme) to establish a self-sustaining basis of the project;
- Funding agencies usually prefer to participate in partnership funding packages whilst evidence must clearly be given that financial assistance is genuinely required for the project to proceed;
- Funding assistance is normally discretionary with awards made only after a fully detailed application has been considered by the funding agency;
- Normally a project applying for external funding will have to demonstrate operational viability, or illustrate the source of a long term commitment to meeting any revenue shortfall;
- To create the most appropriate conditions for achieving viability, the maximum method of capital funding should be non-repayable grant aid to minimise the requirement to service any borrowings to fund the development costs.

2.11.14 **Appendix 6.3** outlines the potential sources of funding which could be relevant to the actions identified in Cathkin Braes Country Park Management Plan. The funding appraisal covers a breadth of funding sources and mechanisms and although the exercise cannot be fully exhaustive it nevertheless provides a sufficiently detailed “starter” in considering the funding options for implementing the management plan.

2.11.15 **Monitor and Review.** This plan is a working document and therefore needs to be monitored 6 monthly and reviewed annually to ensure that proposed actions are being delivered on time and any new challenges addressed by everyone with an interest in the plan.

2.11.16 A team of staff led by the Technical Services Manager will be responsible for the review process. It is envisaged that the action plan will be reviewed annually and an assessment made on progress including any shortfalls in delivery. Managers will consult key stakeholders and incorporate their views in the review process.

2.11.17 Managers will include actions in the work plan of their team members and specific dates allocated as delivery deadlines in discussion with team

members. Managers will review actions with team members during one to one and team meetings. Any significant changes to the action plan must be agreed with the review team. The monitoring will therefore be conducted by managers and their team members and the review by managers, stakeholders and the Technical Services Manager.

## SECTION 3 WHERE DO WE WANT TO GET TO

### 3.1 GLASGOW CITY COUNCIL KEY OBJECTIVES

3.1.1 The council has developed its current key objectives in its Council Plan. These objectives, which were approved in February 2008, set the framework for the council's main aims for the years 2008 to 2011 and are supported by a list of targets and actions. A report on progress against these targets is made each year through a short update on the Council Plan which is available on the council's web site.

3.1.2 The five key objectives are:

- **improving the efficiency and effectiveness of our services;**
- **increasing access to lifelong learning;**
- **making Glasgow a cleaner, safer city;**
- **building a prosperous city; and**
- **improving health and wellbeing**

### 3.2 LAND AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MISSION STATEMENT

3.2.1 In cognisance of the councils overarching key objectives Land and Environmental Services Mission Statement is:

**Land and Environmental Services is committed to providing high quality services which contribute to the quality of life, safety and wellbeing of all customers through managing and maintaining Glasgow's land and transport environment in a sustainable manner.**

### 3.3 VISION FOR CATHKIN BRAES COUNTRY PARK AND LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

3.3.1 The vision statement has been developed to reflect the strategic role Cathkin Braes Country Park plays locally and regionally as an environmental, educational, and recreational resource for Glasgow's residents and visitors.

#### *Vision Statement*

***To ensure Cathkin Braes Country Park continues to provide a high quality countryside experience that meets the recreation, leisure, education and environmental needs of the community whilst protecting and promoting the biodiversity value, natural landscape character and historical significance of the country park.***

### 3.4 ASSESSMENT

#### 3.4.1 Cathkin Braes Country Park Management Plan Aims

3.4.2 Beneath the new vision lie a series of aims that have been linked to the Green Flag Award Scheme criteria.

3.4.3 The aims are set as follows. Each of these aims is further developed into targets, measures and timescales identified in the action plan in this park management plan.

**The relationship between Green Flag Award criteria and Management Plan aims**

<b>Green Flag Criteria</b>	<b>Management Plan Aim</b>
A Welcoming Place	To ensure that Cathkin Braes Country Park is welcoming and accessible to all users
Healthy, Safe and Secure	To ensure the safety of all staff and users of the park
Clean and Well Maintained	To maintain the highest standards of horticulture, cleanliness, grounds and building maintenance
Sustainability	To protect and enhance the areas of core nature conservation interest and adopt environmental management principles to help reduce the impact of management operations on the environment.
Conservation and Heritage	To protect and enhance biodiversity throughout the site, promote understanding of and interest in biodiversity and to maintain and promote the historic significance of the park.
Community Involvement	To encourage community involvement in the park through consultation, events, activities and the Local Nature Reserve Steering Group.
Marketing	To actively promote the park to all potential users
Management	To provide a responsive, flexible and high quality management service



## **SECTION 4 HOW WILL WE GET THERE**

### **4.1 Overview**

4.1.1 The Cathkin Braes Country Park Management Plan is for five years starting financial year 2013/14. The completion date will therefore be 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

### **4.1.2 Action Plan**

4.1.3 The action table sets out the actions aligned with each of the Green Flag criteria and, for reference, the relevant paragraph numbers and sections. It also identifies the information source used to lead to the recommendations. The action plan also contains a section identifying strategic capital projects which Land and Environmental Services will endeavour to achieve within the life of the plan.

4.1.4 The timescales mean the following:

- Short: immediate action required within the first year of the plan.
- Medium: action required within the first three years of the plan.
- Long: may not be achievable within the life of the plan, but progress should be achievable within the life of the plan.
- Ongoing.

## 4.2 A Welcoming Place – Year 1 Action

Item	Paragraph Number	Management Plan Section	Information Source	Lead Officer	Action	Timescale	Estimated Cost £
4.2.1	2.4.4	Signage	Development of this Management Plan	Technical Services Manager	Replace the maps in all the lecterns to show the location of the Mountain bike circuit and footpath network.	Short	£2000
4.2.2	2.4.4	Signage	Development of this Management Plan	Technical Services Manager	Install new park information cabinet with map at main car park on Cathkin Road.	Short	£4000
4.2.3	2.4.5	Signage	Development of this Management Plan	Technical Services Manager	Develop and install new interpretation panels for the viewpoint, woodland and grassland habitat.	Short	£3000
4.2.4	2.4.5	Signage	Development of this Management Plan	Technical Services Manager	A review of the internal directional signage is required to inform park users of the formal and informal footpaths within and out of the park.	Short	Existing Resources
4.2.5	2.4.7	Signage	Development of this Management Plan	Technical Services Manager	A member of the Parks and Environment team to be assigned to the signage working group to represent parks and open space issues.	Short	Existing Resources
4.2.6	2.4.9	Park Furniture	Development of this Management Plan	Technical Services Manager	All items of park furniture put on appropriate annual maintenance regime.	Short	Existing Resources

**A Welcoming Place –Action required within the first three years**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Paragraph Number</b>	<b>Management Plan Section</b>	<b>Information Source</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Estimated Cost £</b>
4.2.7	2.4.8	Signage	Development of this Management Plan	Technical Services Manager	Assess the Queen Mary's view point for managing open view and requirement for replacement of signage.	Medium	Existing Resources
4.2.8	2.4.13	Accessible to All	LES Design Team	LES Design Team Leader	Formation of Commonwealth Games Legacy routes and erection of appropriate signage.	Medium	£30000

**4.3 Healthy Safe and Secure – Year 1 Action**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Paragraph Number</b>	<b>Management Plan Development Section</b>	<b>Information Source</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Strategic Action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Estimated Cost £</b>
4.3.1	2.5.9	Dog Fouling	Management Requirement	Technical Services Manager / Neighbourhood Services Manager	Develop a partnership with the Glasgow Community Safety Services Team for them to visit identified dog fouling hotspots and deliver effective enforcement measures.	Short	Existing Resources

**Healthy Safe and Secure – Action ongoing within the life of the Plan**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Paragraph Number</b>	<b>Management Plan Development Section</b>	<b>Information Source</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Strategic Action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Estimated Cost £</b>
4.3.2	2.5.6	Equipment and Facilities	Management Requirement	Technical Services Manager / Neighbourhood Services Manager / Health and Safety Officer	Continue to monitor, review and develop safety procedures to ensure equipment and facilities are safe to use.	Ongoing	Existing Resources
4.3.3	2.5.8	Security	Management Requirement	Technical Services Manager / Neighbourhood Services Manager	Review security if and when required.	Ongoing	Existing Resources

**4.4 Well Maintained and Clean – Year 1 Actions**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Paragraph Number</b>	<b>Management Plan Development Section</b>	<b>Information Source</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Strategic Action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Estimated Cost £</b>
4.4.1	2.6.5	Grounds Maintenance	Development of this Management Plan	Technical Services Manager / Neighbourhood Services Area Manager	A review of the current job ticket system for maintenance works to be undertaken given that typical formal parkland maintenance is not appropriate in parts of Cathkin Braes Country Park.	Short	Existing Resources

**4.5 Sustainability – Year 1 Actions**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Paragraph Number</b>	<b>Management Plan Development Section</b>	<b>Information Source</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Strategic Action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Estimated Cost £</b>
4.5.1	2.7.2	Use of Herbicides	LES Maintenance Schedules	Natural Environment Manager	Develop a herbicide policy that considers the minimisation of the use of herbicides.	Short	Existing Resources
4.5.2	2.7.2	Use of Herbicides	Development of this Management Plan	Natural Environment Manager	Review the need for any herbicide use in Strategic Parks as part of the job ticket maintenance review	Short	Existing Resources

**Sustainability – Action required within the first three years**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Paragraph Number</b>	<b>Management Plan Development Section</b>	<b>Information Source</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Strategic Action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Estimated Cost £</b>
4.5.3	2.7.3	Use of Horticultural Peat	Development of this Management Plan	Natural Environment Manager	Seek to reduce the use of horticultural peat to zero and consider alternative composts wherever practical.	Medium	Existing Resources

**4.6 Conservation and Heritage – Year 1 Actions**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Paragraph Number</b>	<b>Management Plan Development Section</b>	<b>Information Source</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Strategic Action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Estimated Cost £</b>
4.6.1	2.8.6	Natural Features Wildlife and Flora	LES Woodland Unit	Natural Environment Manager	Develop strategic long-term forest plan for the woodlands in Cathkin Braes Country Park.	Short	Existing Resources
4.6.2	2.8.26	Natural Features Wildlife and Flora	LES Conservation Team	Natural Environment Manager	Reinstate butterfly transect.	Short	Existing Resources
4.6.3	2.8.29	Natural Features Wildlife and Flora	LES Conservation Team	Natural Environment Manager	Develop Local Nature Reserve Management Plan with view to designate site.	Short	£500

**Conservation and Heritage – Action required within the first 3 years**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Paragraph Number</b>	<b>Management Plan Development Section</b>	<b>Information Source</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Strategic Action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Estimated Cost £</b>
4.6.4	2.8.7	Natural Features Wildlife and Flora	LES Woodland Unit	Natural Environment Manager	Apply for SRDP funding to implement woodland plan.	Medium	Existing Resources

**Conservation and Heritage – Action ongoing within the life of the Plan**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Paragraph Number</b>	<b>Management Plan Development Section</b>	<b>Information Source</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Strategic Action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Estimated Cost £</b>
4.6.5	2.8.11	Natural Features Wildlife and Flora	LES Conservation Team	Natural Environment Manager	Diversify and gap up hedgerows through planting.	Ongoing	£600 / yr
4.6.6	2.8.17	Natural Features Wildlife and Flora	LES Conservation Team	Natural Environment Manager	Continue positive management of relic grasslands and enhancement through plug planting.	Ongoing	£3000 / yr
4.6.7	2.8.18	Natural Features Wildlife and Flora	LES Conservation Team	Natural Environment Manager	Continue wildlife friendly management of farmland meadows and unharvested crop.	Ongoing	£2000 / yr
4.6.8	2.8.24	Natural Features Wildlife and Flora	LES Conservation Team	Natural Environment Manager	Continue wetland bird counts at Windlaw Marsh on a monthly basis.	Ongoing	Existing and Partner Resources



**4.7 Community Involvement – Action ongoing within the life of the plan**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Paragraph Number</b>	<b>Management Plan Development Section</b>	<b>Information Source</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Strategic Action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Estimated Cost £</b>
4.7.1	2.9.6	Friends Group	Development of the Management Plan	Landscape Design and Development Manager	Glasgow City Council continues to support and contribute to the Cathkin Braes Steering Group	Ongoing	Existing Resources

**4.8 Marketing – Year 1 Action**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Paragraph Number</b>	<b>Management Plan Development Section</b>	<b>Information Source</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Strategic Action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Estimated Cost £</b>
4.8.1	2.10.07	Current Marketing Strategy	Countryside Ranger Service	Senior Countryside Ranger	Develop Forest Schools initiative in the park.	Short	Existing Resources

**Marketing – action required in the first 3 years**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Paragraph Number</b>	<b>Management Plan Development Section</b>	<b>Information Source</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Strategic Action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Estimated Cost £</b>
4.8.2	2.10.8	Current Marketing Strategy	Countryside Ranger Service	Senior Countryside Ranger	Develop Magnificent 7 guided walk promotional material.	Medium	£3000

**Marketing – Action ongoing within the life of the plan**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Paragraph Number</b>	<b>Management Plan Development Section</b>	<b>Information Source</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Strategic Action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Estimated Cost £</b>
4.8.3	2.10.4	Current Marketing Strategy	Development of this Management Plan	Natural Environment Manger	Continue to offer a variety of events.	Ongoing	Existing and Partner Resources
4.8.4	2.10.8	Current Marketing Strategy	Development of this Management Plan	Natural Environment Manger	Continue to offer Magnificent 7 countryside Ranger led walk.	Ongoing	Existing Resources
4.8.5	2.10.09	Current Marketing Strategy	Countryside Ranger Service	Senior Countryside Ranger	Encourage responsible use of the Mountain Bike Routes	Ongoing	Existing Resources
4.8.6	2.10.10	Current Marketing Strategy	Development of the Management Plan	Natural Environment Officer	Continue to allow the use of the park for Branching Out activities.	Ongoing	Existing Resources
4.8.7	2.10.11	Current Marketing Strategy.	Development of this Management Plan	Natural Environment Manager	Continue to promote the park through regular articles in newsletters and other media.	Ongoing	Existing and Partner Resources

**4.9 Management – Year 1 Actions**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Paragraph Number</b>	<b>Management Plan Development Section</b>	<b>Information Source</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Strategic Action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Estimated Cost £</b>
4.9.1	2.11.9	Green Flag UK Standard	Development of this Management Plan	Landscape Design and Development Manager	Apply and achieve Green Flag award for 2012	Short	Outline Cost £1000

**Management Action ongoing within the life of the plan**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Paragraph Number</b>	<b>Management Plan Development Section</b>	<b>Information Source</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Strategic Action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Estimated Cost £</b>
4.9.2	2.11.9	Green Flag UK Standard	Development of this Management Plan	Landscape Design and Development Manager	Retain Green Flag status for the life of this plan	Ongoing	Outline Cost £4000
4.9.3	2.11.12	Financial and Resource Implications	Development of this Management Plan	Landscape Design and Development Manager	Prepare funding applications to suitable external agencies to support the prioritised actions required to deliver this management plan.	Ongoing	Existing Resources
4.9.4	2.11.16	Monitor and Review	Development of this Management Plan	Landscape Design and Development Manager	Appoint monitoring group to review progress of the Management Plan at 6 monthly intervals.	Ongoing	Existing Resources

## SECTION 5 HOW WILL WE KNOW WE HAVE ARRIVED



**Hedgerow at Windlaw entrance**

This section of the Management Plan examines the indicators that we will employ to ensure Cathkin Braes Country Park continues to meet the Green Flag standards as:

- A Welcoming Place
- Healthy, Safe and Secure
- Clean and Well Maintained
- Sustainability
- Conservation and Heritage
- Community Involvement
- Marketing
- Management

Progress with Cathkin Braes Country Park will be identified under the following headings.

- **Management Plan Monitoring**
- **Budget and Service Plan**
- **Land and Environmental Services Annual Performance Report**
- **Online Survey and Customer Feedback**
- **Parks Development Programme Monitoring**

If you have a view about any of these issues tell us what you think.

Telephone Number: Land and Environmental Services General Enquiries 01412875064

Email: [les@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:les@glasgow.gov.uk)

Web Site [www.glasgow.gov.uk/parks](http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/parks)

## SECTION 5 HOW WILL WE KNOW WE HAVE ARRIVED

**5.1 Introduction.** The effective management of the city's parks and open spaces and local transport network requires Land and Environmental Services to regularly monitor performance and to report these findings to the public, the council and other stakeholders. Land and Environmental Services use a variety of methods to report on performance.

**5.2 Management Plan Monitoring.** Identified in the Management Section (2.11) of this plan is a commitment to review progress on a yearly basis. The outcome of each review will be communicated to the plan's target audience identified in paragraphs 1.6.2 – 1.6.4 and our partner organisations for comment. The outcome of each review will also be reported to the LES Senior Management Team for approval and action if required. Any proposed changes to the plan will be subjected to the same process.

**5.3 Budget and Service Plan.** The council's financial approach requires all services to combine their annual budget proposals with their annual service plan to produce an annual Budget and Service Plan. This sets out the proposed service changes and financial efficiencies for a financial year in line with the council's approved budget.

This includes

- An overview of the Service with details of responsibilities, budgets and staffing.
- The opportunities and challenges currently facing Land and Environmental Services.
- Details of the service changes for 2009/10. These cover individual proposals for income generation and efficiency savings.

**5.3.1** Our commitment to improving our parkland through the adoption of Green Flag standards, the targets for achieving Green Flag awards and the resources required to do so will be clearly identified in the Plan

**5.4 Land and Environmental Services Annual Performance Report.** The Annual Performance Report details the achievements and levels of performance reached during the previous year. It also sets out new targets for service delivery in the coming year. The commitment to adopt Green Flag standards and achieve Green Flag Awards for some of our parks and local nature reserves will be clearly identified and progress reported on an annual basis

**5.5 Parks Development Programme Monitoring.** Park management plans will identify actions that could be funded by the Parks Development Programme (PDP) budget. Suitable projects are identified and entered into a bids process and successful projects have a budget allocated and added to the PDP programme. LES Landscape Design project manage most of the PDP programme, major capital schemes are sometimes managed by LES Projects Team this is dependant on the scale and scope of the project involved. All projects are tracked within a project management system to ensure quality outcomes. Monitoring of the PDP takes place every 2 weeks where the progress of every project is discussed both in terms of budgetary and physical progress and remedial action identified if required. On completion projects are signed off with a completion certificate retained within the project file and the completed site is passed to Neighbourhood Services for maintenance.

- 5.6 Cathkin Braes Steering Group.** This group brings together all organisations and members of the local community who have an interest in the management of Cathkin Braes Country Park. The group offers an opportunity for discussing ideas on management, feedback on project success, raising funds and for users of the park to raise any problems or issues. In addition it acts as a communication channel to the wider community.



## **LAND & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

### **CATHKIN BRAES COUNTRY PARK AND LOCAL NATURE RESERVE**

### **MANAGEMENT PLAN SECTION 6**

## **APPENDICES**

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## SECTION 6 APPENDICES

This section of the plan provides the details set out in the appendices referred to in this management plan.

### 6.1 Strategic Policy Framework Details.

#### 6.1.1 Policies, Strategies and Legislation affecting the Management Plan

There are national and local policies, strategies and legislation that impact on this management plan.

'Parks and greenspaces are supportive of social and economic objectives and activities, help to reduce inequalities, poor health and social exclusion in deprived areas and reduce the inherent tension between the many social and ethnic groups who form the wider community. Providing for the recreational and leisure needs of a community assists the economic revival of cities, increasing their attractiveness as a place for business, investment, to live, work and take out leisure'

#### **Quotation from - Committee of Ministers - Council of Europe Recommendation on Urban Green Space.**

- 6.1.2 Many national and local policies, strategies and legislation have been examined and reviewed as part of the preparation of the plan and some of those that impact on this plan are summarised below;

#### **National Legislation.**

- 6.1.3 **Disability Discrimination Act 2005:** This is a piece of legislation that promotes the civil rights of disabled people and protects disabled people from discrimination. The act gives disabled people rights in the area of access to goods, facilities and services and therefore applies to parks and open spaces.
- 6.1.4 This management plan assesses how adjustments can be made by undertaking all reasonable steps to make the park accessible to all. A copy of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 is available at [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk)
- 6.1.5 **Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000:** The act requires named public bodies including Glasgow City Council to review their policies and procedures to remove discrimination and the possibility of discrimination and to actively promote race equality.
- 6.1.6 This management plan looks at how people from different ethnic backgrounds can have equal access and representation with regards to the benefits of parks and open spaces. For example, the plan recommends annual parks surveys that will include ethnic monitoring of respondents and actively developing partnerships with organisations working with different ethnic groups to increase their participation. A copy of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 can be found at [www.equalityhumanrights.com](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com)

- 6.1.7 **Local Government in Scotland Act 2003:** This act places a duty on local authorities in Scotland to fulfil the duty of best value by making arrangements to secure continuous improvement in performance (while maintaining an appropriate balance between quality and cost) and to make arrangements for the reporting to the public of the outcome of how the local authority has performed its functions.
- 6.1.8 The key aim of this management plan is to;
- Help set an appropriate budget for the park
  - Develop work programme for staff
  - Keep everyone with an interest in the park informed of how the park is being looked after through annual park surveys.
- 6.1.9 A copy of the Local Government Scotland Act 2003 is available at [www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk))
- 6.1.10 **Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003:** This act makes it an offence for any person in charge of a dog to fail to remove and dispose of appropriately any excrement on certain public places including parks and open spaces. The act allows local authorities and the police to issue fixed penalty notices to those they believe have committed the offence.
- 6.1.11 In putting together this plan, we have undertaken consultation with park staff and the public to identify the extent of dog fouling in the park if any and to identify existing and new measures that can be undertaken to reduce or eliminate the problem of dog fouling if it exists. A copy of the Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003 is available at [www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk)
- 6.1.12 **Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005:** The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 establishes new methods of protecting the environment and extending opportunities for involvement in public policy decision making by systematically assessing and monitoring the significant environmental effects of public sector strategies, plans and programmes, seeking expert views at various points and requiring public statement as to how opinions have been taken into account. A copy of this act is available at [www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk)
- 6.1.13 **Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004:** This act protects wildlife and places a duty on local authorities including Glasgow City Council to further the conservation of biodiversity in undertaking their functions. Glasgow City Council is undertaking this role through the Glasgow Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP).
- 6.1.14 This management plan recognises the benefits of how parks and open spaces are linked to the countryside beyond by a series of wildlife corridors and habitats. The plan assesses how biodiversity can be enhanced in this park through various actions described in the Conservation and Heritage section of this plan. A copy of the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 and Glasgow Local Biodiversity Action Plan is available at [www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation) and [www.glasgow.gov.uk/biodiversity](http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/biodiversity) respectively.

### **Local Policies and Strategies.**

6.1.15 **Glasgow City Council key objectives:** The City Council has developed key objectives as part of its future plans and targets up to 2011. The City Council's vision is to create "a prosperous city for all Glaswegians".

The five Key Objectives are:

- improving the efficiency and effectiveness of our services;
- increasing access to lifelong learning;
- making Glasgow a cleaner, safer city;
- building a prosperous city; and
- improving health and wellbeing.

6.1.16 The management plan contributes significantly to all of the above key objectives by ensuring that there is continuous improvement in how the park is maintained. Promotes the educational benefits of the park as an outdoor classroom to all. The prioritised work programme addresses the needs of stakeholders and provides opportunities for projects that promote healthy living improving the health and well being of Glaswegians. A copy of the Councils' Plan and key objectives is available at [www.glasgow.gov.uk](http://www.glasgow.gov.uk)

6.1.17 **Strategic Best Value Review of Glasgow Parks and Open Spaces 2005 (SBVR)** The SBVR document requires Glasgow City Council to produce management plans for all parks and makes recommendations to encourage greater use of parks, to communicate effectively with all stakeholders and to develop and enhance the range of facilities and amenities by working with partner organisations.

6.1.18 In putting together this plan, the requirement to produce management plans for parks is being fulfilled. In addition the objectives and subsequent actions developed in this plan compliment those in the SBVR document. A copy of the SBVR document is available at [www.glasgow.gov.uk](http://www.glasgow.gov.uk)

6.1.19 **Glasgow Single Outcome Agreement (SOA):** This is an agreement between local authorities in Scotland and the Scottish Government on the most effective routes to deliver services in line with local needs and national priorities. In July 2008, Glasgow City Council and the Scottish Government signed Glasgow's first Single Outcome Agreement (SOA).

6.1.20 Glasgow's SOA through the community planning partnerships aims to reduce health inequality, improve educational attainment, increase residents' involvement in community life and physical activity and improve the physical environment and attractiveness of Glasgow.

6.1.21 This management plan recognises the role that this park plays in the delivery of the above priorities and establishes work programmes to improve and enhance how the park can be a place for outdoor classroom, a safe and welcoming place for all communities, a fun and attractive place and a healthy green place. A copy of the Glasgow SOA is available at [www.glasgow.gov.uk](http://www.glasgow.gov.uk)

- 6.1.22 **Glasgow City Council City Plan 2:** Provides detailed guidance on the shape, form and direction of development in Glasgow, indicates the way in which the council wishes to see the city's physical structure develop over the lifetime of the plan and identifies the planning action and infrastructure investment required to deliver this change. The plan is a vital element of the city's response to the regeneration challenges and opportunities that will emerge over the coming years. As such, it outlines a broad development strategy over a 20 year period and a more detailed investment and action agenda for the council and its development partners over the next 5 years.
- 6.1.23 The aim identified in the section on open space protection is: 'To ensure that areas of formal and informal open space are protected from inappropriate development, in order to maintain or enhance the quality of life, health, wellbeing and amenity of the communities they serve and also promote sustainability and biodiversity'.
- 6.1.24 The policy identified to achieve this aim is DEV 11: Green Space which states there is a strong presumption in favour of the retention of all public and private green/open space.
- 6.1.25 In relation to development in parks the City Plan states: The potential for the development of commercial facilities (e.g. cafes and restaurants) in parks may be considered where such uses will contribute to improved customer service and increased park usage. This will require developers to consult with local communities. Such proposals, where appropriate in terms of the nature of the park and their impact upon it, should be set within the context of a Park Management Plan.
- 6.1.26 As Cathkin Braes Country Park is also designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) and a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) the policy on Regional and Local Environmental Designations (ENV7) is also relevant. The aim of this policy is 'to maintain, protect and enhance national, regional and local sites of landscape, cultural or nature conservation importance'.
- 6.1.27 **Local Transport Strategy (LTS):** Glasgow's transport vision is to provide a world class transport system which is safe, reliable, integrated and accessible to all citizens and visitors and also supports the physical, social, economic, cultural, environmental and economic regeneration of the city.
- 6.1.28 In order to achieve this, the LTS contains a balanced strategy, which concentrates on promoting and enhancing sustainable transport modes such as walking, cycling and public transport, with limited investment in roads infrastructure to tackle key congestion points, provide essential links to development areas and provide links to enable public transport to provide effective circumferential services.
- 6.1.29 **LES Budget and Service Plan.** The council's financial approach requires all services to combine their annual budget proposals with their annual service plan to produce an annual Budget and Service Plan. The plan sets out the proposed service changes and financial efficiencies for a financial year in line with the council's approved budget.

This includes

- An overview of the Service with details of responsibilities, budgets and staffing.
- The opportunities and challenges currently facing Land and Environmental Services.

## Cathkin Braes Country Park Management Plan 2011 - 2016

- Details of the service changes for the financial year the plan is set. These cover individual proposals for income generation and efficiency savings.

6.1.30 Our commitment to improving our parkland through the adoption of Green Flag standards, the targets for achieving Green Flag Awards and the resources required to do so will be clearly identified in the Budget and Service Plan

6.1.31 **Land and Environmental Services Annual Performance Report.** The Annual Performance Report details the achievements and levels of performance reached during the previous year. It also sets out new targets for service delivery in the coming year. The commitment to adopt Green Flag standards and achieve Green Flag Awards for some of our parks and Local Nature Reserves will be clearly identified and progress reported on an annual basis.

**6.2 Grounds Maintenance for Cathkin Braes Country Park.**

Land and Environmental Services undertake the following Park maintenance operations:

Grass Cutting	Between March and October
Grass hi freq	Between March and October
Manual Edging	Create new edge Edging Shears
Strim Grass Edges	Between March and October
Wildflower Meadow Cut and Lift	Once in September
De-litter agreed frequency	Summer three per week Winter once per week
Hardstanding	Chemical treatments Brush surface De-litter agreed frequency

### 6.3 Funding Sources

- 6.3.1 **The Cathkin Braes Country Park Key Stakeholders.** Glasgow City Council as the single landowner of Cathkin Braes Country Park, will have the lead responsibility for the implementation of the actions identified in the management plan and consequently would require being an investment stakeholder in the delivery of the proposals. The council through the commissioning of this management plan has indicated its recognition of the importance of the site as an asset which is worthy of future commitment and investment. Nevertheless it is recognised that Cathkin Braes Country Park will be competing for council capital and revenue budgets principally held by Land & Environmental Services, Development & Regeneration Services and the Linn Area Committee, all of which are under increasing pressures from both existing project commitments and other potential project developments within the area. The management plan is time related over 5 years and the actions are categorised as short, medium or long term therefore phasing any funding commitment to the project would be required and therefore appropriate advance planning would need to be undertaken to ensure that the preferred project proposals are built into the council budget process.
- 6.3.2 A further Glasgow City Council potential funding stream for Cathkin Braes Country Park could be utilising the Minimum Open Space and Public Realm Standards of the council's City Plan 2 (Policy ENV 2) which specifies the minimum standards required for each category of Recreational Green Space within new housing developments. Such developments are obliged to meet their recreational greenspace obligations on a pro-rata basis in order to contribute to the improvement of the external environment of residential areas and meet the council's objectives with regard to accessibility, sustainability, health and social inclusion. Whilst GCC has a general principle of recreational green space provision provided within a residential development site it recognises that from the effective planning context, provision may extend beyond the development site e.g. use or enhance existing green space provision or create new ones, or, be a combination of both on and off-site provision. Where provision is to be made off-site, a Section 69 Agreement is required to ensure that the obligations to provide recreational green space are implemented. Where the off-site provision is on council owned land, a development contribution of £1000 per bed space is required. Given the recognised shortage of developable land and desire to maximise the number of housing units on what land is available there could be significant sums of money available to fund some of the actions in the management plan.
- 6.3.3 **Scottish Executive.** Community Planning Partnership Funds (CPP). Community Planning is described as,
- 'The structure, processes and behaviours necessary to ensure that organisations work together and with communities to improve the quality of peoples' lives, through more effective, joined-up and appropriate delivery of services'.
- 6.3.4 The Local Government in Scotland Act (2003) provides a statutory framework for the Community Planning process and places a duty on Local Authorities to initiate, maintain and facilitate the Community Planning process. Glasgow Community Planning Ltd (GCP Ltd) is the support body for the Glasgow Community Planning Partnership which was formed in 2004 to take forward the city's approach to community planning. GCP Ltd only replaced the former Social Inclusion Partnerships in April 2006

6.3.5 The membership of the Glasgow Community Planning Partnership includes

- Glasgow City Council
- NHS Greater Glasgow
- Strathclyde Fire and Rescue
- Glasgow Housing Association
- Glasgow Chamber of Commerce
- Strathclyde Police

6.3.6 The Council and its partners are delivering community planning in Glasgow at a local level. There are 10 local partnerships in the city. These areas are:

- West
- Central and West
- Glasgow North East
- Maryhill/Kelvin and Canal
- East Centre and Calton
- Shettleston, Bailieston & Greater Easterhouse
- Greater Pollok & Newlands/Auldburn
- Govan & Craigton
- Langside & Cathkin Braes Country
- Pollokshields & Southside Central

6.3.7 Funding is governed by the themes of the Glasgow Community Planning Partnership 5 Year Community Plan (2005-2010) "Our Vision for Glasgow" which seeks to tackle deprivation and to build upon neighbourhood regeneration as well as combating inequality and discrimination. This Plan contains five key themes;

- A Working Glasgow
- A Learning Glasgow
- A Healthy Glasgow
- A Safe Glasgow
- A Vibrant Glasgow

6.3.8 Any funding applications to the Langside and Cathkin Braes Country Community Planning Partnership to support this management plan will require to align with at least one of these key themes.

6.3.9 **National Lottery Fund Programmes - Heritage Lottery Fund - Parks for People programme**. Parks for People" is the first joint programme administered by HLF (and involving the BIG) with £90 million committed over the next three years for Parks. Grants are available for urban or rural green spaces designed for informal recreation and enjoyment and will be usually owned and managed by a local authority. Applications for funding must show that the:

- Community values the park as part of their heritage;
- Park meets local social, economic and environmental needs;
- Park actively involves local people.

6.3.10 Parks for People projects should also offer a wide range of activities that conserve and improve heritage value; increase the range of audience, learning and enjoyment, and provide volunteering and training opportunities. Eligible capital works for funding support include amongst others:

- Repairing and restoring landscapes. Also, new landscape design if it improves and adds to the heritage;
- Recreation and play facilities;
- Improving access for all;
- Repairing boundaries, drainage and services;



However, priority should be given to repairing and using existing buildings in the park – rather than providing new Buildings or Facilities with all facilities benefiting the park and its users

- 6.3.11 HLF expect at least 25% of the project funding requirements to come from the applicant's own resources (either in cash or in kind) with grant awards from the Parks for People scheme ranging from £250,000 to £5 million per project. Although funding from other lottery distributor sources cannot be used as contributions for work which funding from the Parks for People programme is sought, this does not preclude funding applications to other lottery distributors (e.g. sports and play facilities) within the same park amenity.
- 6.3.12 **Big Lottery Fund.** The Big Lottery Fund in Scotland (BIG) has a number of grant funding programmes. BIG wants to invest this money to bring real improvements to communities and to the lives of people most in need.
- 6.3.13 BIG seeks to make investment in social change in Scotland in four different ways:
- 6.3.14 **Growing Community Assets.** Through which BIG will help communities become stronger by acquiring or developing assets for their own use. BIG can fund projects which buy, improve or develop assets as well as employing development staff and help groups get the skills they need to develop or manage an asset. Applications can only be accepted from organisations that are set up to benefit a specific geographical area or a community of interest within such an area, are community controlled and are independent from local or central government. BIG mostly funds not-for-profit organisations but can fund organisations that distribute profits but are set up for community benefit e.g. co-operatives, community interest companies;
- 6.3.15 **Dynamic Inclusive Communities.** Through which BIG will help build stronger more vibrant communities;
- 6.3.16 **Life Transitions.** Through which BIG will support projects that help people deal with change in their lives and encourage them to move on;
- 6.3.17 **Supporting 21st Century Life.** Through which BIG will invest in projects that enable people to cope with new patterns of life and the pace of change communities are experiencing. This includes projects that promote activities which maintain or strengthen relationships and see different generations come together as well as focusing on health and well being. Applications can be made by Voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations; public and private sector organisations.
- 6.3.18 The potential scale of BIG grant funding for investment in communities ranges from between £10,000 and £1m per project. The "Young People's Fund in Scotland" which is a £20 million grant programme to help young people aged 11-25 learn new things and take part in healthy and positive activities that make them feel good about themselves. It is anticipated that most of the money will be used to fund projects in local areas that address important local issues. Groups can apply for grants ranging between £5,000 and 1 million, spread over one to four years. Eligible organisations for funding support include community or voluntary organisations, charities and statutory bodies such as local authorities or community councils.
- 6.3.19 **Greenspace Scotland.** Greenspace Scotland (GS) has been established as a national lead organisation to improve the environment in, and around, urban

settlements in Scotland through the creation and sustainable management of green space – including public parks. GS functions on a crosscutting theme basis e.g. environmental improvements; health and well-being; recreation, sport and play; biodiversity and habitat creation etc. GS operates a federal structure of local partnerships and trusts – such as those operating in Aberdeen, Central Scotland, Edinburgh and Glasgow & Clyde Valley.

6.3.20 These current GS initiatives receive revenue funding support and raise external funding support which includes allocation for project funding bids – which are in harmony with, and which will assist, the local partnerships to deliver their aims and objectives.

6.3.21 **Scottish Rural Development Programme.** The Scottish Government provides funds to individuals or organisations to implement their rural development objectives through the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP).