Torbay
Local Development
Framework
2005 - 2026

Greenspace Strategy

Adopted Supplementary Planning Document

SUMMARY LEAFLET

TORBAY COUNCIL

LDD8

July 2007

Purpose of this Summary

The Greenspace Strategy forms a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) in the emerging Torbay Local Development Framework (LDF) (see the LDF structure diagram). The Strategy was adopted by the Council in December 2006. This summary leaflet introduces the Strategy and sets out some its key elements.

What is the Greenspace Strategy?

This Strategy is a planning document that provides a strategic, focused and co-ordinated approach to green spaces in Torbay. This document is split into two parts. Part 1 sets out the background, vision and strategy for our green spaces over a 20 year period. Part 2 forms an Action Plan that sets out how the strategy will be put into practice and covers a 5 year time horizon which will need to be reviewed at the midway point to cover the period 2012-2016 and so on.

What's it all about?

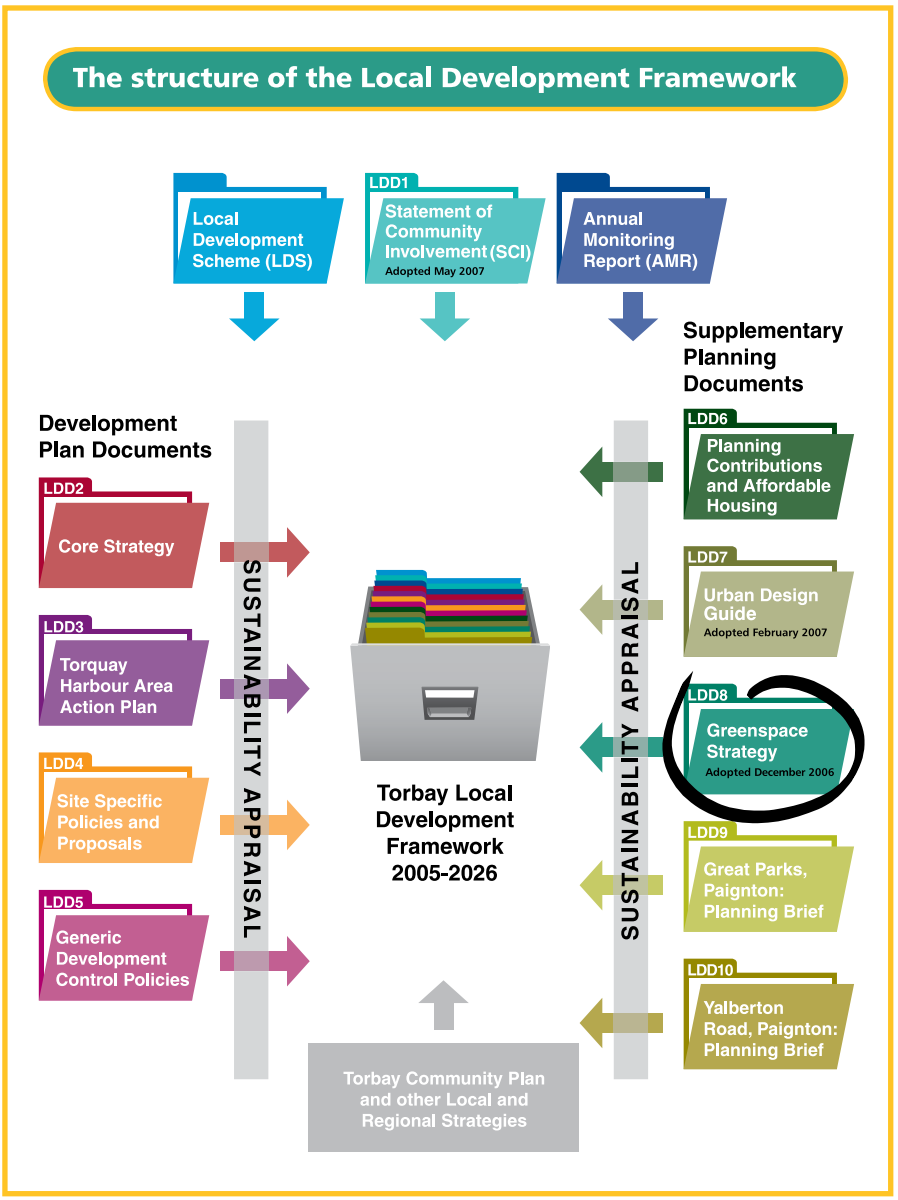
Many people in Torbay appreciate the benefits which green spaces bring to their lives. There is increasing civic and public awareness of the value of good quality parks, playing fields, play areas and other green spaces in regeneration, improving health and well being and providing educational and other opportunities for all residents.

However, not everyone has access to or uses a local park or green space which meets their needs and interests. In some cases there are conflicts of interest between different uses of green spaces. Decisions have to be made about priorities.

The quality of Torbay's green spaces needs to be maintained and in some cases improved. Torbay's Greenspace Strategy sets out a vision and action plan to regenerate and maintain these priceless assets so they become more attractive, accessible, safe and well used by everyone.

This Greenspace Strategy outlines how the Council in association with the community intends to deliver and maintain high quality green spaces which enable equal access and opportunity for all, as well as protecting and enhancing the local environment.

The Strategy supports community priorities. In addition, it will help



improve Torbay's biodiversity and reduce crime, litter and graffiti. The Strategy also:

- Provides a series of action plans that describe how the Council will implement specific objectives.
- Provides a strategic framework for the provision and management of green spaces for Torbay over the next 20 years.
- Maximises support for and advocates the benefits of green spaces within and outside the Council.
- Encourages continuing community and stakeholder involvement and partnership.

Responsibility for delivering the actions outlined in this Strategy and achieving our ambition in relation to parks and green spaces lies primarily with the Cultural Services and Direct Services & Waste Divisions of the Council.

The Vision and Objectives

Torbay Council carried out a visioning session at the start of the process in 2004 when a small group of key players established an initial vision and developed a central aim for the Strategy. This is to:

"Encourage greater use of green spaces by local people."

In order to achieve this, the group put forward objectives for investment (two additional objectives have subsequently been incorporated as the Strategy has progressed).

Strategic objectives

- Improving appearance of green space.
- Improving accessibility, especially for the disabled.
- Challenging people's perceptions of green spaces as areas to visit and use more often.
- Improving facilities and attractions.
- Increasing numbers of events/entertainments.
- Developing opportunities for using green spaces for learning.
- Promoting and protecting the heritage assets of Torbay's green spaces.

Through community involvement and the sustainability appraisal process the following objectives have been added:

- Promoting green spaces as drivers for economic activity.
- Recognising, protecting and enhancing the biodiversity value of green space.

Local green space standards

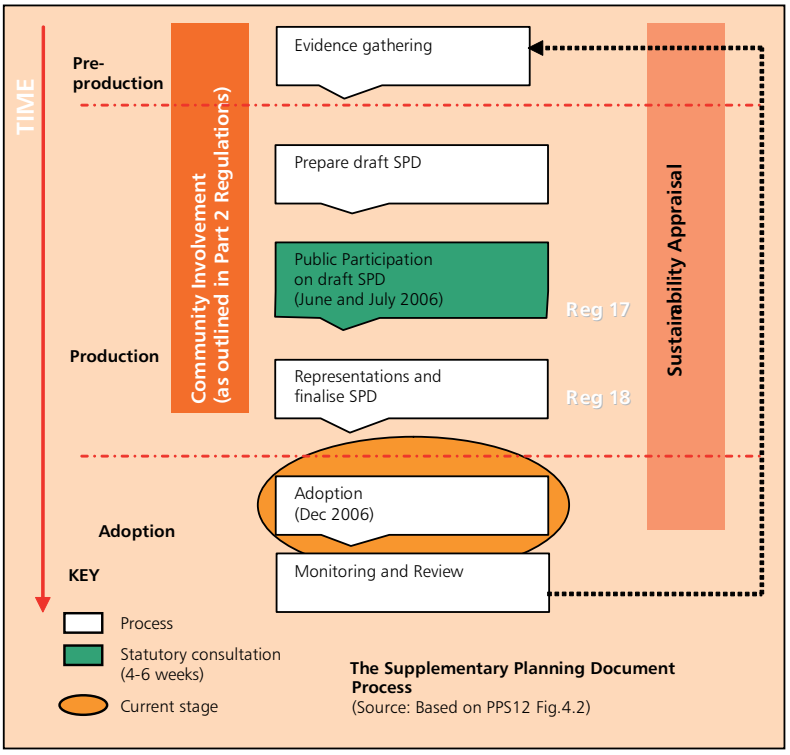
In accordance with government planning policy, the Council is continuing to undertake robust assessments of the existing and future needs of its communities for green space, sport and recreation. The standards which are summarised below represent the minimum standards of the different types of green space, including sport and recreation, that should be available to meet the needs of people across Torbay.

Hectares per thousand

Playing Pitches	Multi Use Games Areas	Equipped Facilities for children & young people	Green space
1.2	0.2	0.2	2.5

The Greenspace Strategy SPD Links and Process

This document now forms a Supplementary Planning Document in the emerging Local Development Framework for Torbay (LDF). As part of the new planning system, any SPD adopted as part of the LDF has had to go through a specific preparation process. The diagram to the right illustrates this process.



The Supplementary Planning Document Process
(Source: Based on PPS12 Fig.4.2)

The Greenspace Strategy will also provide the evidence base for Section 106 contributions (contributions paid by developers towards the provision of infrastructure required by their development) in relation to public space.

It will therefore link with the Planning Contributions and Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (LDD 6).

A Sustainability Appraisal has been undertaken in parallel to the development of the Strategy and is also available for inspection.

How to find out more and how to become involved

For further information on this Strategy or to view the sustainability appraisal which accompanies this report please visit **www.torbay.gov.uk/ldf** (click on sustainability appraisal) or use the contact details below to view a hard copy.

To become involved in the Local Development Framework process, you can also register your details by telephoning the Strategic Planning team or by e-mailing us and we will keep you informed.

You can also write to us at:

Strategic Planning Group, Community Services, Torbay Council, Floor 3, Roebuck House, Abbey Road, Torquay TQ2 5TF

Tel: 01803 208804 Fax: 01803 208882
Greenspace e-mail: greenspace@torbay.gov.uk
LDF e-mail: ldf@torbay.gov.uk
LDF webpage: www.torbay.gov.uk/ldf

Please read the Strategy... green spaces have a major effect on the quality of our lives.