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**Consultation
Undertaken**



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4.1 The Council is committed to seeking the views of local communities and other stakeholders in the development of an Open Space Strategy. This document has therefore been prepared following a 'first draft for consultation' stage. Public and stakeholder consultation was carried out between September and November 2008 and included public exhibitions, a mail out to LSP partners and information in the local press. The comments received and the Council's response to these is set out in Appendix 3.

4.2 Much of the background work, i.e. information gathering and the setting of local standards has been undertaken through the Open Space Audit. The Audit, essentially, forms the initial work stage in developing a robust approach to addressing issues in relation to new and existing open space through an Open Space Strategy. The Audit can be found on the Council's website by following the link on Page 16 of this document.

4.3 The preparation of the Open Space Strategy includes the development of a Strategic Action Plan that will inform funding and operational management decisions. The overall aim of the Action Plan is to produce diverse, high quality open spaces, which meet the needs and aspirations of local communities, thus achieving the open space Vision.

4.4 The Action Plan has been prepared following consultation on the Draft Open Space Strategy document and identifies strategic objectives and actions that will contribute to achieving the Vision along with clear lines of responsibility and timescales up to 2018. Fig.3 shows how an open space strategy should be developed and the stages involved in its preparation. This Action Plan also provides the basis for the preparation of actions relating to operational work.

Fig.3 The Stages Involved in the Preparation of an Open Space Strategy

