



**South
Staffordshire
Council**

Open Space Strategy

Open Space Strategy



Councillor Mrs Joan Williams
Deputy Leader - Environmental Services

I am pleased to introduce this Open Space Strategy for South Staffordshire.

Open Spaces are essential elements of the places in which people live. They are a wonderful resource for many types of activities from walking and playing, to simple relaxation. Everyday, people enjoy South Staffordshire's open spaces, whether for a woodland walk, playing sport, using equipped play areas, growing their own produce on allotments, visiting the historic landscape or for quiet contemplation and visiting old friends in cemeteries and churchyards.

It is therefore of the utmost importance that open spaces are of high quality and accessible, having the right facilities so that people can enjoy them to the full as a key part of a vibrant and healthy lifestyle.

The Council has recently completed a comprehensive audit of open spaces in the district that examined sites in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility. We are now at the stage

where the Audit's findings need to be taken forward and developed through an Open Space Strategy that provides the strategic framework for addressing all open space issues in South Staffordshire.

The Council has embraced the concept of locality working and we therefore need to ensure that where feasible, each locality has the appropriate level and type of open space provision that meets local needs. The Open Space Strategy will address this, linking closely with the Sustainable Community Strategy and by providing background evidence for the preparation of the Local Development Framework.

We are determined to make sure that our Open Space Strategy reflects the needs of South Staffordshire's communities and that's why we produced a first stage strategy consultation document. Now we have received the views of local people and other key stakeholders we have finalised our vision and will seek to ensure that South Staffordshire's open spaces reach their full potential over the next ten years.

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