



**Local Government Association  
Conference  
24<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

Standards Workshop

## STANDARDS WORKSTREAM REMIT

- » Assess the evidence related to;
  - » the existing standards and quality of parks and green spaces,
  - » the disparity in standards and possible reasons for this.
- » Identify existing good practice and benchmarking standards.
- » Capture innovative ways to share best practice to improve the quality of parks and green spaces.

## STANDARDS WORKSTREAM MEMBERSHIP

**Fields in Trust**

**DEFRA**

**Keep Britain Tidy**

**The Parks Alliance**

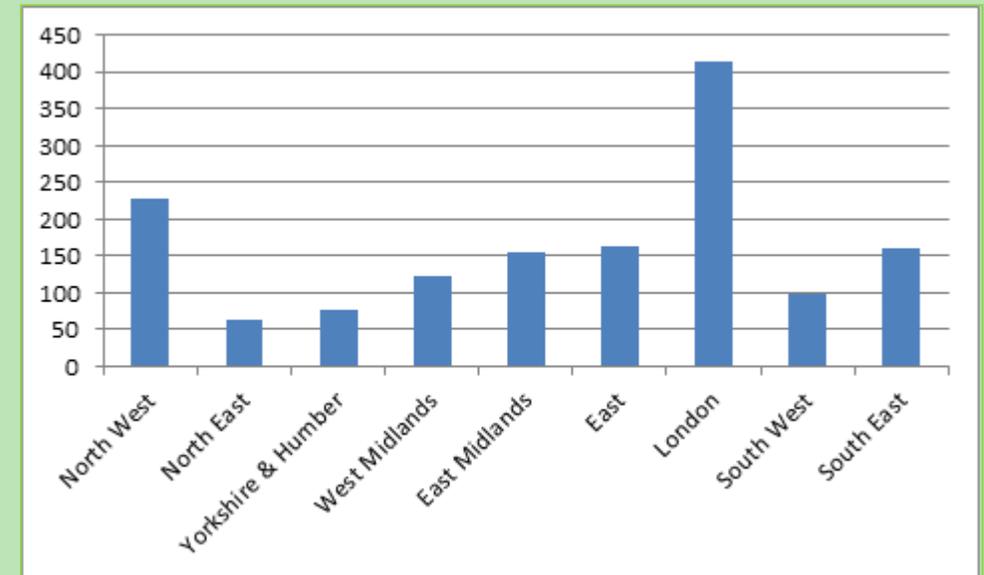
**Natural England**

**MHCLG**



## GREEN FLAG AWARD

- » Green Flag Award began in 1996
- » 2017 there were 1797 Awards in the UK
- » 80% of Local Authorities use GFA
- » Accessible standard requiring sites to score 66% across 27 elements
- » Only 4% of applications are unsuccessful
- » Quality of sites applying is improving but quality of management plans beginning to decline





## GUIDANCE FOR OUTDOOR SPORT AND PLAY: BEYOND THE SIX ACRE STANDARD

- » First published in 1930 and most recently updated in 2015
- » 75% of Local Authorities use the Standard (or derivation of) to measure green space provision
- » 2015 edition retains headline rates of provision but also includes informal space
- » Accessibility is based on walking distance to facilities

Ranking	Region/Nation	Acres of green space per 1,000 population	Percentage of green space protected
1	South East	10.22	4.08
2	East	10.10	5.60
3	Scotland	9.98	9.98
4	Wales	8.83	10.24
5	South West	8.78	8.35
6	West Midlands	8.55	5.05
7	East Midlands	8.32	4.39
8	North West	7.83	4.83
9	North East	7.35	2.87
10	Yorkshire & the Humber	6.47	3.34
11	London	4.96	5.13

## DEVELOPING A NEW STANDARD

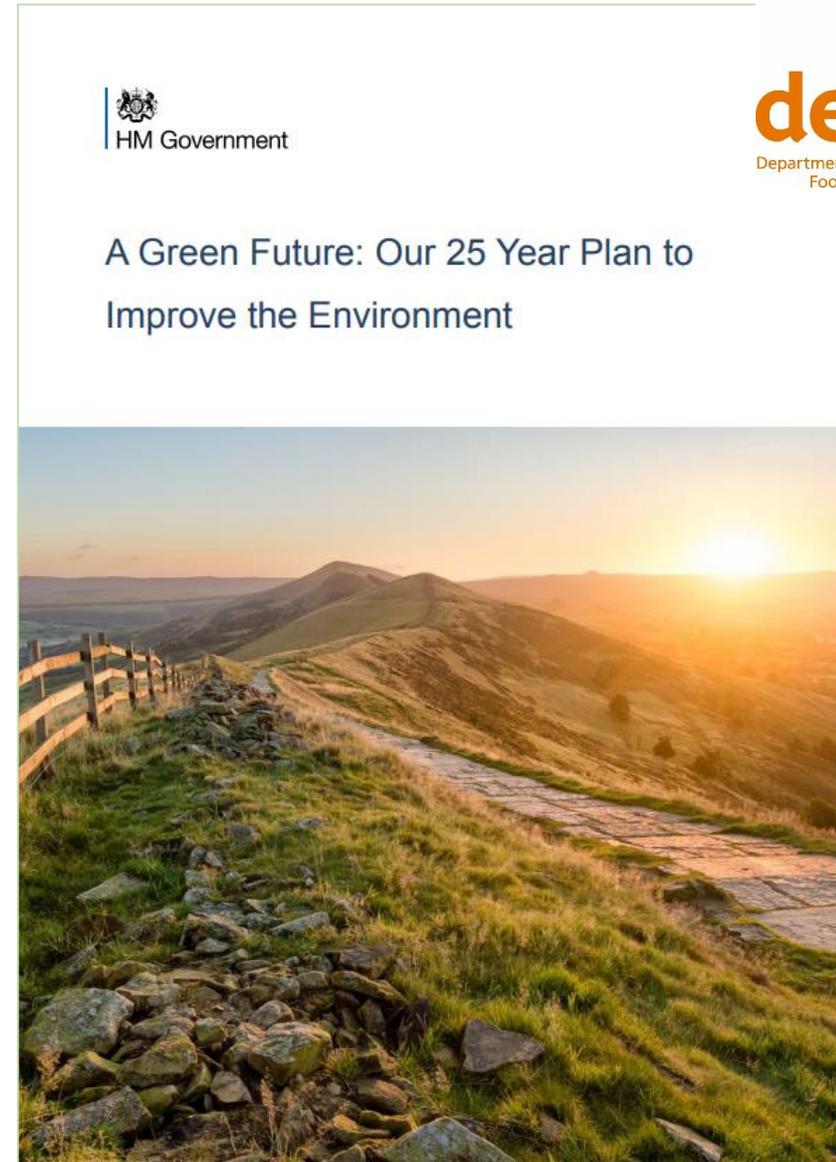
- » Benchmark for total provision of parks and green spaces
- » Target for the percentage of parks and green spaces that meets a quality standard
- » Target for the percentage of parks and green spaces that are future proofed
- » A mechanism to assess Local Authority performance against these targets
- » Identify support routes to improvement

## MCHLG Select Committee Parks Inquiry: Recommendation 6

*“Actions to improve the provision of parks and green spaces ....Monitor the provision and distribution of green space.... identify local authorities where provision is inadequate and work with them to improve access”*

## DEFRA 25 YEAR ENVIRONMENT PLAN

- » Supporting Parks Action Group to help England's public parks and green spaces meet the needs of communities now & in future.
- » Update Outdoor Recreation Valuation Tool (ORVal) in 2018.
- » Establishing a cross-government project, led by Natural England, that reviews and updates existing standards for green infrastructure by summer 2019.
- » Supporting Local Authorities to assess green infrastructure provision against these new standards.
- » Working with the MHCLG to see how our commitments on green infrastructure can be incorporated into national planning guidance and policy





## GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STANDARDS

### PURPOSE

“A practical framework of Green Infrastructure (GI) standards that can be easily used by GI planners, designers, local planning authorities and communities to deliver good quality, multifunctional GI, consistently across England and in particular for disadvantaged urban populations”.

### OUTCOMES

- » Increased investment in GI including parks and greenspaces
- » Enhanced provision of good green infrastructure
- » Range of scales from national/ regional to neighbourhood/ site
- » Appropriate quantity, quality, accessibility, function, design and location
- » Provision of social, environmental and economic benefits for local community



## HOW WILL THE FRAMEWORK HELP?

- » Clarity and common understanding of what 'good green infrastructure looks like'
- » A 'level playing field' - can be adopted by local authorities, developers, investors and other stakeholders, leading to consistency and greater buy-in
- » Measurable, can be monitored and evaluated across England, to learn lessons and make improvements
- » Flexible for different places, (green field vs urban) and scales
- » Feed into the National Planning Policy Framework

## GI STANDARDS MILESTONES



## KEY PRIORITIES & NEXT STEPS

1

Identify a definitive baseline figure of parks and green spaces by typology

2

Assess the % of parks and green spaces currently meeting Green Flag Award standard and protected in perpetuity

3

Contribute to Natural England's *Green Infrastructure Standards Project*

4

Invite representation from the LGA, Core Cities Parks Groups, TCPA, LI, PHE and others to the Standards Workstream

5

Develop a network of Parks and Green Space Champions within all Local Authorities to advocate the value of these spaces at decision making level

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- » Examples of other existing standards to feed into the GI Standards Evidence Review
- » Examples of best practice and innovation in parks and green spaces
- » Examples of Local Authority advocates at all levels and their impact



**ANY QUESTIONS?**

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