

## **Wider Benefits of Open Space**

<b>Social</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• providing safe outdoor areas that are available to all ages of the local population to mix and socialise</li><li>• social cohesion - potential to engender a sense of community ownership and pride</li><li>• providing opportunities for community events, voluntary activities and charitable fund raising</li><li>• providing opportunities to improve health and take part in a wide range of outdoor sports and activities.</li></ul>
<b>Recreational</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• providing easily accessible recreation areas as an alternative to other more chargeable leisure pursuits</li><li>• offers wide range of leisure opportunities from informal leisure and play to formal events, activities and games</li><li>• open spaces, particularly parks, are the first areas where children come into contact with the natural world</li><li>• play opportunities are a vital factor in the development of children.</li></ul>
<b>Environmental</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• reducing motor car dependence to access specific facilities</li><li>• providing habitats for wildlife as an aid to local biodiversity</li><li>• helping to stabilise urban temperatures and humidity</li><li>• providing opportunities for the recycling of organic materials</li><li>• providing opportunities to reduce transport use through the provision of local facilities.</li></ul>
<b>Educational</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• valuable educational role in promoting an understanding of nature and the opportunity to learn about the environment.</li><li>• open spaces can be used to demonstrate virtues of sustainable development and health awareness.</li></ul>
<b>Economic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• adding value to surrounding property, both commercial and residential, thus increasing local tax revenues</li><li>• contribution to urban regeneration and renewal projects</li><li>• contributing to attracting visitors and tourism, including using the parks as venues for major events</li><li>• encouraging employment and inward investment</li><li>• complementing new development with a landscape that enhances its value.</li></ul>