

Appendix 1

Following the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on the 28 November 2024, ten recommendations were approved. These recommendations, together with an update on the corresponding actions, are detailed in this appendix.

Recommendation 1

That all entrances to parks are audited, to allow wheelchair/mobility access where possible.

An audit was undertaken of all park entrances to assess wheelchair and mobility scooter accessibility. The findings are provided in Appendix 2. The audit indicates that enhancing accessibility will require approximately £49,000, which will form the basis of the 2026/27 capital programme for the Pride in Parks initiative. While the Play Strategy is being reviewed, potential further enhancements may also be identified (this will also be supported by the results of this year's Parks Standard survey) and any enhancements from that process will be captured in the developed five-year programme.

Recommendation 2

Where a play park is fenced around, to ensure the access gate for a wheelchair is close to any accessible/inclusive play equipment or to consider the surface for the travel to the equipment.

Recommendation 2 is challenging to implement retrospectively; however, where feasible the Parks and Open Spaces team will look to implement. For new retrofit projects such as Bramcote Hill and Dovecote Lane, Beeston, this approach has been incorporated. The matter will be revisited within the Play Strategy review, with a key emphasis on Diversity, Equality and Inclusivity.

Recommendation 3

Where possible, that every play park in the Borough has access to a minimum of one piece of accessible/inclusive play equipment.

Among the 37 parks managed by the Council, 33 of these currently include at least one piece of accessible equipment. This development priority will be further addressed and expanded upon under the forthcoming Play Strategy review, which will outline its approach to accessibility across the park estate.

Recommendation 4

To introduce further sensory play panels to the parks with some possibly away from climbing frames in quiet areas.

Three sensory panels have been installed in the parks this year. These are at:

- Mansfield Road Recreation Ground, Eastwood
- Redbridge Drive, Nuthall

- College Way Open Space, Nuthall

Further panels will be considered and assessed during the refurbishment programme stage as part of ongoing accessibility enhancements.

Recommendation 5

When replacing play equipment that a double slide be provided instead of a single slide option.

A double slide unit will only be considered where a whole play unit is being replaced. It is acknowledged that double slides are typically priced at approximately double that of a single slide. These principles will be applied during the Eastcote Avenue, Bramcote refurbishment in 2025/26, where a double slide is being planned for the entrance of the play area.

Recommendation 6

Exploring options to provide sensory gardens in parks and, where appropriate, to provide a sensory experience for all users to touch, smell, hear and see. To consider utilising parks already established with garden areas in the first instance.

The Parks and Open Spaces team are currently delivering the first sensory garden at Bramcote Hills, near to the walled garden. This will incorporate carefully chosen sensory plants, a rain garden to support biodiversity and manage runoff and paving to improve accessibility.

A newly resurfaced and clearly marked disabled parking bay adjacent to the walled garden is being provided, with additional accessibility improvements across the surrounding area.

Depending on stakeholder feedback, the team will assess the feasibility and timing of a broader rollout across the Borough.

Recommendation 7

To provide signage across all parks for users to establish areas of rewilding, butterfly and bee planting, sensory and park areas.

The Parks and Open Spaces team have completed the installation of 30 signs across the Borough, and they are planning to expand this further.

The team are currently refining bedding strategies, moving away from formal planting in favour of perennial led schemes to enhance biodiversity and support sustainability. In addition, plans are in place to rest approximately 50% of the beds over the winter to restore soil nutrients, supporting healthier growth in the following seasons.



Recommendation 8

To consider the toilet options in large multi-use parks that are not near town centre facilities.

The option to extend toilet provision across the Borough's parks remains under consideration with the Asset Management and Development team; however, it is presently cost prohibitive.

Recommendation 9

To consider accessibility/inclusive benches as standard across all parks in the Borough and investigate the triangular benches with back supports as the standard park bench.

Accessible and inclusive benches are now being installed as standard across the Borough's parks. This standardisation will be implemented as part of any on-going capital scheme replacement.

Recommendation 10

The results from the Parks Survey are made available to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The parks standard survey is currently out for consultation, with findings to be reported to Cabinet on 2 December 2025. Once the report has been approved a copy will be circulated to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.