Appendix 1

This appendix provides an update on progress against the ten recommendations agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee following its review of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) within the Borough's parks. It outlines the actions undertaken since the last update report presented on 25 September 2025 and the current position in relation to each recommendation.

Progress on Recommendations:

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 audit indicated that accessibility improvements would require approximately £49,000, which formed the basis of the 2026/27 capital programme for the Pride in Parks initiative. An update on these actions is provided in **Appendix 2**.

The Parks and Play Strategy Review is nearing completion and will be considered by the Policy and Overview Working Group before being submitted to Cabinet for final adoption in January 2027. The strategy provides the framework for future investment in the Borough's parks and play facilities and has supported the development of a prioritised three-year capital programme covering 2027/28 to 2029/30.

A longer-term indicative programme is also in place and will be reviewed and updated over time to reflect the findings of annual Parks Surveys and park audits.

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.

Good progress has been made in delivering the objectives of Recommendation 2. The updated Parks and Play Strategy places a stronger emphasis on equality, accessibility and inclusivity, ensuring these principles are embedded within the planning and delivery of future park improvements.

This approach has been incorporated into recently completed refurbishment projects, including Eastcote Avenue, Bramcote, and Coronation Park, Eastwood. It will also inform planned improvement works at Flixton Road, Kimberley, and Queen Elizabeth Park, Stapleford, where proposals include enhancements to surfacing, play provision and site layouts. Equality and inclusivity considerations will continue to be reflected in the design and delivery of all schemes identified within the forward capital programme.

Recommendation 3

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

Of the Council's 37 parks with equipped play areas, 33 currently provide at least one item of accessible play equipment. Building on this, the updated Parks and Play Strategy places a stronger emphasis on accessibility and inclusivity, ensuring these considerations are embedded within the planning, design and improvement of play facilities across the Borough. This approach will help inform future investment and refurbishment programmes, supporting the continued development of more accessible and inclusive parks and play spaces.

Recommendation 4

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

A sensory play panel was incorporated as part of the recent play area refurbishment at Eastcote Avenue, Bramcote. Sensory play features have also been included within the approved designs for improvements at Queen Elizabeth Park, Stapleford, and Flixton Road Open Space, Kimberley.

The provision of sensory play opportunities will continue to be considered as part of future refurbishment and replacement programmes, with installations assessed on a site-by-site basis. Where appropriate, features will be located within quieter areas of parks to provide a range of play experiences and support the ongoing enhancement of accessibility and inclusivity across the Borough's parks and open spaces.

Recommendation 5

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

Double slide provision is being considered as part of future play area refurbishment and replacement schemes where appropriate. This approach has already been incorporated into the Flixton Road play area refurbishment, where a double slide is included within the proposed design. Similar opportunities will continue to be assessed through the ongoing parks and play improvement programme to enhance the range of play experiences available across the Borough.

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 has delivered a sensory garden at Bramcote Hills Park, located at the entrance to the walled garden. The scheme includes sensory planting, a rain garden that supports biodiversity and sustainable drainage, and

improved surfacing to enhance accessibility. A dedicated disabled parking area has also been provided adjacent to the walled garden to improve access to the site.

The project has been positively received, with a group of volunteers coming forward to support the ongoing maintenance and development of the area. Building on this success, opportunities to incorporate similar features at other suitable locations across the Borough are being considered as part of future capital improvement programmes and the Council's wider approach to enhancing accessibility, inclusivity and biodiversity within its parks and open spaces.

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 has continued to enhance biodiversity and environmental awareness across the Borough's parks. More than 40 "Bee Friendly in Broxtowe" signs have been installed at locations where wildflower grassland habitats have been established to support pollinators and promote understanding of their environmental benefits.

New park information signage, designed in the Council's corporate style and incorporating nature-themed elements, has also been introduced. These signs are being installed as part of park improvement and refurbishment projects and provide information on key features such as orchards, wildlife habitats and sensory areas.

The team is also implementing changes to planting and landscape management practices, with an increased focus on perennial-led planting schemes to enhance biodiversity, reduce maintenance requirements and improve long-term sustainability. In addition, a programme of seasonal bed management has been introduced to support soil health and promote stronger planting displays in future years.

Recommendation 8

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

Progress continues to be made in relation to the potential expansion of toilet provision within the Borough's parks. A feasibility study has been completed for Bramcote Hills Park, with the Economic Development team now progressing the project through the next stage of development. This will help inform future decisions regarding the provision of additional facilities within the Borough's parks.

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 seating has been adopted as the standard specification for new and replacement benches across the Borough's parks and green spaces. This approach is being incorporated through the Council's ongoing investment programme, ensuring accessibility and inclusivity considerations continue to be embedded within park improvement and refurbishment projects.

Recommendation 10

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

The Parks Standards Survey has been completed, and the results are currently being analysed. A report setting out the findings will be presented to Cabinet in January 2027. Following consideration by Cabinet, the outcomes will be shared with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to support ongoing improvements to the Borough's parks and open spaces.