

Local Green Space Call for Sites

Frequently Asked Questions



1) Can areas already protected under alternative allocations and designations (e.g. Green Belt, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Conservation Area) be considered for allocation as a Local Green Space

Yes. National Guidance makes it clear that different types of designations are intended to achieve different purposes.

When considering additional protection the Council will, however, need to consider whether any additional local benefit would be gained by an additional allocation as a Local Green Space.

2) Can areas already being considered for alternative uses be considered as Local Green Space?

The methodology states, that in general, sites that already benefit from planning permission for alternative use will not normally be considered appropriate. This is consistent with national guidance which states that Local Green Space designation will rarely be appropriate where the land has planning permission for development.

It is recognised that there might be some exceptions to this where for example the approved development would be compatible with the Local Green Space designation, or where it can be demonstrated that the planning permission is no longer capable of being implemented.

It should however be noted that the Government are clear that the identification of Local Green Space should be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in homes, jobs and other essential services. Plans must identify sufficient land in suitable locations to meet identified development needs.

The Government have made it clear that Local Green Spaces should not be used in a way that undermines the aim of plan making.

3) Does land need to have public access?

Land does not need to have public access. The Council recognise that some land being considered may have no public access (e.g. green areas which are valued because of their wildlife, historic significance and/or beauty).

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Allocation as a Local Green Space in the Local Plan does not itself confer any rights of public access over what exists at present. Any additional access would be a matter for separate negotiations with land owners, whose legal rights must be respected.

4) Does land need to be in public ownership?

National guidance makes it clear that a Local Green Space does not need to be in public ownership.

If the Local Green Space is going to be proposed for designation within the Draft Plan, the council will contact the land owners (if known) in advance of consultation. Landowners will have opportunities to make representations to the proposed allocation via the Draft Plan.

5) How restrictive is the Local Green Space allocation on ownership?

Allocation as a Local Green Space would give an area protection consistent with that in respect of Green Belt, otherwise there are no new restrictions or obligations on landowners.

6) Who will manage the Local Green Space?

Management of the Local Green Space will remain the responsibility of the land owner.