

## **APPENDIX B – CHELTENHAM PLAN LOCAL GREEN SPACE SELECTION CRITERIA**

The following guidance reflects the local interpretation of national guidance and national planning policy. It was created following the Issues and Options consultation and a review of best practice.

### **Educational Sites**

National guidance states that the space must be capable of enduring beyond the plan period. In order to address future needs for school places there may be a need to reconfigure the arrangement of school buildings and playing fields. The National Planning Policy Framework states that local planning authorities should give great weight to the need to create, expand or alter schools. Therefore, educational sites (grounds and playing fields) would not normally be suitable for designation.

### **Highway Land/Roadside Verges**

National guidance states that the space must be capable of enduring beyond the plan period. Land adjoining an existing highway is the subject of 'Permitted Development' rights, which could be used to bring forward development that may be contrary to a Local Green Space designation, but would not require planning permission to be granted. Highway land may also be utilised in bringing forward future highway/transport schemes. Therefore, highway land/roadside verges would not normally be suitable for designation.

Additional local issues also include the following.

### **Public Green Space**

The existing Cheltenham Borough Local Plan contains areas identified as Public Green Space (PGS). PGSs are owned and maintained by Cheltenham Borough Council. The Local Plan states that "It is important that proposed public green space is protected as well as appropriately funded and maintained, if it is to fulfil the function the Council intends." Therefore these sites would not usually gain any additional protections from LGS designation but all potential sites should be looked at based on their own merits.

### **Parish Council land**

As representatives of local communities Parish Councils will protect the open spaces within their ownership from development. Therefore designating such sites as Local Green Space will not provide any additional benefit. It is also important that Parish Council land remains adaptable so that it can best meet the changing requirements of the community that it serves.

### **Sites suitable for housing**

The nPPG states that "plans must identify sufficient land in suitable locations to meet identified development needs and the Local Green Space designation should not be used in a way that undermines this aim of plan making." The Cheltenham Place must draw a balance between competing demands on land. Therefore sites identified as suitable options for housing development in the Issues and Options consultation (2015) would not normally be suitable for designation as LGS.

### **Criteria for Local Green Space sites and prompts for how they could be met**

Every proposed space must meet all the criteria 1-5.

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Criteria		Explanation of criteria / evidence prompts
1.	It will rarely be appropriate to designate spaces that are the subject of a planning permission for development.	<p>Is the space the subject of a planning permission for development?</p> <p>Information on planning permissions is available from: <a href="https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/info/42/planning/740/planningbuilding_control_applications">https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/info/42/planning/740/planningbuilding_control_applications</a></p> <p>Local Green Space designation will rarely be appropriate where the land has planning permission for development. Exceptions could be where the development would be compatible with the planning permission or where planning permission is no longer capable of being implemented.</p>
2.	It will not be appropriate to designate spaces that are allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan, unless it can be shown that the Local Green Space could be incorporated within the site as part of the allocated development.	<p>Is the space allocated or does it have potential to be allocated in a Local or Neighbourhood Plan?</p> <p>Further information on the Cheltenham Plan is available from: <a href="https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/info/46/planning_policy/1034/the_cheltenham_plan">https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/info/46/planning_policy/1034/the_cheltenham_plan</a></p> <p>The designation of Local Green Spaces should be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services.</p> <p>The NPPG states that: Designating any Local Green Space will need to be consistent with local planning for sustainable development in the area. In particular, plans must identify sufficient land in suitable locations to meet identified development needs and the Local Green Space designation should not be used in a way that undermines this aim of plan making.</p> <p>The space should be capable of enduring beyond the plan period.</p>
3.	The space must not be an extensive tract of land and must be local in character.	<p>Designated spaces would normally be fairly contained with clearly defined edges.</p> <p>Why does the space or combination of adjoining spaces “feel” local in character and scale, in respect of the local community that the space serves?</p> <p>Is the proposed space larger than other areas of land in the vicinity? Is it contained with clearly defined edges?</p> <p>How does the space connect physically, visually and socially to the local area?</p> <p>Blanket designation of open countryside adjacent to settlements is not appropriate.</p>
4.	The space must be within close proximity to the	The space would normally be within easy walking distance of the community it serves.

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	community it serves.	How close is the space to the community it serves?
5.	The space must be demonstrably special to the local community.	<p>Blanket designation of all/most green areas or open space within an area is not appropriate. The space must be demonstrably special by meeting at least one of criterion 6-11.</p> <p>Other relevant evidence:</p> <p>Does the space have a friends group?</p> <p>Is the proposal to designate supported by any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A friends group</li> <li>- Local community groups</li> <li>- A parish plan etc.</li> <li>- The Town/Parish Council</li> <li>- The Ward member(s)</li> <li>- The MP</li> </ul>

All spaces must meet at least one of the following criteria:

<b>Criteria</b>		<b>Explanation of criteria / evidence prompts</b>
6.	The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty.	<p>This relates to the visual attractiveness of the space, and its contribution to townscape, landscape, character and/or setting of the settlement, which would normally be expected to be significant.</p> <p>How is the proposed space of particular local significance, in respect of its beauty?</p> <p>Is the space covered by other landscape or townscape designations? (e.g. Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or Conservation Area)</p> <p>Does the space have a literature or art connection?</p>
7.	The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its historic significance.	<p>How is the proposed space of particular local significance, in respect of its historic significance?</p> <p>Does the proposed space or elements of the space have local historical significance?</p> <p>Are there any historic buildings or structures in the space? (e.g. listed building or scheduled monument)</p> <p>Are there any important historic landscape features on the space? (e.g. veteran trees or old hedgerows)</p> <p>Does the space have a historic literature or art connection?</p>

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8.	The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value.	<p>How is the proposed space of particular local significance, in respect of its recreational value?</p> <p>What variety of recreational activities does the space support? (e.g. the space is used for playing sport and for informal recreation)</p> <p>National guidance states that there is no need to designate linear corridors as Local Green Space simply to protect rights of way, which are already protected under other legislation.</p>
9.	The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity.	<p>How is the proposed space of particular local significance, in respect of its tranquillity?</p> <p>Green spaces may provide value to the local community in terms of providing an oasis of calm, perhaps in a busy town, or a space for quiet reflection. Why is the space considered to be tranquil?</p>
10.	The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife.	<p>How is the proposed space of particular local significance, in respect of its richness of wildlife?</p> <p>Is the proposed space formally designated for its wildlife value? (e.g. is it a SSSI, SNCI or Local Nature Reserve).</p> <p>Are any important habitats or species found in the space?</p> <p>Does the proposed space support species of fauna or flora protected under the Wildlife &amp; Countryside Act 1981 (as amended); Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 or Habitat Regulations 2010; or species and habitats listed by the Government as being of Principle Importance for Biological Diversity in Britain under Section 41 of the Natural Environment &amp; Rural Communities Act 2006 (Priority Species and Habitats)?</p> <p>Does the proposed space support irreplaceable habitats such as ancient semi-natural woodland and veteran trees?</p> <p>Does the proposed space function as part of a wildlife corridor or green infrastructure enabling the dispersal and favourable status of species of flora and fauna?</p>
11.	The proposed space is of particular local significance because of another reason not covered by criteria 6-10.	<p>Are there any other reasons why the proposed space has a particular local significance for the local community?</p>