

## Public Health Funding in Parks & Countryside

### Spending Principles

2018 - 2020

**Overarching Principle:** *The money is not a substitute for Parks & Countryside revenue budget. It is to be used to address areas of health inequality by improving our green spaces.*

#### **1. AREAS OF THE CITY** were we use Public Health funding to target improvements to parks & countryside green spaces?

Funding should be restricted to the 10-30% most deprived neighbourhoods on the 2015 Indices of Multiple Deprivation. This is because this indicator encompasses the childhood obesity measures and inactivity areas, as well as other indicators of inequality. The appended map shows the neighbourhoods shaded as:

- **10% most deprived**
- **20% most deprived**
- **30% most deprived**

Funding should **NOT** be allocated to areas that do not meet this indicator as the funding has to help address health inequality.

*The following principles are caveated with the assumption that the green space MUST be in a neighbourhood that falls within the 10-30% most deprived areas of the city as outlined above, before these criteria are applied.*

#### **2. TYPE** of green spaces that should benefit from Public Health funding.

Funding can be spent in any of the following spaces.

-  City, District and Local parks and playgrounds
-  Local Nature Reserves
-  Woodlands
-  Allotments
-  Plantations
-  Local Wildlife Sites
-  Recreation / sports grounds

### 3. WHEN should Public Health money be used to improve a green space.

Public Health funding **SHOULD** be used to fund the following and these are not mutually exclusive:

- ✓ When something significant needs addressing to bring the site to the minimum Sheffield Standard (but not for regular maintenance).
- ✓ In support of (but not only) other city initiatives and activities which contribute to reducing health inequality e.g. Move More, People Keeping Well, The Outdoor City etc. This is an overarching principle that applies to this spend but the priority has to be making a difference to the green space in the area.
- ✓ When a gap in provision is identified and there is community support for a specific improvement, for example an area of the city which has no multi-use games area within a specified distance.

Funding **SHOULD NOT** be conditional on the following:

- ✗ **S106 monies or other funding contribution** – because it is historically difficult to access other funding sources in the neighbourhoods we are targeting and this is why public health money is being used. Also, areas such as Darnall are zero rated for CIL.
- ✗ **An active friends or other community group** helping to maintain the site because we know it is difficult in some of these neighbourhoods to engage the community and we are using the public health money to improve these areas and hopefully this will help us to engage Friends or community groups.

### 4. INFRASTRUCTURE the money should be used to fund within the green space.

Funding **can** be used for any of these purposes if it contributes to the improvement of the green space:

- ✓ **Multipurpose bins (for general and dog waste)**. Having more bins will mean that all types of rubbish and dog waste can be disposed of, making sure the park is pleasant to visit and in turn encouraging visitors.
- ✓ **Footpaths & routes (formal and informal)** Enables equality of access for all ages and abilities: Encourages and increases opportunity for all to use green space for walking, running, cycling etc. providing active routes both within, through and connecting green spaces in the city.
- ✓ **Access improvements** (for instance entrances / gates / fencing and lighting). Welcoming, accessible and safe green spaces which are well designed, maintained and aesthetically pleasing are more likely to be used by the community and therefore receive the associated benefits.

- ✓ **Boundary works e.g. fencing, selective thinning of vegetation and increasing sight lines & visibility.** Well designed, clearly designated, and welcoming sites which create a safe aesthetically pleasing environment which reduces fears around safety and vulnerability and encourages increased use of green space.
- ✓ **Signage & interpretation** Welcoming and informative signage and interpretation both at entrances, boundaries and within the green space itself can highlight the presence and encourage and promote green space, its facilities, events, activities and wider links. It helps people to be able to find their way around the site and know what to expect from it.

**5. PLAY AND SPORT FACILITIES and EQUIPMENT** the money can be used to fund within the green space. Funding **should** be used to fund any equipment that is appropriate for the site / community, including:

- ✓ **Playgrounds and play equipment** (for all ages, including traditional swings / slides / zip wires). Play and agility equipment which encourages children and young people to undertake physical activity
- ✓ **Bowls (or bowls related).** Improving facilities for bowling clubs that traditionally attract older people as members and can help tackle loneliness and social isolation
- ✓ **Outdoor gym/exercise equipment.** All age facilities which encourage physical activity and an active and healthy lifestyle.
- ✓ **Equipment such as Parkour / Skate / BMX facilities.** Youth play/agility facilities which encourage physical activity and an active and healthy lifestyle.
- ✓ **Sporting facilities** – multi use games areas / nets / goals. Accessible and high quality sporting facilities encourage participation in sport and regular physical activity by the local community and/or targeted groups.

**6. BUILDINGS and FACILITIES** the money should be used to fund within the green space.

- ✓ **Cafes / facilities including toilets and facilities to refill water bottles.** Evidence shows people visiting green and open spaces are encouraged if there is a brew, loo, view and something to do.
- ✓ **Ancillary buildings – e.g. pavilions / changing rooms.** Buildings and facilities which help facilitate and encourage the use of green space for physical activity through supporting, enabling and making it easier for exercise, activities, events etc. to happen
- ✓ **Toilets.** Toilet facilities can provide a much needed facility for all, which not only helps encourage visits to parks, but also longer visits.

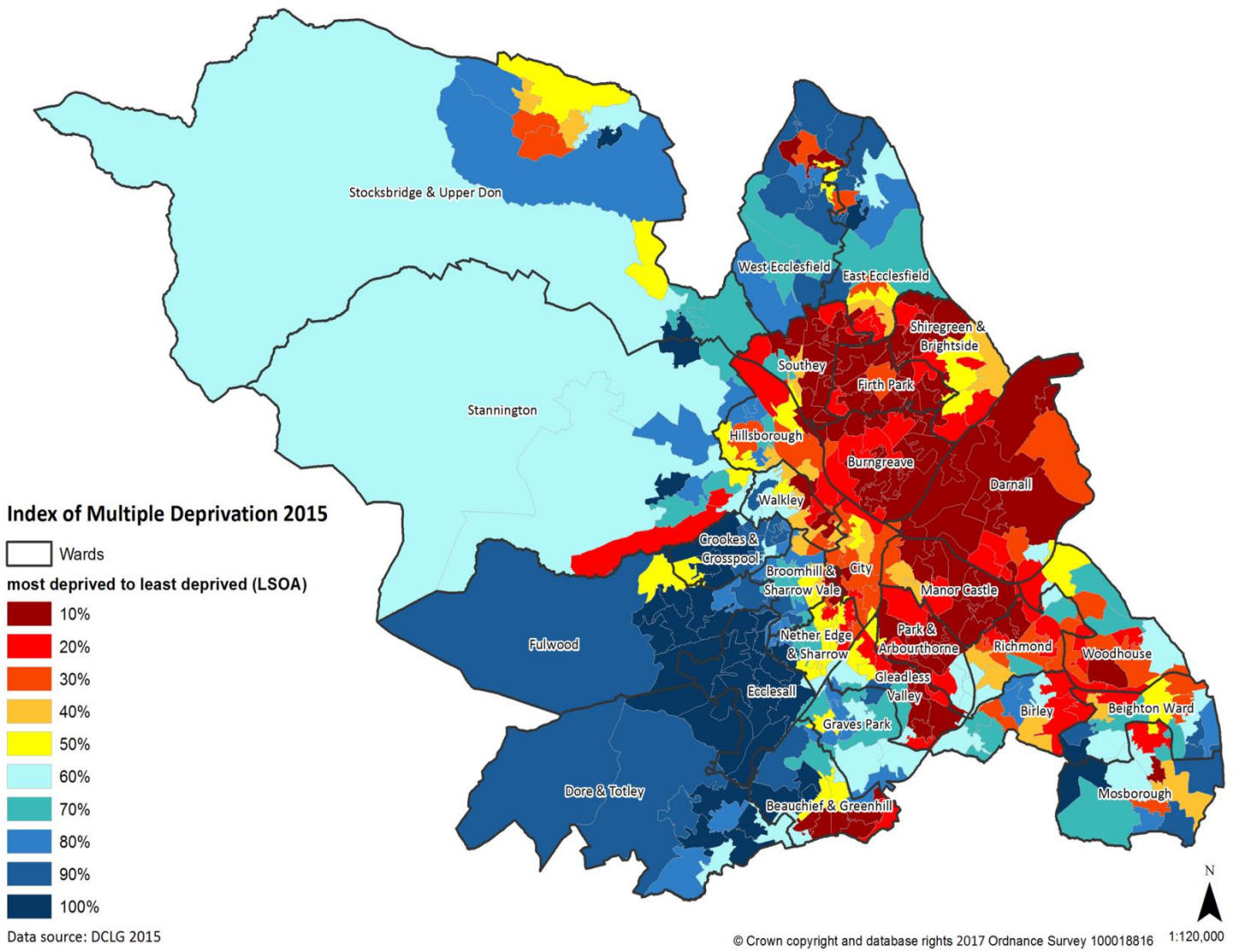
## 7. STAFF RESOURCES.

- ✓ Public Health money can be used to fund council officer resources employed specifically to deliver public health related activities or projects, but only where the staff cannot be funded from anywhere else.

## 8. MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION.

- ✗ Public Health money **SHOULD NOT** be used to fund marketing and communication activity to promote the use of Sheffield's green spaces because we need to concentrate the funding on making the improvements. This is something to be looked at in the future if there is further funding. It is important to make sure there is appropriate signage and interpretation at the sites, as noted in principle 4.

# Appendix – Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015



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