

Conclusions

The main function of this audit was to provide a sound evidence base for the formulation of policy within the Highland wide Local Development Plan, the emerging area Local Development Plans and the review of the Open Space in New Residential Developments: Interim Supplementary Guidance.

The summary of results show:

- The open space currently available in Highland is largely accessible however there are pockets where greenspace is not accessible;
- There is a significant quantity of open space across Highland.

While these may be the Highland wide headlines it can be seen from the settlement summaries that there are issues at a more local level with quantity, and in some settlements accessibility.

This audit will support the Open Space in New Residential Development: Interim Supplementary Guidance to address these deficiencies where they have been identified to meet the Council's long term of vision for open space:

“The creation of sustainable networks of high quality, accessible, fit for purpose greenspaces and sports facilities that support and enhance biodiversity and the quality of life of residents and visitors.”

Updating the Audit

It is recommended that to avoid any data being more than 5 years old that 20% of the audit is reviewed each year. This review is recommended to start in Summer 2012.

Dissemination of Information

The information contained within this audit will be publicly available online and the data will be available to other Council users via the corporate GIS system.