

Ravenscraig Green Network Strategy

**Prepared for
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Scottish Enterprise,
Ravenscraig Ltd.
and
GCV Green Network Partnership
by
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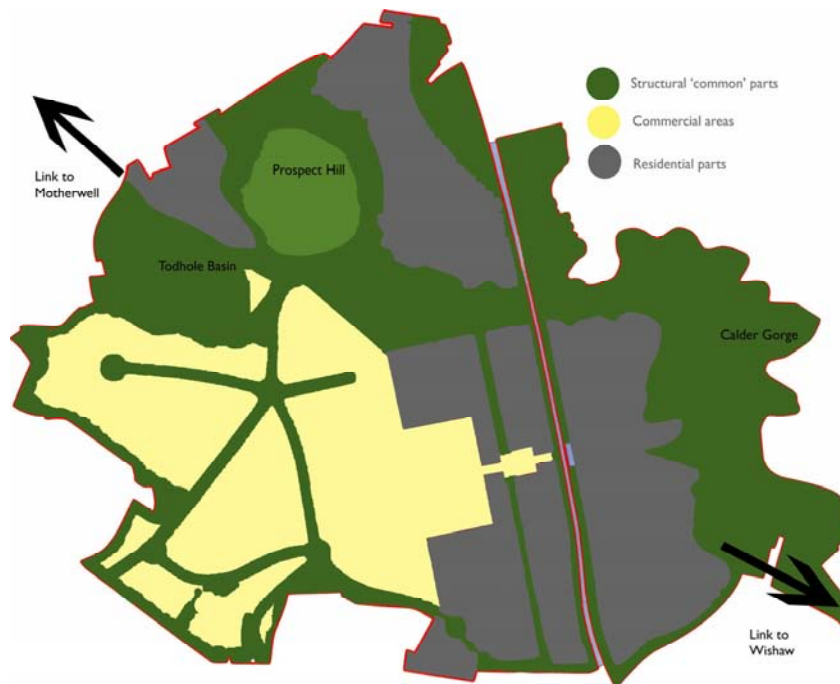
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Executive Summary

Work on regeneration proposals for Ravenscraig started with the publication of a Development Strategy in 1994. This established the concept of a mixed use development on the site. The Strategy led onto the preparation of a Masterplan in 1997 which was updated in 2000. The Masterplan translates the principles of mixed use development into a clearer vision of how the site will be developed in the coming years including:

- a balanced community of between seven and ten thousand people living in 3500 new homes;
- a high quality Industrial Campus and business Quarter which will include an Innovation Centre focusing on educational resources and supporting start-up businesses;
- a new town centre accommodating retail and leisure uses, including an indoor arena and hotels.

The key components of the Ravenscraig site are shown in the following map:



The **Green Network Strategy** for Ravenscraig sits alongside these development proposals, setting out the aims for the green infrastructure in the area. The aims of the Green Network Strategy, as defined in the project brief, are:

- prepare a strategy for the long term management of a high quality greenspace across the Ravenscraig area to deliver a range of public benefits and maximise the contribution of the area to the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network;
- develop tools for use in the development planning process, making greenspace a key driver for promoting quality development and contributing to the place making agenda;

- identification of models for the long term sustainable management of the Ravenscraig Green Network, delivering maximum benefits for investors in Ravenscraig and local communities.

The first stage in developing the **Ravenscraig Green Network Strategy** was to undertake a comprehensive audit and analysis of the current situation at Ravenscraig. A SWOT analysis provided the basis for the identification of a Vision and Strategic Priorities for the site:

| Strengths | Weaknesses |
|--|--|
| National priority for regeneration. Focus on biodiversity in planning process. Connections with wider countryside, Good transport connections. Existing community based initiatives. | Legacy of social exclusion, unemployment and poor health. Suffers from unfavourable outside perceptions. Separation from existing communities due to previous landuse. Poor quality of greenspace in surrounding areas. Problems with anti-social behaviour in surrounding communities. |
| Opportunities | Threats |
| Potential for development as an exemplar of sustainable urban development. Opportunities to create strong links to the wider countryside. Enhancement of biodiversity in the area. Provide opportunities for employment and training through management and maintenance regime. Coordination of funding to maximise benefits and quality of the developments in the area. | Failure to secure economic and social benefits for the existing communities. Ravenscraig becoming a 'missed opportunity'. |

With this analysis in mind, the following **Vision** for the Green Network at Ravenscraig has been defined:

The Green Network will form an integral part of Ravenscraig throughout its development, creating an integral part of a high quality, sustainable environment. It will help to foster a sense of place; connections with existing communities; provide environmental benefits and improve the quality of life for local people.

The **Strategic Priorities** identified for delivering this Vision for the Ravenscraig Green Network are:

- **Managing and Enhancing existing Green Network components within Ravenscraig** - The larger, structural greenspaces in Ravenscraig will form the most readily identifiable elements of the Green Network for most people. Therefore these elements, discussed below, need to be of a high quality that helps to attract and engage local people, new residents, workers and investors.

- **Potential contributions by the Green Network to sustainable development -** Ravenscraig has the potential to be a model development, creating an environment which meets the modern agendas of sustainability and environmental quality. The future Green Network has a key role to play in this development; helping to promote healthy living, sustainable transport and social cohesion.
- **Connecting Ravenscraig with the wider Green Network -** For most of its recent history, the Ravenscraig site was a part of the urban environment, connecting Motherwell and Wishaw, but creating a significant physical barrier between the two communities and the wider countryside.

Under each of these Strategic Priorities a number of projects for delivery have been identified. From these, three **Key Projects** have been identified. These are:

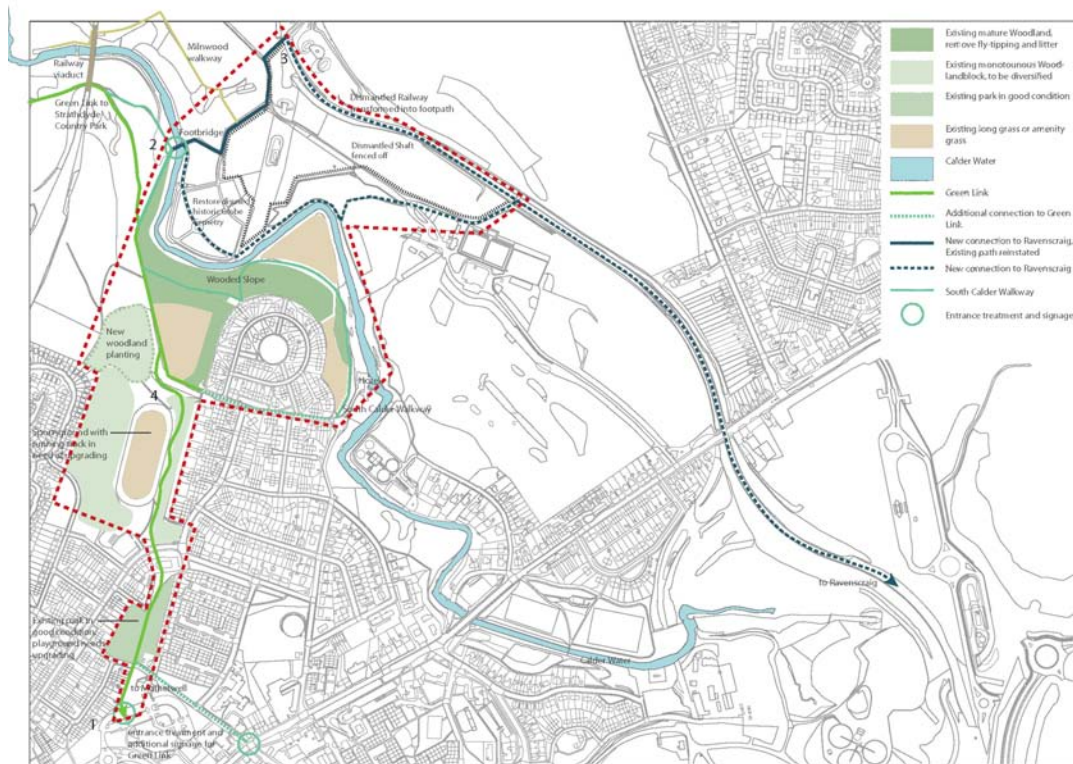
- I. The design and creation of Prospect Hill Park. The Prospect Hill Park is a key asset for the Ravenscraig Green Network. Key elements of the project include:
 - a high beacon will be installed at the hills highest peak with signage complementing the setting while describing the scenery of each direction;
 - a path network would link various entrances to the site and create interesting routes through the park with health walks through native woodland blocks and open wildflower meadows, paths on top of the hill will be of grasscrete to minimise their visual impact;
 - feature benches and strips of hard surface will emerge from the woodland to create further interest.



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2. The design and creation of pedestrian linkages from Motherwell into the Ravenscraig. Key elements of the project include:

- make the starting point of Green Link more obvious through improved entrance treatment and signage;
- upgrade footbridge and footpath leading towards disused historic Globe Cemetery and new footpath on dismantled railway track;
- transform dismantled railway track into footpath link to Ravenscraig development and connect to the existing path network.



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3. The design and creation of pedestrian linkages from Wishaw into the development. Key elements of the project include:

- create new community square and central activity zone with play and recreational facilities which serves as main hub for the park with paths into all areas and other facilities;
- create sensory prairie planting along footpaths and woodland walks;
- develop lighting strategy to create more diverse effects and improved safety at night;
- involve locals into creation of park and public art projects.



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Each of the Key Projects has indicative proposal plans and costs.

The final section of the report examines the various options available for the future **management and maintenance** of the Green Network in Ravenscraig. The issues of maintenance and management have been examined as part of the overall development of a Green Network Strategy for the Ravenscraig area. The main objective of this study is to evaluate the various methods used for management / maintenance of greenspaces and to identify which would be most suited to long term, sustainable management of the Green Network within the Ravenscraig development.

In undertaking the review, a range mechanisms used for managing and maintaining greenspaces were examined. These range significantly in type and scale and can be broadly categorised under three headings:

- **Facilitating measures** – which includes the Planning System and Local Authority involvement;
- **Managing maintenance** – which examines the various structures used to manage and maintain greenspace; and
- **Delivery mechanisms** – which looks at the range of options used to maintain greenspaces.

I. INTRODUCTION

I.1. This Green Network Strategy sets out the vision for the green and open space environment in and around Ravenscraig. It provides the framework for development of a Green Network will form part of a sustainable and high quality environment. It will help to attract new people and investment into the area and at the same time help to integrate existing communities with the regeneration process.

I.2. With these aims in mind, the following vision for the Green Network at Ravenscraig has been defined:

The Green Network will form an integral part of Ravenscraig throughout its development, creating an integral part of a high quality, sustainable environment. It will help to foster a sense of place; connections with existing communities; provide environmental benefits and improve the quality of life for local people.

I.3. This Vision will be implemented by a partnership between North Lanarkshire Council, Ravenscraig Limited, Scottish Enterprise and the Glasgow Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership.

Purpose of the Study

I.4. The aims of the Green Network Strategy, as defined in the project brief, are:

- Prepare a strategy for the long term management of a high quality greenspace across the Ravenscraig area to deliver a range of public benefits and maximise the contribution of the area to the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network.
- Develop tools for use in the development planning process, making greenspace a key driver for promoting quality development and contributing to the place making agenda.
- Identification of models for the long term sustainable management of the Ravenscraig Green Network, delivering maximum benefits for investors in Ravenscraig and local communities.

I.5. In order to achieve these aims, the following stages were undertaken:

- **Audit** – the first stage was to undertake a comprehensive audit of the area. This included analysis of development proposals in the area; the current and future green network; social and demographic influences; transport; and policy.
- **Consultation** – consultation with stakeholders was undertaken to inform the development of Strategy. The consultation process provided a range of information on current issues relating to the Green Network and how it could be developed and managed in the future.
- **Strategy Development** – the Green Network Strategy was developed using the information gathered in the initial stages of the process. It provides guidance on objectives for the delivery, development and management of the Green Network in the Ravenscraig area.

- **Examination of Management and Maintenance Practices** – an examination of the various management and maintenance models currently used in relation to greenspace across the UK.

STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

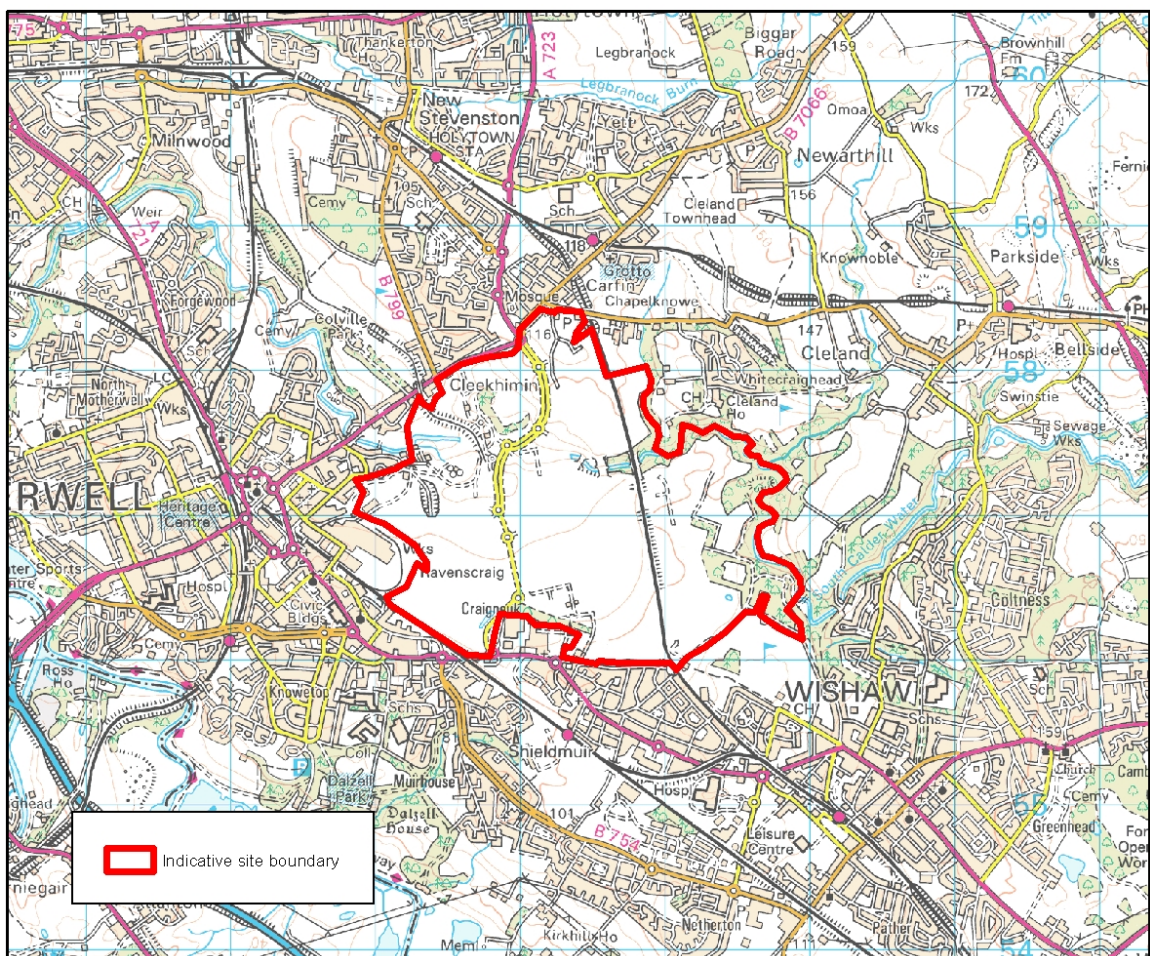
I.6. The remainder of the Green Network Strategy is structured as follows:

- Analysis of the current situation at Ravenscraig;
- Vision for the Ravenscraig Green Network;
- Strategic Priorities and Recommendations;
- Key Projects;
- Delivery Mechanisms.

2. RAVENSCRAIG PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

INTRODUCTION

- 2.1. Ravenscraig is one of the largest regeneration projects in Scotland, located between Motherwell and Wishaw in North Lanarkshire. The site was a steel works from its development in the 1950s to its closure in 1992. The closure and subsequent demolition of the plant had a significant impact on the local area, creating social, environmental and economic problems for surrounding communities.
- 2.2. The following map shows Ravenscraig's location within North Lanarkshire. It is situated between the settlements of Motherwell and Wishaw, north of the River Clyde.



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- 2.3. In 1996 demolition of the steel plant took place, creating the largest brownfield site in Europe. In 1997 a masterplan for the area was produced (subsequently updated in 2000) which proposed a large scale mixed use development in the area to be developed over a 20 year period. The principal elements of this masterplan included:

- a balanced community of between seven and ten thousand people living in 3500 new homes;
- a high quality Industrial Campus and business Quarter which will include an Innovation Centre focusing on educational resources and supporting start-up businesses;
- a new town centre accommodating retail and leisure uses, including an indoor arena and hotels.

2.4. This section of the strategy analyses the current baseline from which the development of the Green Network will take place. It summarises:

- the history of the site;
- the current Green Network;
- the influences of landscape;
- current and future transport infrastructure;
- social context;
- environmental context; and
- proposals for the future of the site.

2.5. The following paragraphs outline the context from which the Green Network Strategy has been developed.

Site History

- 2.6. The focus for this study is the site occupied by the former Ravenscraig Steelworks. Development of the plant in the early 1950s involved extensive site levelling work and the culverting of around a kilometer of the South Calder Water to the east of Motherwell. The site operated until its closure in 1992, providing significant employment for surrounding communities of Motherwell, Wishaw and Carfin, and supporting the growth of allied industrial plant and infrastructure. Closure of the plant in 1992 brought inevitable social, economic and environmental impacts for the surrounding area, compounding the effects of the wider decline of the primary industrial sector on which the communities of North Lanarkshire had been built. Demolition of the steel plant took place in 1996 creating Europe's largest brownfield sites and Scotland's greatest regeneration challenge – and opportunity.
- 2.7. Work on regeneration proposals started with the publication of a Development Strategy for Ravenscraig in 1994. This established the concept of a mixed use development on the site. The Strategy led onto the preparation of a Masterplan in 1997 which was updated in 2000. The Masterplan translates the principles of mixed use development into a clearer vision of how the site will be developed in the coming years including:
- a balanced community of between seven and ten thousand people living in some 3500 new homes;

- a high quality Industrial Campus and business Quarter which will include an Innovation Centre focusing on educational resources and supporting start-up businesses;
- a new town centre accommodating retail and leisure uses, including an indoor arena and hotels.

Ravenscraig's Masterplan

- 2.8. Progress in developing the Masterplan and reaching agreement on the role and function of the town centre has been accompanied by the long and extensive process of site clearance, remediation and preparation. A new spine road has been constructed, providing a new link between Craigneuk in the south and Carfin in the North, and opening up development areas served by a series of roundabouts.
- 2.9. While some of the site remediation and preparation work is continuing, some key structural elements are already in place. This includes perimeter planting, woodland along the road corridor and the aptly named Prospect Hill, from where long views extend over development areas towards Motherwell town centre, residential areas to the north and south and the Clyde Valley beyond, and the woodland and farmland associated with the South Calder Water to the north and east.
- 2.10. The following map shows the current proposed layout of the site. Although the style of the buildings shown is indicative, the structure of the site is likely to represent the final layout of the area. It shows that there are large areas of open and greenspace within the site. These spaces will form the core elements of the future Green Network at Ravenscraig; fulfilling a range of functions from ecological habitats to children's play areas.



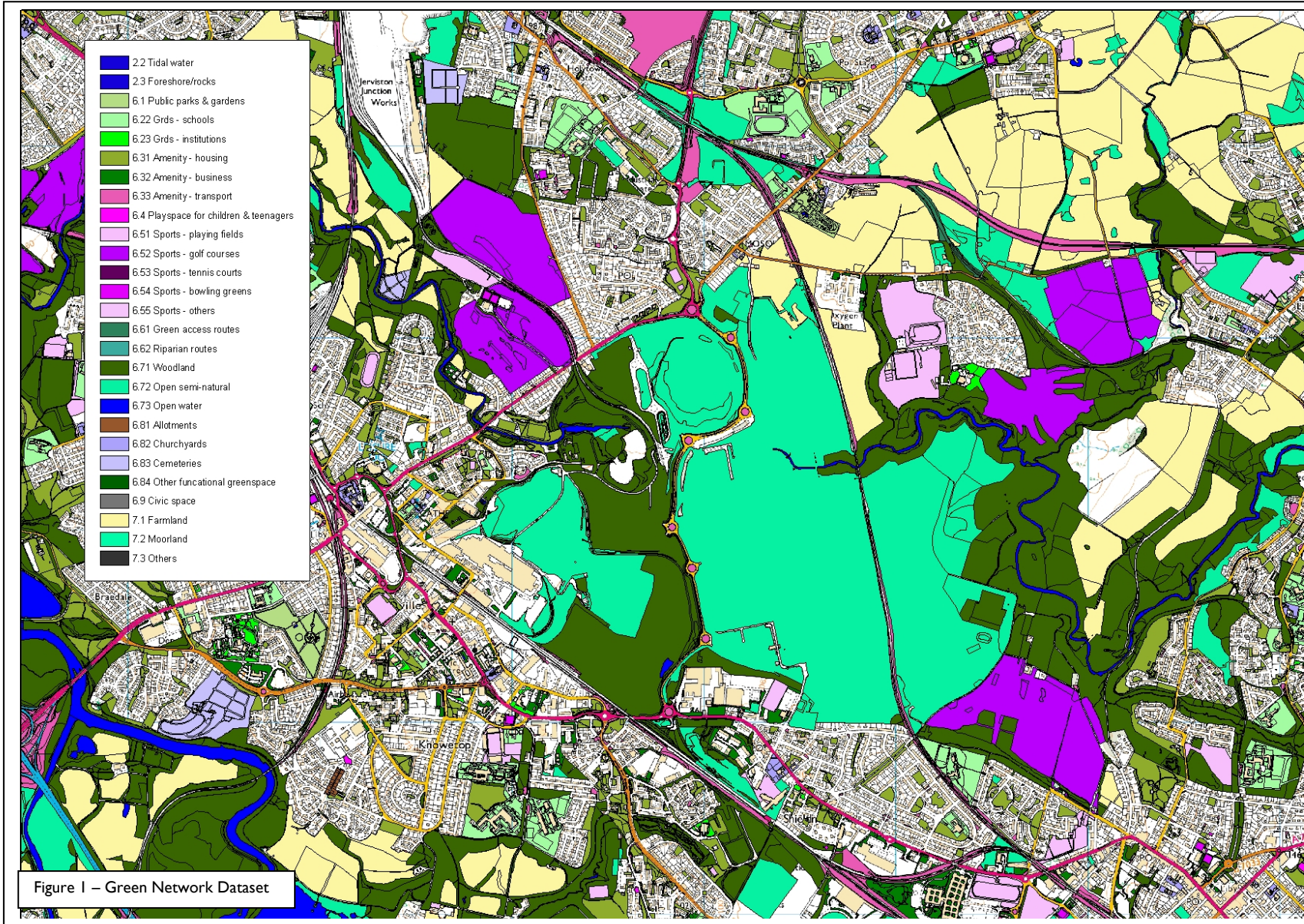
2.11. The first phase of development at Ravenscraig is currently underway. This includes the construction of over 800 new houses bordering Prospect Hill, a new campus for Motherwell College on the south of the site and a regional indoor and outdoor sports facility at the site's centre. The location of these developments is shown below:



2.12. Phase I is the first of four phases of development that will take place at Ravenscraig over the next 20 years. Although the phasing of development has been planned, there is scope for change – the new Motherwell College Campus is located in a site originally identified for development in Stage 4.

Current Greenspace at Ravenscraig

- 2.13. The Green Network Dataset is a map based GIS dataset that has been developed by SNH. It provides a snapshot of the current provision of greenspace across the Ravenscraig area and beyond.
- 2.14. Figure I shows the current classifications of greenspace in the area using the Green Network dataset. The nature of a site such as Ravenscraig, where development and changes to the landscape happen rapidly, make useful interpretation of a dataset such as the one shown difficult. However, it does provide useful information when considering the context in which the development of Ravenscraig is taking place.
- 2.15. The majority of the Ravenscraig site has been classified as semi-natural greenspace. This is primarily because since the demolition of the steel works naturalisation and 'greening' of the area has occurred. The redevelopment of the area will gradually alter its makeup over time. Little of what is classified as semi-natural at the moment will be retained through the development process.
- 2.16. The area also contains large areas of woodland, primarily following the course of the South Calder Water. This is primarily gorge woodland that provides a woodland framework to the east of the site. The woodland gorge is an important characteristic of the wider Clyde Valley providing commonalities between many of the river valleys in the area. The Calder Water has significant existing ecological and recreational benefits. It also provides a 'green' link through the site (albeit with a break created by culverting) and a buffer between the site and the wider countryside on the eastern boundary of the site.
- 2.17. Figure I also shows the close proximity of Ravenscraig to the wider countryside. The demolition of the steelworks created a 'finger' of countryside dividing Motherwell and Wishaw. The structure of this finger will change significantly over time but it is important that the site's close proximity to the countryside, and the physical and visual connections that have been formed are maintained.



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Existing Greenspace Resources

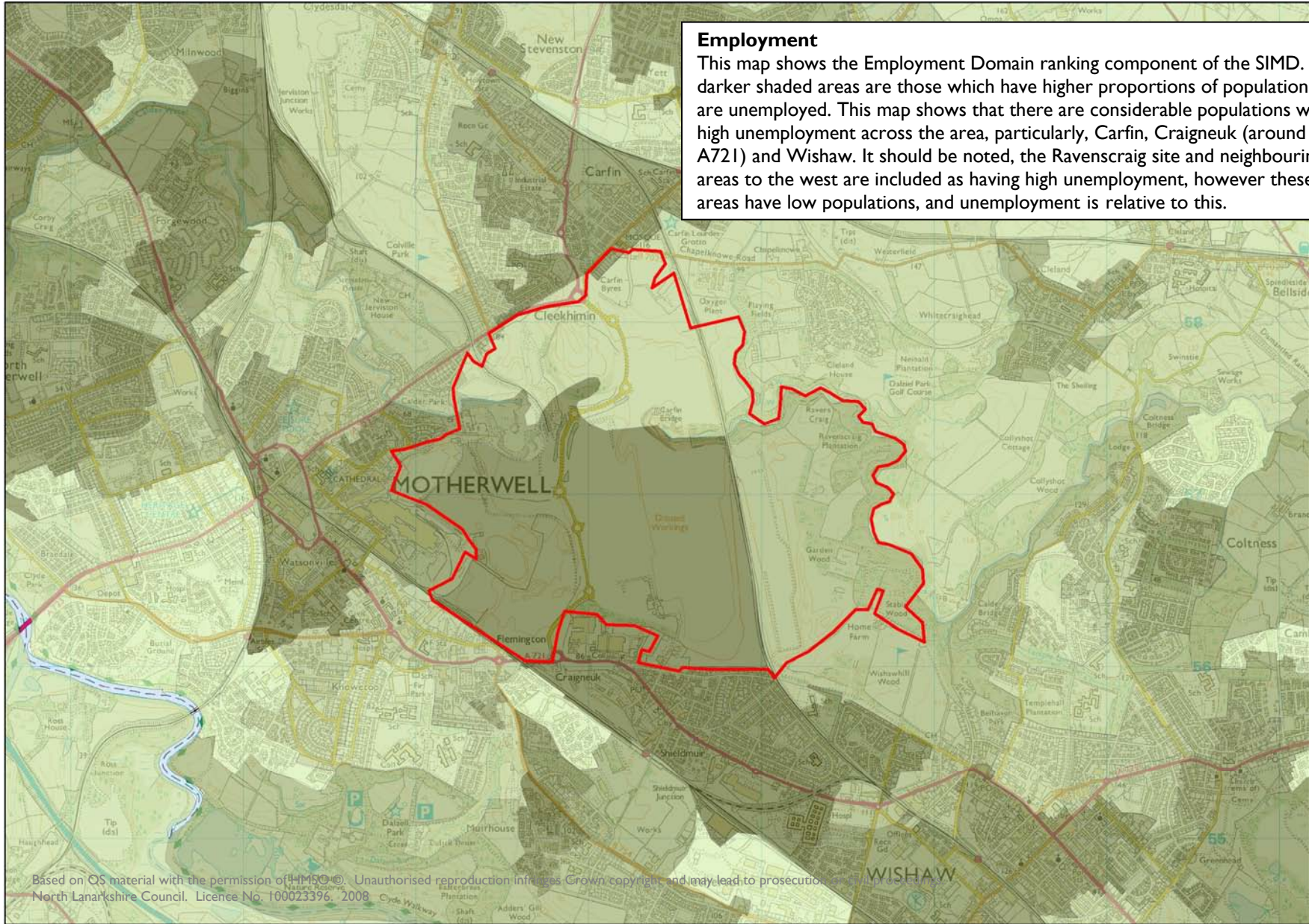
- 2.18. The Green Network as a concept outlined in the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Structure Plan incorporates all types of greenspace including parks, semi-natural or unmanaged spaces, sports facilities, woodland and play areas. It also includes 'blue' spaces such as waterways, lochs and Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDS) ponds.
- 2.19. Some elements of the Green Network are important regionally or even nationally, for example a country park, whilst others are important locally, for example a small children's play park.
- 2.20. When combined, all these elements should create a network that has a positive influence on people's lives by helping to create strong sense of place; increase the attractiveness of an area for living or investment; form part of traffic free access routes; and form habitats to promote biodiversity.
- 2.21. Ravenscraig does not yet form part of a Green Network but there are elements in and around it that could become key elements in its future development. The following map identifies the strategic resources in the Ravenscraig area that already exist.

SOCIAL CONTEXT

- 2.22. Redevelopment at Ravenscraig must of course also be placed within the social and economic context. Analysis of information from the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD), shown below, confirms that the surrounding communities in Motherwell, New Stevenston and Wishaw experience high levels of deprivation, reflecting the dramatic decline of heavy industry in the 1980s and 1990s and the more limited opportunities that have been created since. The economic deprivation associated with unemployment is in many cases compounded by poor health and low environmental quality. While development at Ravenscraig will increase the range and quality of facilities in the area, provide affordable housing, provide some social and special needs housing and bring forward environmental improvements to a significant area, there is a real opportunity to use many aspects of the development to deliver employment, training and volunteering benefits to local people. Development and maintenance of the site's green infrastructure could provide a key pathway through training to employment.

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)

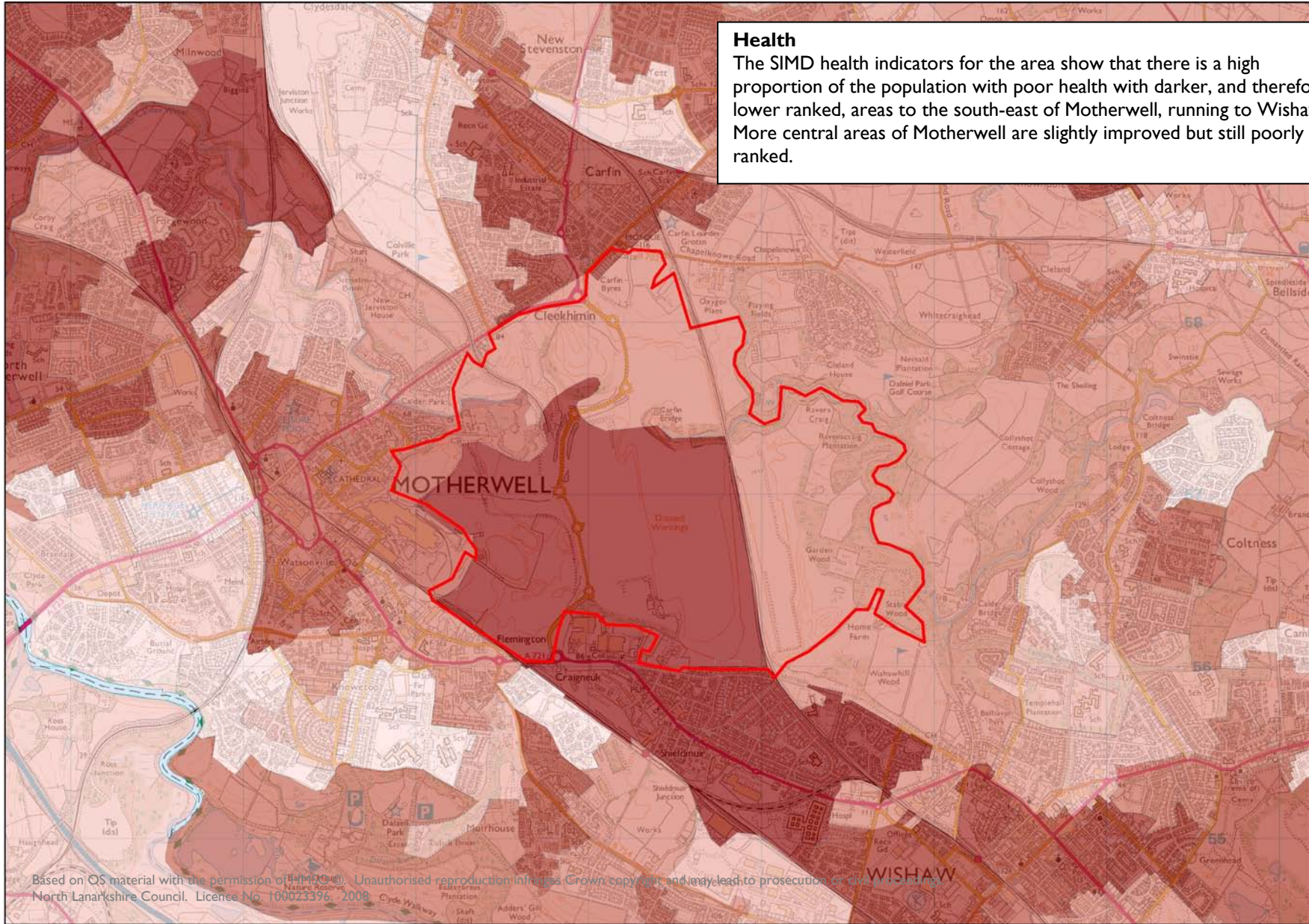
- 2.23. The SIMD was published by the Office of the Chief Statistician in 2006. It divides Scotland up into 6,505 small geographical areas (called 'data zones'), with a median population size of 769. These are ranked from 1 (most deprived) to 6505 (least deprived) using 37 indicators of deprivation across seven categories or domains: current income, employment, health, education, geographic access to services, housing and crime.



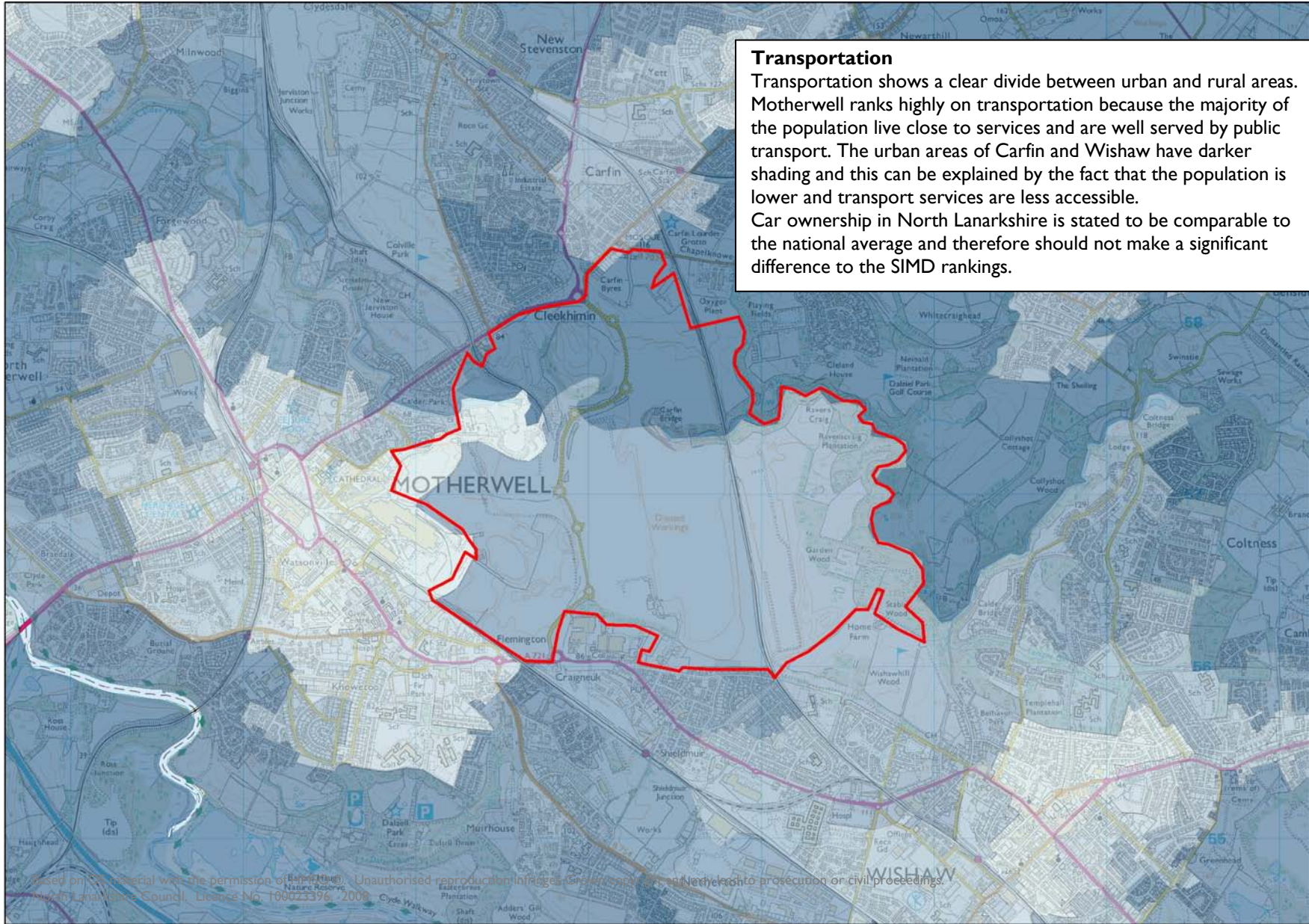
Employment

This map shows the Employment Domain ranking component of the SIMD. The darker shaded areas are those which have higher proportions of population that are unemployed. This map shows that there are considerable populations with high unemployment across the area, particularly, Carfin, Craigneuk (around the A721) and Wishaw. It should be noted, the Ravenscraig site and neighbouring areas to the west are included as having high unemployment, however these areas have low populations, and unemployment is relative to this.

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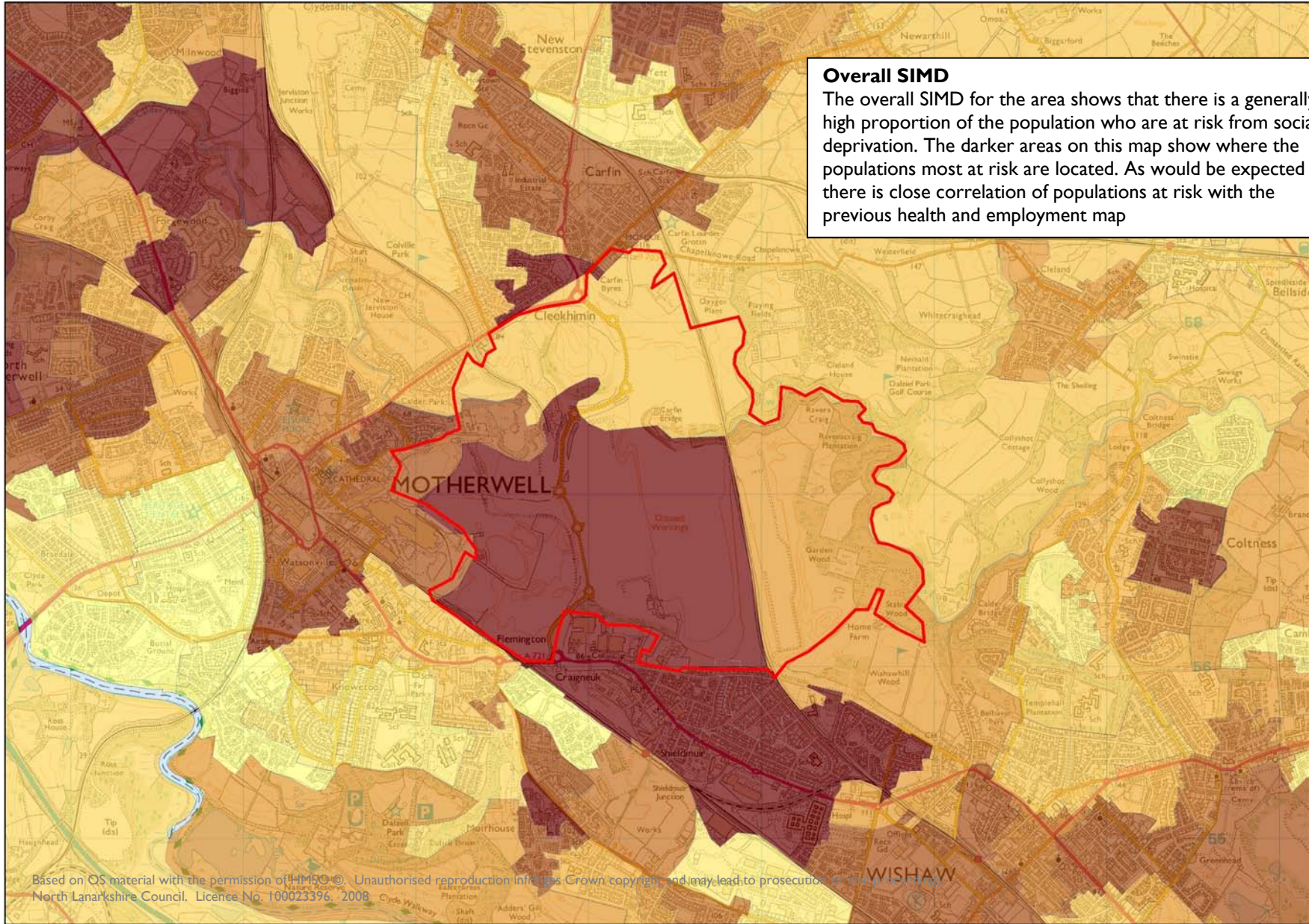
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Transportation

Transportation shows a clear divide between urban and rural areas. Motherwell ranks highly on transportation because the majority of the population live close to services and are well served by public transport. The urban areas of Carfin and Wishaw have darker shading and this can be explained by the fact that the population is lower and transport services are less accessible. Car ownership in North Lanarkshire is stated to be comparable to the national average and therefore should not make a significant difference to the SIMD rankings.

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Discussion

- 2.24. The SIMD indicates that there are a range of communities with socio-economic disadvantages in the Ravenscraig area. The area contains some of the most deprived areas in Scotland. However there are also areas where deprivation is being alleviated.
- 2.25. North Lanarkshire increased its proportion of areas that are in the 5% most deprived areas from 9 to 17 data zones. Across the 10, 15 and 20% areas there was a drop in the number of North Lanarkshire areas ranked. Within the Ravenscraig area, south-east Motherwell is included in the 15% most deprived areas in the 2006 SIMD. However the Carfin and Wishaw data zones have moved out of the 15% bracket.
- 2.26. The North Lanarkshire community plan states that the area has a higher proportion of population in receipt of housing benefit than Scotland as a whole (the third highest). There are also a higher number of people claiming income support payments and a higher share of people looking for pension credit than Scotland as a whole. The ageing population of North Lanarkshire means that the pension credit situation is likely to get worse.
- 2.27. The future Green Network at Ravenscraig has a major role to play in reversing the low SIMD scores discussed above. A high quality Green Network can generate mental and physical health benefits by providing areas for people to walk and cycle, thereby increasing physical activity and reducing the risk of heart disease and strokes. The Green Network can also help to engender stronger communities by providing spaces for people to meet, socialise and take 'ownership' over. This can have a positive impact on a whole community by discouraging antisocial behaviour and engaging previously excluded members of society.
- 2.28. The development and maintenance of the Green Network may also provide employment and training opportunities for the local population. This can help to reduce the impact of another major cause of social exclusion – unemployment.

LOCAL SOCIAL INITIATIVES

- 2.29. There are a variety of organisations employed in different areas working towards reducing social exclusion and improving quality of life for residents in the areas surrounding Ravenscraig.
- 2.30. In recent years the North Lanarkshire has received both public and private sector funding and this continues today. Funding has targeted diversifying and regenerating the economy, and other areas such as land reclamation.
- 2.31. The North Lanarkshire Partnership (NLP) is an overarching body, created in 1997, to co-ordinate action and resources to help build stronger communities. The partnership acts as a forum in driving forward strategic, economic, social and environmental issues. Members include Scottish Enterprise, Scottish Government, Job Centre Plus and Strathclyde Police; members have committed to improving local services in the area.
- 2.32. One example of the NLP's work is first-stop shops which are essentially council services 'shops'. Members of the public can go to a 'shop' and access a range of

council services rather than having to travel to central council offices. Services provided include, report footpath, lighting defects, and apply for help through the garden assistance scheme.

- 2.33. A relevant initiative to the green network is the 'Woods in and Around Towns' (WIAT) grants from the Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS). The FCS provides grants to 'breathe new life into neglected woods close to populated areas and enhance quality of life for those living nearby'. North Lanarkshire received a grant of £557,000 in January 2007. This was used to improve woodlands around Cambusnethan and Carbarns and Coltness & Branchalwood (both east of Ravenscraig, near Wishaw).
- 2.34. Another initiative is 'The Green Link'; a path from Strathclyde Country Park, through Motherwell, to Ravenscraig. The path is managed by the Central Scotland Forest Trust, on behalf of North Lanarkshire Council and provides on and off road access for walkers and cyclists. The path is part of a wider scheme, SMARTways, which promotes healthy activities in North Lanarkshire.

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

Road Network

- 2.35. Ravenscraig is located amongst a series of major roads running through the area. The M8 from Edinburgh to Glasgow runs to the north and the M74 Glasgow to Carlisle road runs south, to the west of the area.
- 2.36. The A721 from Bellshill to Wishaw, through Motherwell, runs west to east, to the south of Ravenscraig. The A723 connects to the B799, which joins the A8, and the A71, running south west to Kilmarnock, to the west of Ravenscraig.

Rail Network

- 2.37. The area around Ravenscraig is relatively well served by the rail network. Direct trains leave from Motherwell to Edinburgh and to Glasgow. Direct trains also leave Wishaw and Carfin to Glasgow Central.
- 2.38. Ravenscraig will benefit from a new railway station that will link the town to Wishaw and the wider Glasgow Clyde Valley area.

Bus Network

- 2.39. The main settlements around the Ravenscraig area are well connected by the bus network. Motherwell and Wishaw provide buses to Glasgow and throughout the towns to the south of Glasgow including: Newmains, Hamilton and East Kilbride.

Access

- 2.40. The North Lanarkshire Public Access Strategy states that access varies across the North Lanarkshire area. However in 'Action Area H', which covers Motherwell and Wishaw, there is stated to be a 'relatively good network of paths'. This is despite the area being one of the most urban in the region and being in a transport corridor.

- 2.41. Motherwell/Wishaw area access is improved by the Motherwell Green Link Strategy (MGLS). This is a community project that leads groups in outdoor projects and trips on local paths.
- 2.42. The South-Calder Water flows east to west along the North side of Motherwell and Wishaw, forming an important corridor for access.
- 2.43. The Public Access Strategy also states that there are priorities for the area. The emphasis is on extending the potential of existing routes by encouraging the public to use them more.

Core Path Network

- 2.44. The proposed Core Path Network for North Lanarkshire provides connections to Ravenscraig from the south and from the Calder Glen. There are currently no links through the site, although it is likely that during future reviews new routes, particularly along main accesses through the site, will be designated as core paths.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

THE NATIONAL AGENDA

- 3.1. The Scottish Government has five Strategic Objectives for the S:

Wealthier and fairer. Enable businesses and people to increase their wealth and more people to share fairly in that wealth.

Healthier. Help people to sustain and improve their health, especially in disadvantaged communities, ensuring better, local and faster access to health care.

Safer and stronger. Help local communities to flourish, becoming stronger, safer place to live, offering improved opportunities and a better quality of life.

Smarter. Expand opportunities for Scots to succeed from nurture through to life long learning ensuring higher and more widely shared achievements.

Greener. Improve Scotland's natural and built environment and the sustainable use and enjoyment of it.

- 3.2. These Strategic Objectives provide the framework for all development in Scotland and provide the overarching framework for the development of the Green Network in the Glasgow Clyde Valley area.
- 3.3. The Discussion Draft of the **National Planning Framework 2** identifies Ravenscraig as a priority site both for regeneration/renewal and the future Green Network. The twin importance of the area, identified at the national level, is a key driver behind the development of this Green Network Strategy.
- 3.4. **SPPI: The Planning System** sets the overall framework for planning policy in Scotland, and places emphasis on protecting and enhancing the quality of the environment as an overall part of sustainable development. It also emphasises the importance of the condition of our surroundings in contributing to quality of life. The role of regeneration, restoration and opportunities for access to open spaces are noted as important aspects of proactive planning.
- 3.5. In addition, NPPG 14 Natural Heritage (1998) highlights the importance of the natural heritage in contributing to social and economic well being. It also states that local communities should be involved in maintaining and enhancing the environment.
- 3.6. Also at the national level, **Scottish Planning Policy 11: Physical Activity and Open Space** identifies the potential role that open and greenspace can play in the drive to make people more active and create a healthier population.
- 3.7. SPPI 11 outlines the importance of creating Green Networks to have a positive impact on rural and urban areas, helping to develop habitat networks and pleasant environments for the human population. It also outlines the importance of raising standards across all open and greenspaces to help create an inclusive environment.

- 3.8. PAN65: Open Space (2003) gives advice on the role of the planning system in protecting and enhancing existing open spaces and providing high quality new spaces. In particular it outlines the need to ensure that the desires of the local community are taken into account when considering local open space. It emphasises that community involvement in the design, management and maintenance of open spaces can build a sense of shared ownership of the public realm, reducing vandalism and anti-social behaviour and increasing safety. It provides further guidance for local authorities on auditing and developing policies for open space. It also provides the starting point for a typology of open space, which has been developed further by the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Structure Plan Team in partnership with SNH.
- 3.9. Overall national planning policy focuses on the enhancement of urban environments for economic, social and environmental benefit. The role of open space, with greenspace as a component of this, can be as part of regeneration or restoration or created in its own right with resulting benefits for both communities and biodiversity.
- 3.10. **Better Communities in Scotland: Closing the Gap (2002)** is the Scottish Executive's statement on community regeneration which seeks to narrow inequalities and opportunity gaps across Scotland. The statement highlights the importance of physical improvement projects within social regeneration programmes. It also emphasises the use of neighbourhood-management approaches in delivering environmental improvement work related to problems such as litter and graffiti. Paragraph 13 states that *'research has also shown that disadvantaged communities often have real concerns about this type of low-level environmental issue in their local community, and tackling them can be an effective way to start to build the confidence of communities and to start to make changes'*.

'Let's Make Scotland More Active' (2003) is Scotland's strategy for physical activity. The Strategy notes that currently the health of two-thirds of the Scottish population is at risk due to physical inactivity which makes it the most common risk factor for coronary heart disease. Strategic Objective 1 is 'to develop and maintain long-lasting, high-quality physical environments to support inactive people to become active'. The Strategy notes that many of the barriers to physical activity are environmental including safety concerns, traffic fumes and a lack of paths and open spaces. As such it notes that environmental improvement policies are essential to help people become active in their everyday lives, including development that helps people walk and cycle.

In 2005 the Scottish Executive published **Going Green for Growth: a green jobs strategy for Scotland (2005)**. The strategy builds on the 2004 documents Framework for Economic Growth in Scotland¹ and A Smart Successful Scotland: Strategic direction to the Enterprise Network². It provides guidance on how 'green' jobs can provide economic benefits across a broad range of sectors. These include the development of opportunities in biofuels; construction and sustainable design; and ecotourism and outdoor recreation. These areas that could play a significant positive role in the development of the Green Network Strategy.

¹ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2004/09/19828/41869>

² <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2004/11/20246/46555>

Scotland's Biodiversity: it's in your hands (2004) sets out the framework for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in Scotland. It reinforces the role that all partners can play in increasing biodiversity and makes the links between nature conservation, access, learning and healthy living. The 'agenda for action' includes enhancing '*biodiversity in all transport corridors, and public and private greenspace through public and private sector initiatives*' (page 41). The potential for linking urban greenspace and transport corridors to rural habitats is also highlighted as an exciting possibility for the future.

Scottish Natural Heritage's **Natural Heritage Futures** documents set out a framework for the future management of the natural heritage towards 2025. The Natural Heritage Futures priorities for the Ravenscraig area are set out within the **West Central Belt area plan**. These priorities can be used to inform local level strategies such as Biodiversity Action Plans, they can also provide a framework for development and community plans.

- 3.11. The West Central Belt Plan sets out nine objectives for the natural heritage. This includes Objective 1, which aims to '*ensure that developments complement and enhance local landscapes and wildlife and use open space to create environments of value to the natural heritage*'. Within this objective actions include '*making use of high quality greenspace management, attractive town environments and opportunities for access to the countryside, as a means of attracting new business development*'. Objective 2 focuses on the '*sustainable reuse of vacant and derelict land*' and Objective 3 seeks to '*maintain and enhance urban greenspace*'. Key actions within Objective 3 include:
- provide urban greenspace networks through strategic projects;
 - encourage the use of greenspaces for physical exercise;
 - ensure that all sectors of the community are able to use greenspace and the countryside;
 - manage and promote the existing LNR network;
 - create new Community Woodlands; and
 - Involve local communities in the design and management of their local greenspace.
- 3.12. The Scottish Forestry Commission's **Scottish Forestry Strategy 2006** vision is for people to be actively engaged, owning and looking after forests by the second half of the twenty first century. Below this there are four core principals: sustainable development, social inclusion, forestry for and with the people and providing services people need now and will need in the future.
- 3.13. To achieve the vision it is stated that a number of factors will have to be contended including reducing impacts of climate change, strengthening forests through business development, supporting community development, improving access and restoring/maintaining biodiversity. The delivery of these factors will come through principals of sustainability, long-term planning, integration and local policies. Methods for delivery will be improving information and guidance, regulation, incentives, public sector service and state intervention.

Regional Policy

Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network

- 3.14. A key theme of the Joint Structure plan is the creation of ‘A Green Network’, to be created through linkage and improved management of greenspace. The plan anticipates that the network will comprise current environmental assets as well as the reclamation of derelict land and measures to exploit the potential of underused land.
- 3.15. The key aims of the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Business Plan can be summarised to state that a Green Network Programme would aim to improve the competitiveness of the Glasgow/Lanarkshire metropolitan area by enhancing the area as a place to work, live and invest. This would be achieved by encouraging social inclusion and improvements in community life quality, reinforcing and enhancing the biodiversity value of greenspace across the metropolitan area and developing more sustainable infrastructure and lifestyles.
- 3.16. As well as developing the existing industrial base, providing new housing and tackling vacant and derelict land, one of the primary aims of the Structure Plan is to capitalise on the potential of the Clyde to contribute to the Green Network. The Structure Plan Technical Report on Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Green Network (2006) emphasises the importance of including Green Network priorities within Glasgow and Clyde Valley area.
- 3.17. The GCV Green Network Partnership is an unincorporated partnership that has been created to facilitate and add value to the work of organisations that are already working on greenspace improvement.
- 3.18. The partnership aims to achieve this through being a catalyst and facilitator, building further partnerships, securing alignment resources, identifying and demonstrating good practises, track and assessing emerging needs and opportunities and disseminating information³
- 3.19. With regards to the GCV Green Network Plan the Network Partnership has two explicit aims:
- to promote a strategic, partnership approach to the development, planning and delivery of the GCV Green Network Programme; and
 - to secure the full and timely delivery of the GCV Green Network Programme to high quality standards that achieve the aims and objectives of the Programme.

North Lanarkshire Local Plan Consultation Draft

- 3.20. The North Lanarkshire Draft Local Plan, in Section 5 Policy, identifies Ravenscraig as one of four Development Strategy Area Priorities.

³ GLASGOW & CLYDE VALLEY GREEN NETWORK
Business Plan 2007-10. Appendix I - Memorandum of Understanding

- 3.21. Section 4 of the plan sets out key policies for the environment, including:
- ENVI which protects sites of importance for the natural environment and biodiversity (listed in Schedule Env IC).
- ENV3 which promotes improvements to the natural environment and biodiversity and is linked to the Green Network Initiative, development of Country Parks for tourism and countryside recreation, and the development of the access network including Core Paths, linking to the Green Network.
- 3.22. The local plan also identifies policy on local designations. These are listed as sites of importance for Nature Conservation, Local Nature Reserves (LNR), Country Parks and Tree Preservation Orders.
- 3.23. Added to this are areas which have further requirements. In Conservation Areas development is not permitted where it does not preserve or enhance the character of an area or if it adversely affects setting; outline planning permission is not usually considered. Sites of archaeological interest are assessed by the visual amenity impact of the area, public safety and the cumulative impact of proliferation.

Local Biodiversity Action Plans

- 3.24. North Lanarkshire Council has a Local Biodiversity Action Plan which contain the Species and Habitat Action Plans for area. These LBAP Species and Habitat plans are important tools in implementing the UK Biodiversity Action Plan at the local level.
- 3.25. The priority habitats are split into four broad categories in the North Lanarkshire LBAP. These contain a number of other Habitat Plans under the headings of:
- woodland;
 - mosses;
 - floodplain grazing marsh;
 - rivers and burns.
- 3.26. These Habitat Plans are accompanied and supported by a wide range of Species Plans for Plants; Insects; Fish; Amphibians; Birds; and Mammals.

Health Improvement

- 3.27. The **Joint Health Improvement Plan 2003/04 to 2007/08**⁴ states that there is a aspiration to provide high quality services for those who need them, take collective action to enable healthy communities to flourish and to narrow the inequality gap. The plan is to be delivered through priority actions and local initiatives. With relevance to the Green Network Strategy; physical action is a priority action in all health areas and the local initiatives of 'Access North Lanarkshire' (with a 20% uptake by socially excluded groups), and active living demonstrate this.⁵

4

<http://www.northlan.gov.uk/your+council/policies+strategies+and+plans/jhip/joint+health+improvement+plan+.html>

5

<http://www.northlan.gov.uk/your+council/policies+strategies+and+plans/jhip/north+lanarkshire+joint+health+i+mprovement+plan+14.html>

Economic Development Strategy

- 3.28. The '**Changing Gear Towards 2010- An Economic Strategy for Lanarkshire**' delivers the areas proposals⁶ the strategy states that an attractive local environment is a key part of future prosperity. The strategy also points to the area's rural land being an 'opportunity' due to it being 'attractive'. It is pointed to that more work could be done to shed the areas image of heavy industrial usage something that persists despite the regeneration and natural beauty in Lanarkshire. In the action plan it is stated that Objective 2 is regenerating land and providing a quality environment achieved through reclaiming derelict land, supporting the creation of the central forest and reviving rural areas.

Tourism

- 3.29. The **Lanarkshire Tourism Action Plan** has the overall aim of maximising the contribution of the tourism sector to local economy. This would be helped by positioning Lanarkshire as a competitive and appealing destination in the UK and Scottish markets. Another relevant overall aim is to develop a genuine partnership between the public and private sector and the community/voluntary sectors. Sustainability it is asserted should be addressed in all forms from the outset of a project. Finally it is believed that pursuing 'strategic linkages' of tourism projects will be of benefit to the whole region.

Other Relevant Strategies

- 3.30. There are a wide range of other local plans and strategies which are important documents when considering the development of the Green Network. The following paragraphs outline the key documents considered in the development of the Green Network Strategy:
- 3.31. North Lanarkshire's **Access Strategies** promote walking and cycling as part of a healthy lifestyle and as a key method of developing a more sustainable transport network. These, in conjunction with the proposed **Core Path Plans** for the areas will provide the basis for the development of the access network around the areas in the future.
- 3.32. The emerging **Open Space Audits and Strategies** for both local authorities provide information on the current condition, development and management of open spaces within the area.
- 3.33. Other strategies such as **Public Art, Lighting, Public Realm and Design** each play an important role in ensuring the development of the Green Network is done to a consistently high standard.
- 3.34. Within North Lanarkshire and in the vicinity of Ravenscraig there are also community projects that have relevance to the green network. The **Greenlink Project** is funded by a partnership of various organizations (Forestry Commission, North Lanarkshire Council) with the aim of encouraging positive and active use of the South

⁶ <http://www.local-economic-forum.com/lanarkshire/discussion/Changing%20Gear%20towards%202010%20-%20An%20Economic%20Strategy%20for%20Lanarkshire.pdf>

Calder corridor in North Motherwell. Within the corridor there is 50ha of urban woodland and other tasks are to thin, remove waste and non-native trees from this woodland, as described in the 5 year management plan.

- 3.35. The **Environmental Improvement Project** is run by the Wishaw & District Housing Association in conjunction with the Wisegroup. The project is based between Valley View and Gresham Gardens and allows unemployed people to learn skills for employment whilst also being paid. The workers undertake to improve the housing environment through clearing land and planting plants and trees.

Greenspace Standards

- 3.36. This section of the toolkit sets out a range of standards that have been developed to guide the provision of greenspace in new development. They provide a useful starting point in assessing the quantity and type of greenspace required across the area.
- 3.37. Scottish Planning Policy 11: Physical Activity and Open Space does not contain recommendations for standards in open space, suggesting that local authorities should identify surpluses / deficiencies at a local level in order to establish needs. However, this section of the report provides a brief summary of other standards to help identify how the Green Network at Ravenscraig should be developed.
- 3.38. The standards described in this section include:
- North Lanarkshire Open Space Strategy standards;
 - National Playing Fields Association standards for children’s play space within new development; and
 - Natural England’s Urban Greenspace Standards.

North Lanarkshire Council Open Space Standards

- 3.39. North Lanarkshire Council is currently developing an open space audit and strategy in line with the requirements set out by the Scottish Government. This section examines the proposed standards identified for open space in the area.
- 3.40. This table details proposed catchments to be applied to open space in North Lanarkshire to identify deficiencies that have been identified through the analysis undertaken as part of the development of the open space audit and strategy for the area.

| Typology | Catchment | Rationale/explanation |
|---------------|---------------------|--|
| Public parks | 15 minute walk-time | 60% of all respondents (rising to 71% of those answering question) say they would walk less than 15 minutes to access such provision |
| Country parks | 3,200 metres | Valuable tourism facility with wide catchment; actual catchment based on guidance issued by Greater London Authority and commonly applied in other areas |

| Typology | Catchment | Rationale/explanation |
|--|---------------------|---|
| Amenity open space | 10 minute walk-time | 55% of all respondents (rising to 70% of those answering question) say they would walk less than 10 minutes to access such provision |
| Natural green space | 15 minute walk-time | 42% of all respondents (rising to 55% of those answering question) say they would walk less than 15 minutes to access such provision; 11% of all respondents would travel by transport for less than 15 minutes |
| Functional open space | 15 minute walk-time | No clear evidence from survey and consultation work; no reason to assume attitudes to provision different from other types of provision; it should be noted that, although mapping may show deficiencies, need is generally driven by other factors, e.g., burial space, location of school sites |
| Sports areas | - | No catchment to be applied as deficiencies can be identified on the basis of actual need/demand |
| Residential open space | 10 minute walk-time | 55% of all respondents (rising to 70% of those answering question) say they would walk less than 10 minutes to access such provision |
| Civic open space | 15 minute walk-time | 46% of all respondents (rising to 61% of those answering question) say they would walk less than 15 minutes to access such provision; it should be noted that deficiencies for this typology are more readily identified through consultation |
| Abandoned land | - | No catchment to be applied as Council not seeking to meet deficiencies; standard to equate to current provision minus that identified as change of use |
| Private open space | - | No catchment to be applied as Council not seeking to meet deficiencies; standard to equate to current provision minus that identified as change of use |
| Play – small/young children | 10 minute walk-time | 43% of all respondents (rising to 63% of those answering question) say they would walk less than 10 minutes to access play provision for small/young children |
| Play – teenagers (including casual play) | 15 minute walk-time | 45% of all respondents (rising to 71% of those answering question) say they would walk less than 15 minutes to access teenage play provision |
| Play in rural communities | - | It is proposed in rural communities that deficiencies in play provision be guided by a hierarchy – in essence, in each area will be assessed to see if provision exists – if not, it is deficient – no distinction will be made between equipped and casual play. |

National Play Fields Association Standards for Children’s Play Space

3.41. The National Playing Fields Association has provided more detailed guidance on the provision of children’s play space within new developments. These are based on three categories of play space:

- **Local Areas for Play (LAPs):** These are small informal non-equipped play areas which are securely fenced for informal play by the younger age groups. Seating should be provided for carers.

- **Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs):** These cater for a wider range of age groups and include at least five types of play experience and may include an area for ball games.
- **Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs):** These cater for a larger population and include at least 8 types of play experience and provision for ball games and roller skating/cycling etc. these areas are of a scale which would normally preclude direct provision through housing development.

| Criteria | Local Area for Play (LAP) | Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAP) | Neighbourhood Areas for Play (NEAP) |
|------------------------|---|---|--|
| Age group | 4 – 6 accompanied | 4 – 8 accompanied | 8 – 14 unaccompanied |
| Walking time from home | 1 minute 60 metres | 5 minutes 250 metres | 15 minutes 600 metres |
| Equipment | Fencing, seating, sign posting, litter bins, 2 items of play equipment, which comply with relevant British standards. | Fencing, seating, sign posting, litter bins; cycle parking, 5 items of play equipment, which comply with relevant British standards. Small games area | Fencing, seating, sign posting, litter bins; cycle parking, 8 items of play equipment, which comply with relevant British standards. Kick about area, wheeled play opportunities |
| Site characteristics | Grass and/or hard surface. Reasonably flat and well drained | Grass and/or hard surface. Reasonably flat and well drained | Grass and hard surface |
| Minimum activity zone | 100m ² | 400m ² | 1000m ² |
| Buffer zone | The activity zone should be a minimum of 5 metres from the boundaries of adjacent properties | The activity zone should be a minimum of 20 metres from the boundaries of adjacent properties. Buffer zone may include footpaths | The activity zone should be a minimum of 30 metres from the boundaries of adjacent properties. Buffer zone may include footpaths |
| Restrictions | Type of equipment and design of site should restrict opportunities for play by older children due to potential disturbance to residents | In some developments it may be appropriate for a LAP to be enlarged to a LEAP. In such cases clear separation should be maintained between the two types of play area. The buffer zone between the two may be reduced, or removed, but the perimeter buffer zone will be required | In some developments it may be appropriate for a LEAP to be enlarged to a NEAP. In such cases clear separation should be maintained between the two types of play area. The buffer zone between the two may be reduced, or removed, but the perimeter buffer zone will be required |

Natural England's Urban Greenspace Standards

- 3.42. Natural England's Urban Greenspace Standards are also relevant, providing a series of benchmarks to help ensure that people are provided with access to places of wildlife interest. These standards recommend that people living in urban areas should have:
- an accessible natural greenspace less than 300 metres (5 minutes walk) from home;
 - statutory Local Nature Reserves at a minimum level of one hectare per thousand population;
 - at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home; one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home; and one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home.
- 3.43. Most of the new communities within Ravenscraig will have easy access to natural greenspaces such as Todhole Basin and the area defined as the Community Nature Park. However, there may be scope to develop natural environments close to homes and commercial centres through the careful integration of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS).
- 3.44. The layout and structure of the green and open space network in Ravenscraig means that the standards set for accessibility should be met through the development of the site.

RAVENSCRAIG SPECIFIC PLANS

Landscape Guidelines

- 3.45. The Ravenscraig Landscape Guidelines state that the site was the last major steelworks to be developed in the UK. After its closure it became the largest Brownfield site in Europe, measuring over 450ha. This left a substantial central area of derelict land with fringe land of varying green space.
- 3.46. The central vision for the site is of a mixed-use development which aims to “provide a balanced community, to protect those parts of the natural environment of the highest quality, and provide access to the green spaces for leisure activities”.
- 3.47. The current land in the site consists of a complex mix of open ground, redundant roads and railways, a prominent grass hill (with a secure containment facility), wooded gorge of South Calder Water and regenerated woodland.
- 3.48. The plans for Ravenscraig have two main greenspace areas. One is at Todhole, here the plan is to retain as much natural vegetation as possible and reconnect the woodland areas with new native planning. The new planting will provide a greenlink across the site to the other main area which is the Community Nature Park. This is located on the East of the site and is designed to be of ecological interest.
- 3.49. Other plans are to try to minimise any disturbance of the North Ravenscraig Gorge and the fields either side of the railway tracks. Other railway tracks will have screen planting reinforced to create a continuous line of planting. The town centre is to have

a strong planted structure, designed to break up the prominence of buildings, plants will be ornamental to enhance the area. The Core Public Realm will introduce a pathway 'spine' to connect the various 'quarters' of the town. This spine will be broken up by designed squares which will have differing types of garden contained within them for example the Business Village Garden will be a 'formal tree-lined garden with hornbeam hedges, shrub and groundcover planting and lawns'⁷

Natural Heritage and Built Environment Strategy

- 3.50. The document states the overall aims to be to:
- protect and enhance natural conservation and land resources of the area;
 - provide ready access to the countryside and town for the residents of Ravenscraig and the wider area;
 - to deliver quality and sustainability in the built environment.
- 3.51. These aims each have a set of strategic objectives designed to substantiate and help deliver the respective overarching aim⁸.
- 3.52. With respect to green space the document provides more details on the exact development of the main green areas of Ravenscraig. The proposals for the Community Nature Park state that the Eastern section will remain undeveloped and left as open countryside for recreation and nature conservation. A section of this is identified as a site of importance for nature conservation by the North Lanarkshire local plan. The Park is to be linked to the West by the wooded Ravenscraig Gorge and managed for low intensity recreational use. This will allow the land to be protected, enhanced and conserved in terms of its landscape and historical interest.
- 3.53. Todhole Basin extends west from the Gorge from where South Calder water is culverted beneath a large area of infill. It is a mix of scrub and woodland habitat and is also a site of importance for nature conservation according to the North Lanarkshire local plan. It is planned to form one side of the green link that will stretch from West to East across the site.

⁷ Ravenscraig Landscape Guidelines urban spaces: 18

⁸ Natural Heritage and Built Environment Strategy: 3

4. SWOT ANALYSIS

INTRODUCTION

- 4.1. This section draws together the results of the baseline analysis, together with information gathered through consultation to provide an overview of Ravenscraig's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. In distilling and describing the existing situation, this analysis provides a starting point for the development of the Green Network Vision and Objectives set out in the next section of the Strategy.

Strengths

- 4.2. Ravenscraig is one of the largest development sites in Europe and the extensive remediation programme that has taken place over recent years has created a relatively blank canvas for new development.
- 4.3. The regeneration proposals, and Ravenscraig's status as a nationally important project are added benefits. The creation of new housing, employment, educational, retail and recreation facilities will bring benefits for existing communities as well as new residents of the site. The Masterplan also includes an important 'green' component in the form of public and private spaces.
- 4.4. Despite its industrial history and its proximity to Motherwell and neighbouring settlements, Ravenscraig is surprisingly well connected with the wider countryside. The site includes the incised and wooded valley of the South Calder Water which although culverted across part of the site, provides an important biodiversity and recreation link downstream to the Clyde Valley and upstream to the wider countryside. The site is also located at the southern end of a wedge of open countryside which extends in towards Motherwell.
- 4.5. Significant planning for the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment and biodiversity has taken place at the Ravenscraig site. This planning has helped to ensure that the habitats that were created as a result of the deindustrialisation process have been preserved and enhanced through the regeneration of the site.
- 4.6. Ravenscraig benefits from comparatively good existing and planned transport connections including public transport and road access. There is also a network of walking and cycling routes in the surrounding area which have potential to connect into the Ravenscraig site.
- 4.7. The wider area benefits from a range of community based initiatives, providing potential to support initiatives to maximise the community benefits associated with the Ravenscraig development.

Weaknesses

- 4.8. Ravenscraig is located in part of North Lanarkshire that has experienced significant decline of heavy industry over the past two decades. This has left a legacy of multiple deprivation (low employment, low incomes and poor health), derelict and damaged

land and unfavourable outside perceptions. These are key challenges that the redevelopment of Ravenscraig is aiming to help reverse.

- 4.9. The former industrial use of the Ravenscraig site is reflected in its separation from surrounding communities and by the culverting of the South Calder Water across the site. Movement within the wider area is constrained by the barrier effect created by railways, main roads and physical features such as river valleys, together with areas of continuing industry.
- 4.10. While the wider area includes a range of greenspaces including woodland and farmland, within surrounding communities, they tend to be dominated by amenity areas around buildings and along road corridors, rather than providing a usable resource for local people.
- 4.11. While the redevelopment of Ravenscraig offers an opportunity to create a high quality urban quarter, there remain concerns about the long term requirements for maintenance of the public realm within and around the scheme.
- 4.12. There is anecdotal evidence of anti-social behaviour through out the area, including in woodlands and river valleys adjacent to the site.
- 4.13. There is a lack of public awareness and understanding of the ecological value of some areas of derelict and damaged land.

Opportunities

- 4.14. There is a key opportunity to develop Ravenscraig as an exemplar of sustainable urban development with a structure of multi-functional greenspaces providing benefits for new residents and surrounding communities. These could include high quality public spaces, parks, walking and cycling networks, community nature reserves, allotments and private gardens. Infrastructure such as SUDS should provide the basis for ecologically rich community nature parks.
- 4.15. There is potential to reflect Ravenscraig's location adjacent to the South Calder Water and linking to open countryside to create a development which responds both to its urban and its rural context, and which provides a key link between existing communities and wider Green Network resources.
- 4.16. There is potential to restore and enrich the area's biodiversity by creating habitat stepping stones across the site, for example addressing the culverting of the South Calder Water by creating woodlands and wetlands on the surface, and by linking to habitats in surrounding areas, including the open countryside to the north and the Clyde Valley to the south.
- 4.17. There is potential to use redevelopment of the site to overcome the barrier effect created by the steelworks site and to create a network of paths connecting existing communities, the new development and the open countryside.
- 4.18. There is potential to transform the apparent burden of long term management and maintenance of green spaces into a mechanism for training and employment, bringing long term economic and social benefits to the wider community.

- 4.19. There is potential to co-ordinate capital and revenue funding from a range of sources to provide maximum benefits for the redevelopment of the site.

Threats

- 4.20. The most significant threats reflect the potential to miss the significant opportunities to integrate the Green Network within redevelopment of Ravenscraig.
- 4.21. There is also a risk that the opportunity to secure local economic benefits from ongoing management and maintenance will be missed.

5. VISION AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

RAISING STANDARDS

- 5.1. The development of Ravenscraig provides a unique opportunity to create a high quality environment that will bring a wide range of benefits to the Motherwell and Wishaw area.
- 5.2. The standard of the Green Network in the area should be set high in order to provide a flagship for the rest of the area. The quality of the environment in Ravenscraig should be matched in surrounding communities over time. Improving and regenerating existing communities will take considerable investment and time. However, to develop a fully integrated network it will be necessary to raise the standards in surrounding areas.
- 5.3. A high quality and integrated Green Network is an ambitious aim to set but the unique nature of the Ravenscraig development makes it a realistic one. In order to move towards this aim, the following vision for the Green Network at Ravenscraig has been set:

The Green Network will form an integral part of Ravenscraig throughout its development, creating an integral part of a high quality, sustainable environment. It will help to foster a sense of place; connections with existing communities; provide environmental benefits and improve the quality of life for local people.

- 5.4. The Vision was developed to reflect the priorities identified in the audit stage of the project and the strategic consultation⁹ undertaken to inform its development. It reflects the long term nature of the redevelopment at the site and the wide range of benefits the Green Network can help deliver.
- 5.5. It also reflects the need to look beyond the boundaries of the Ravenscraig site to consider how the Green Network connects with surrounding areas.

Strategic Priorities for Ravenscraig

- 5.6. Underpinning this vision are strategic priorities that form the basis for the next section of this strategy. These have been based on the findings of the Audit, Consultation and SWOT analysis previously outlined. The Strategic Priorities identified for Ravenscraig are:
 - Managing and Enhancing existing Green Network components within Ravenscraig;
 - Potential contributions by the Green Network to sustainable development;
 - Connecting Ravenscraig with the wider Green Network.

⁹ A report on the Consultation Workshops is located in Appendix 2

- 5.7. The following chapters expand on these Priorities, identifying the recommendations for their future development and their potential contribution to fulfilling the following Green Network Themes.

Green Network Themes

- 5.8. The concept of the Green Network is underpinned by four key themes, as defined by the Green Network Partnership:

The **Stronger Communities** theme aims to achieve a significant and sustainable improvement in the landscape and amenity value of greenspace within local neighbourhoods; to encourage the active engagement of local people in the design, development and long-term management of greenspace within their community; and will focus particularly on regeneration areas and those experiencing multiple deprivation.

Particular opportunities provided by the Green Network Programme are the improvement of local greenspace thereby making neighbourhoods attractive and healthy places to live and work; and creating opportunities for individuals to improve their health and obtain sustained employment.

The **Health Improvement** theme aims to enhance the value of the Green Network as a resource for healthy living and a focal point for health improvement; to encourage active engagement by key target groups who are experiencing health inequalities.

Particular opportunities provided by the Green Network Programme are healthy eating (e.g. allotments, schools programmes, children's gardens); physical activity (e.g. GP referral schemes, green gym, healthy walks programmes); and mental health and wellbeing (e.g. conservation volunteering, community gardens, addiction recovery programmes).

The **Biodiversity and the Environment** theme aims to enhance the biodiversity value and landscape quality of the Green Network; to promote appreciation of the environmental qualities of the Green Network; and to help secure the long-term sustainability of the Green Network.

Particular opportunities provided by the Green Network Programme are: the identification and enhancement of a network of habitats; the use of the greenspace for flood management and to ameliorate air and water pollution; and use of the Green Network to encourage more sustainable lifestyles.

The **Enterprise Development** theme aims to enhance the economic value of the Green Network: as an aid to attracting business investment; as a catalyst for the development of new, viable businesses; to encourage existing businesses to become actively involved in the creation and management of the Green Network; to provide new opportunities for training and skills development associated with the creation and management of the Green Network; and to encourage businesses to adopt more sustainable approaches to travel and transport, utilising Green Network infrastructure.

Particular opportunities provided by the Green Network Programme are: biomass energy production from residues arising from Green Network management operations; improved image to potential business investors through the short-term

greening of vacant development sites; improved models for industrial and housing development based on the early inclusion of the Green Network during masterplanning.

- 5.9. These themes provide the structure for the development of the Green Network and have been agreed by each of the Green Network Partnership partners. In order to ensure the Green Network at Ravenscraig maximises its role in the wider Green Network, it is important that any proposals made have synergy with these themes. Therefore, the recommendations under each Strategic Priority have been evaluated against the Green Network Themes.

6. MANAGING AND ENHANCING EXISTING RESOURCES

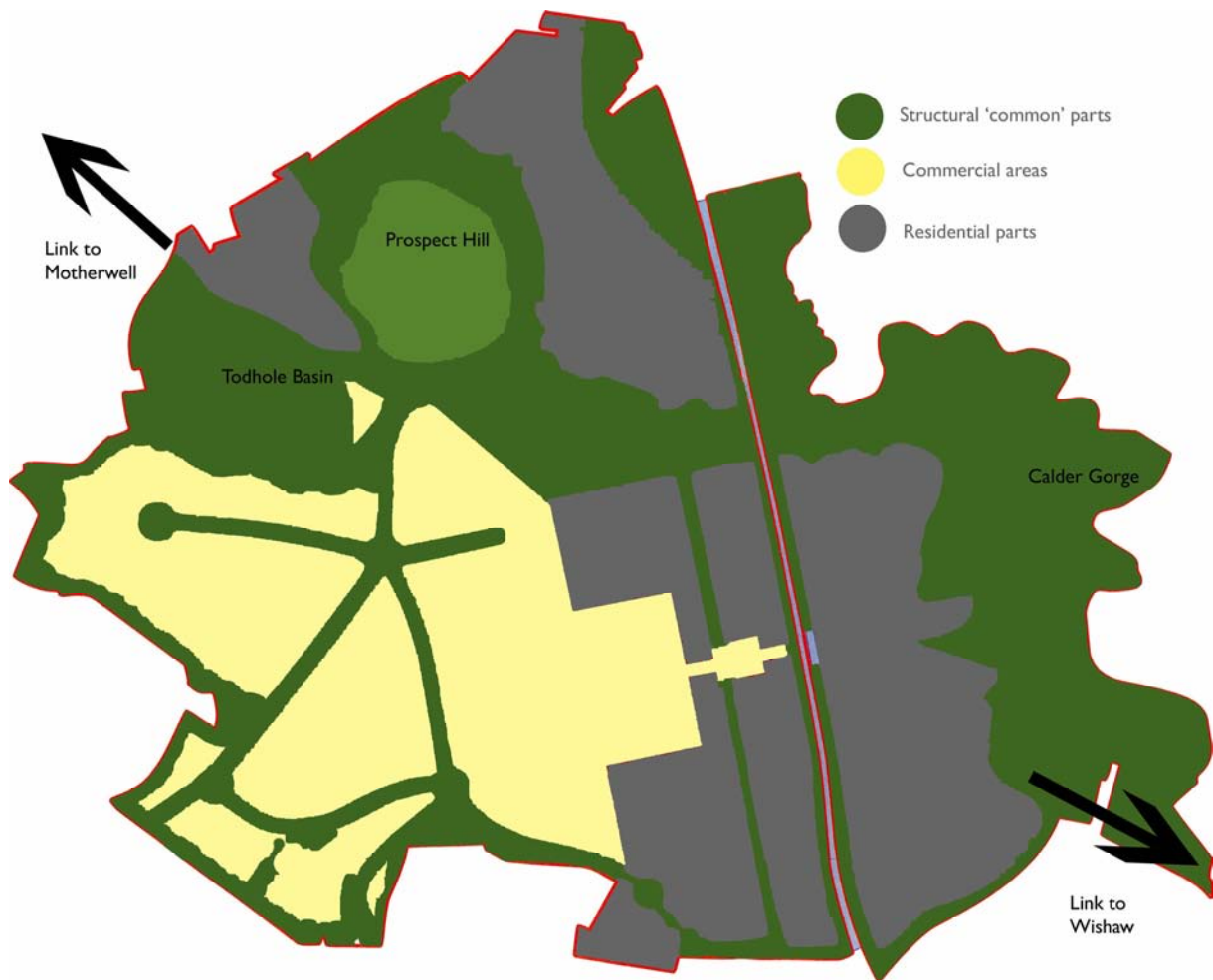
INTRODUCTION

- 6.1. The larger, structural greenspaces in Ravenscraig will form the most readily identifiable elements of the Green Network for most people. Therefore these elements, discussed below, need to be of a high quality that helps to attract and engage local people, new residents, workers and investors.

Current Plans

- 6.2. The masterplan for the Ravenscraig site notes that only around 400 acres of the 1150 acre site will be developed; the remaining areas will be *'protected or enhanced to provide formal and informal amenity areas for residents and wildlife'*.
- 6.3. The importance of the Ravenscraig site for biodiversity has been a key consideration in plans for development. The demolition of the steel works and the subsequent naturalisation of the area formed a habitat in which a wide range of species flourished. Species include great crested newts, grayling butterflies, deer, foxes, hares, otters, badgers, wolverines and birds such as the wader, song thrush and the little ringed plover.
- 6.4. Ravenscraig has also become an important site for 'industrial' wildlife – species that have colonised the area because of its brownfield ground conditions. Species that have flourished include grayling, blue fleabane, little ringed plover and great crested newt. There are several other locations across North Lanarkshire that have attracted species such as these because of their post industrial nature. The importance of this relatively new type of habitat is being interpreted at Summerlee and through arts projects at Dumbreck and Gartcosh.
- 6.5. The redevelopment of the site will cause the loss of many of the habitats used by these species so it has been important to mitigate their loss of through a range of conservation measures. These will include:
- establishing new habitats including large areas of green open space;
 - creation of a 'Community Nature Park' to provide habitats for natural heritage and allow people to enjoy the environment;
 - creating green wildlife corridors;
 - providing facilities for safe movement of wildlife, such as badgers;
 - protecting sensitive habitats and flora such as marsh orchid, blue fleabane encouraging wildflowers;

- appointment of an Ecological Clerk of Works to monitor the effects of development on the natural heritage and ensure appropriate mitigating measures are adopted;
 - protecting or relocating existing animal and insect species;
 - protecting mature woodlands – part of which is classed as ancient woodland;
 - a major planting programme of species native to the locality - alder, birch, larch, goat willow and whitebeam;
 - increasing areas of wetland habitat.
- 6.6. Many of these mitigation measures have already been undertaken as a precursor to the development of the site whilst others will be undertaken alongside the various phases of construction over the next 20 years.
- 6.7. The need to conserve and enhance the biodiversity value of the site is being combined with the need to create an environment which is attractive and inviting for residents and visitors. Therefore the masterplan for Ravenscraig has been developed around a green infrastructure which will fulfil both requirements.
- 6.8. The masterplan has been built around a structure that incorporates the new town centre, residential areas and commercial areas. It also provides the structure in which the Green Network will be established.
- 6.9. Elements of the Green Network are already established, for example the gorge woodland along the South Calder Water, and some have already been developed, for example the Todhole Basin and Prospect Hill.
- 6.10. The following map shows the proposed structural layout for the Ravenscraig site:



6.11. The green areas, those identified as *Structural Common Parts*, will form the core elements of the Green Network within Ravenscraig. These elements will provide the basis for the Green Network both within Ravenscraig and connecting to the communities around it. The key elements of the 'Structural Common Parts' are:

- **Prospect Hill.** The most elevated location on the site will provide the most visible element of a large greenspace in the north west corner of Ravenscraig. Its open aspect and elevated position make it potentially one of the most important elements of the future Green Network.
- **Todhole Basin.** A semi-naturalised area that connects with the greenspace around Prospect Hill. Its reed system provides natural filtration for the Calder Water and a habitat for a wide range of species.
- **Calder Water.** Although a large section of the Calder is culverted, its route remains one of the key green links across the Ravenscraig site. On the eastern side of the site, the Calder Water forms a gorge woodland, creating a natural buffer between the new development and the urban fringe of Wishaw and open countryside. Access into the area is limited because of the physical constraints created by the natural topography of the gorge. However, the woodland provides an important visual backdrop and forms the edge of the future

'Community Nature Park' as defined in the masterplan. The gorge is also a vital habitat for a wide range of flora and fauna.

- **Wishaw Connection.** Although not on the Ravenscraig site, the connection to Wishaw is a potentially key element of the future Green Network. The link between Wishaw and the south east corner of the Ravenscraig site is off road to the south of the Wishaw Golf Course could provide an important connection into the site.
- **Motherwell Green Link.** The Green Link already connects a number of communities located along with Calder Water with Motherwell town centre. The value and importance of this link has been demonstrated through the continued interest and investment undertaken by the Central Scotland Forest Trust (CSFT).

- 6.12. The connections to Motherwell and Wishaw and the future Green Network in Ravenscraig are important to helping to ensure that the existing communities around the site have access to the new services and employment opportunities that will be available. Where possible, these connections should be made off-road to encourage people to walk and cycle.

Recommendations

- 6.13. As noted above, a large proportion of the Ravenscraig site will be developed as part of the Green Network. The functions and role of the various green elements will vary significantly but there are a number of principals that can be applied to their development.
- The role of Prospect Hill as a 'beacon' for Ravenscraig should be maximised. The hill is the most elevated open area in Ravenscraig and offers views across the site and the surrounding area. It will be readily accessible to both new populations at Carfin and to existing populations in Motherwell and is likely to become a focal point for more recreational activity in the area.

The Green Network should help to create a sense of place in the area and should be used as a 'promotional tool' in attracting house buyers and business investors. Therefore it is recommended that early action is undertaken to develop Prospect Hill as a high quality 'park' environment. It is a large space that could fulfil a range of functions including:

- a network of routes to provide circular walks, potentially creating graded health walks on the site;
- installation of high quality furniture at strategic locations to provide meeting points and resting places;
- interpretation of the wider Ravenscraig area, maximising the potential offered by the elevation the hill provides;
- creation of 'gateways' into the site from new housing areas, the new Regional Sports facility and from the cycle networks connected to Prospect Hill.

Parts of the site will not be directly overlooked even when development of the housing in the area is completed, reducing the potential for passive security. Therefore, the design of any new installations on the site should be developed with security and personal safety in mind.

Prospect Hill has also been identified in the Ravenscraig Arts Strategy as a key location for the installation of public art. Any art installation should aim to improve the visual quality of the area and help improve the functionality of the site. More detailed proposals for Prospect Hill are outlined in Chapter 9: Key Projects.

- Todhole Basin is an important element of the Green Network to the south and west of Prospect Hill. The area was created as a type of Sustainable Urban Drainage system and contains a reedbed system to help reduce the amount of silt and pollution entering the South Calder Water.

The area can contribute to the Green Network in a number of specific ways:

- the primary functions of the area within the Green Network are as an area for wildlife and informal recreation. The routes of foot and cycle ways should be steered away from ecologically sensitive areas;
 - provide a connection to the Motherwell Green Link, helping to establish a strategic walking and cycling route into Motherwell town centre. This would help to fulfil the recommendations outlined in Chapter 5;
 - form part of a wider Green Network link across Ravenscraig towards the Calder Gorge. The Gorge itself may not be accessible but there is potential to improve access along its edges. This would help to provide connections for both wildlife and pedestrians.
- The area defined as the Community Nature Park in the masterplan has an important role to play in the overall structure of the Green Network. Large sections of the area are gorge woodland that have little potential for public access. These areas provide habitats for a range of species that should benefit from the minimal levels of disturbance.

The area is closely linked to the new town centre and residential areas and is likely to be an attractive destination. The development of any access routes should be undertaken with the priority of conserving and enhancing the biodiversity value of the site in mind. Inadequate provision in the Community Nature Park may have the effect of creating desire lines and unmanaged access. With this in mind the development of sensitively routed access may be viewed as a protective measure for biodiversity in the area. Managed access can also provide an opportunity for interpretation and education about the greenspace and a focus for engagement with the Nature Park through guided walks, volunteering etc.

The development of green 'fingers' that connect with the residential areas should provide a soft edge between the built environment and the Green Network.

Where possible, buildings should face the greenspace to both provide passive security and increase the level of integration.

The potential for educational and interpretive facilities is significant. There are a range of opportunities available for increasing public enjoyment of the area through interpretive and educational materials. These range from the geomorphologic factors in play in the area (the Calder Gorge) to the social and natural history of the area. The installation of public art could play an important role in increasing public enjoyment of the area.

There is also considerable scope to interpret the ‘industrial wildlife’ that utilised the brownfield site. Considerable work has been undertaken to mitigate the loss of the former habitats during development but there is an opportunity to expand the interpretive and artistic programmes already under development elsewhere in North Lanarkshire (Dumbreck and Gartcosh) to explain the recent natural history of the area.

The potential for developing an off-road connection into Wishaw from the south east edge of the area should be fully explored. This recommendation is examined further in Chapter 9 – Key Projects.

Integration with Green Network Themes

- 6.14. The following table provides an evaluation of the above recommendations against the four Green Network themes:

| Green Network Theme | Evaluation |
|----------------------|--|
| Stronger Communities | The development of the above recommendations would have a positive impact on the Stronger Communities theme. The creation of an integrated network of strategic greenspaces would help to integrate communities by creating common spaces for mutual use. This is particularly important in an area where there new communities will be developed alongside existing ones. |
| Health Improvement | Implementing the above recommendations would have a positive impact on the Health Improvement theme. The development of a high quality Green Network will encourage greater levels of physical activity amongst the local population. Analysis of the SIMD has shown there are pockets of population with poor health in both Motherwell and Wishaw so high quality developments should provide benefits for local communities. |

| Green Network Theme | Evaluation |
|------------------------------|--|
| Biodiversity and Environment | The recommendations would have a strong positive benefit for the Biodiversity and Environment theme. The protection and enhancement of the biodiversity value of the site is a key objective in the development of the Ravenscraig site. Large parts of the areas identified as Principal Components have a primary function as habitats (Todhole Basin, gorge woodland). They have secondary benefits for the local human population in terms of their aesthetic, educational and amenity value. |
| Enterprise Development | It is likely there would be a positive impact on Enterprise Development through the implementation of the above recommendations. A high quality green environment would help to attract investors and potential residents. The development and management of spaces would also provide opportunities for training and volunteering. |

7. CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

INTRODUCTION

- 7.1. Ravenscraig has the potential to be a model development, creating an environment which meets the modern agendas of sustainability and environmental quality. The future Green Network has a key role to play in this development; helping to promote healthy living, sustainable transport and social cohesion.
- 7.2. The Ravenscraig Green Network should raise the standard in terms of public expectation and aspiration. It should be seen as a key selling point for attracting potential residents and investors to the area above other locations by helping to transform the perceptions of Ravenscraig, Motherwell and Wishaw; and North Lanarkshire more widely.

Potential Elements of the Green Network

- 7.3. The future Green Network will be made up of all elements of the green and open space provision in the Ravenscraig area. The combined contribution of each of these will create a high quality environment which has sustainability at its core and reflects a positive image of the area.
- 7.4. The previous chapter highlighted the importance of the larger components of the future Green Network, this section examines the relationship between these and the smaller but equally important elements which will be developed. These elements will include:

Smaller public greenspaces. The role of smaller public greenspaces or amenity greenspaces (areas between housing or industrial buildings) in contributing to the overall quality of an environment can be overlooked because in many cases they are relatively small and without major feature.

Public urban realm. High quality urban realms can help to attract both people and investment. These include both public areas in town centres or shopping areas; and within residential locales. Developments such as Home zones have shown that neighbourhoods can be transformed by creating 'living streets' that allow people to move freely in a safe environment.

Community gardens. Helping to create a sense of place and ownership of an environment can help to make greenspaces well used and sustainable. The obvious difficulty with creating community gardens at this stage is the absence of a current community.

Private gardens. By their nature, private gardens are individualistic. However, they can still have a significant role in the overall future Green Network. Home zone schemes have demonstrated that there is potential to delineate the boundaries between public and private spaces without compromising the integrity of personal

spaces. Creating visual interest through planting of, for example, cherry blossom trees can help to create a high quality distinctive environment.

- 7.5. Another potentially significant element of the future Green Network are Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS). The following paragraphs outline the potential role of SUDS.

SUDS and Greenspace

- 7.6. Sustainable Urban Drainage is a key aspect of any new development. SUDS perform three functions: control flooding; prevent pollution; and provide amenity. Each of these are important in the Ravenscraig area.
- 7.7. The responsibility for the drainage of new development outwith the curtilage of private properties is split between roads authorities (responsible for the drainage of adopted roads) and water authorities (responsible for drainage of other land).
- 7.8. There are three key elements to SUDS known as the 'Management Train'. These are Source Control, Site Control and Regional Control. Most relevant for the development of SUDS schemes that add amenity value are the Site and Regional Controls.
- 7.9. These are achieved through four main types of structures: filter strips and swales; filter drains and permeable surfaces; infiltration devices; and basins, ponds and wetlands. Although there is potential amenity value in each of these structures, the most valuable in terms of greenspace are likely to be basins, ponds and wetlands.
- 7.10. The implementation of SUDS purely as an engineering response to surface water run-off issues, without taking cognisance of the wider issues in an area, may miss the opportunity to have a positive impact on the wider urban environment through the creation of multi-purpose greenspaces. It is therefore important that where possible, SUDS schemes are developed in a co-ordinated and planned way.
- 7.11. There are potentially significant issues relating to the cost of leaving land aside for SUDS schemes compared to the economic benefits of developing them. When more detailed proposals for the layout of the new developments at Ravenscraig are developed, there may be scope to consider different approaches to land assembly to facilitate the introduction of SUDS schemes. There are significant social and economic arguments for using SUDS to create part of a high quality green network.
- 7.12. PAN61: Planning and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems states that:

“Section 7 of the Sewerage (Scotland) Act 1968 provides for local authorities (roads authorities) and water authorities to enter into agreements for shared drainage. Some agreements provide for a single shared drainage system to drain water from properties and from roads. While generally considered to apply to piped sewerage systems, it has been used as the basis for an agreement for maintenance of public above ground SUDS (including swales, ponds, or other ground depression features) being the responsibility of the local authority, whilst below ground SUDS will be the responsibility of the water authority.”

Recommendations

- 7.13. The smaller elements of the Green Network in Ravenscraig have an equally important role to play in the development of a high quality environment as the more structural components outlined in the previous chapter.
- Develop a Green Network that can be used as a key selling point to potential residents and investors at Ravenscraig. It should be of a high quality and promote the sustainability and long term vision for the site.
 - The development of greenspaces within Ravenscraig should be considered strategically, not on a site by site basis. This is particularly important when development takes place in different phases. Strategic consideration of the network will provide a better integration between communities.
 - Greenspaces should be developed with their potential as 'stepping stones' for flora and fauna in mind. If smaller greenspaces are designed to be links between larger spaces, appropriate distance thresholds for key species should be considered.
 - Where possible, new communities should be involved in the development of their local greenspaces. The nature of the development at Ravenscraig through phased housing development and occupation will make this difficult. However, successful greenspaces often have strong community support and use. This needs to be encouraged through the promotion of the future Green Network as an asset when attracting new residents to the area.
 - Greenspace should form focal points for new developments. The long term sustainability of local Green Network spaces can be improved by fully integrating greenspace with housing. Greenspace can provide visual amenity for housing if it if the layout is properly conceived. It can improve the sustainability of greenspaces by providing passive security.
 - The installation of play equipment/facilities should be considered in a strategic way. Experience elsewhere in North Lanarkshire has shown that a single large play facility tends to be more successful than a number of smaller ones. Strategic planning should be undertaken when considering the installation of play facilities. These should have a central location, be of a high quality and be easily accessible by foot and bicycle.
 - The potential for SUDS as a green resource should be considered. Well conceived SUDS schemes can provide biodiversity and amenity value to an area. These could help to create a network of wetland sites across the area, helping to compensate for the loss of habitat that was created by the culverting of the Calder. The requirements for adoption and maintenance of SUDS schemes is a key factor in their development and will play a key role in identifying suitable locations for their installation.
 - Existing and planned SUDS schemes have the potential to be modified to have a positive impact on the environment. Currently most have been designed to carry out a specific engineering function. Factors such as location, shape, accessibility

and planting could be altered to make them more sympathetic to the environment. The type of intervention is likely to vary from naturalisation to the creation of more formal architectural water features that could provide elements of visual amenity alongside the functions of water attenuation and treatment.

- The need for partnership agreement in the long term adoption and maintenance of SUDS schemes is vital to their success. The development of regional SUDS schemes is still a relatively new process. It is important that for their long term success that the responsible authorities agree how schemes are going to be managed from an as early in the planning process as possible.

Integration with Green Network Themes

7.14. The following table provides an evaluation of the above recommendations against the four Green Network themes:

| Green Network Theme | Evaluation |
|------------------------------|--|
| Stronger Communities | The development of the Green Network in relation to the Sustainable Development aims would have a minor positive impact on the Stronger Communities theme. Sustainable development is at the core of building Stronger Communities, particularly in relation to aspects such as sustainable transport and strategic planning of the network and general environment. |
| Health Improvement | The implementation of the Green Network Recommendations for Sustainable Development would have a positive impact on health improvement. Developments which help to create an environment that promotes walking and cycling should have a positive impact on the existing local populations. |
| Biodiversity and Environment | The implementation of the Green Network Recommendations for Sustainable development would have a positive impact on the Biodiversity and Environment theme. The future Green Network could help to improve or expand habitats; form network linkages or create new habitats. |
| Enterprise Development | The recommendations for the Green Network under Sustainable Development are likely to have a minor positive impact on the Enterprise Development theme. There may also be opportunities to create training schemes and employment opportunities through the development of the Green Network |

8. CONNECTING WITH THE WIDER GREEN NETWORK

INTRODUCTION

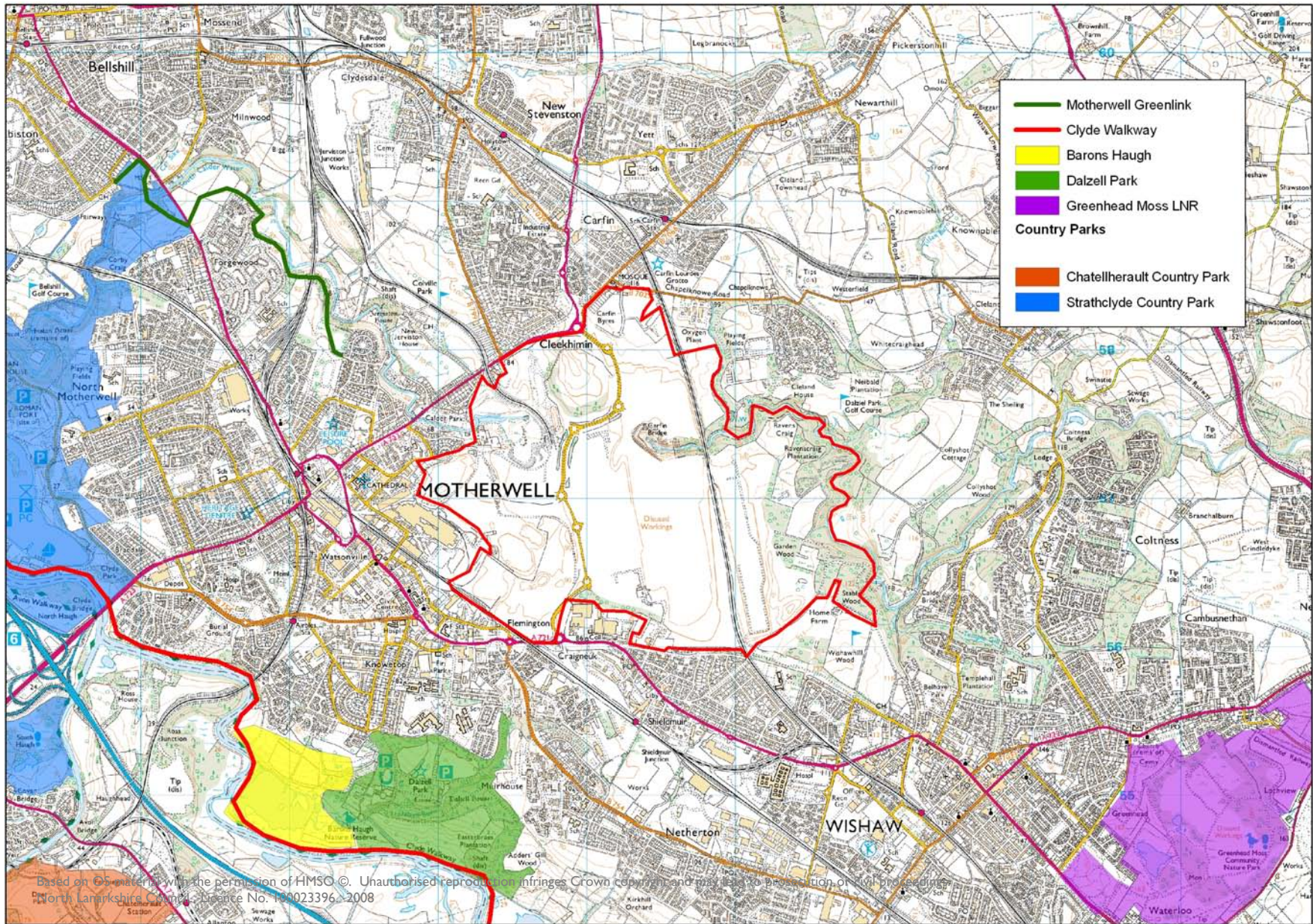
- 8.1. For most of its recent history, the Ravenscraig site was a part of the urban environment, connecting Motherwell and Wishaw, but creating a significant physical barrier between the two communities and the wider countryside. The demolition of the steel works created one of the largest brownfield sites in Europe that will, over the next 20 years, be redeveloped into a new community. It also opened up significant opportunities for access to and across the site.
- 8.2. It also represents an opportunity to reconnect open countryside and with other strategic Green Network resources, including those within the Clyde Valley to the south.
- 8.3. The new community that will be formed at the Ravenscraig site will not sit in isolation but will become part of the wider network of communities that already exists in the area. The development of the Green Network should play a significant role in the integration of the area with Motherwell, Wishaw and beyond.

Current Wider Green Network

- 8.4. As has been noted previously, Ravenscraig does not yet have an established Green Network. However, there are a range of elements that already exist in the area that will play an important role in the overall network when it is developed.
- 8.5. The future Green Network at Ravenscraig should integrate closely with the existing green and open space resources in the area. If the site remains permeable through its greenspaces, then it is more likely to be accessed by the existing populations living in the area.

Existing Recreational Resources

- 8.6. The key strategic Green Network resources that exist in the Ravenscraig area include: Strathclyde Country Park; Dalzell Park; Baron's Haugh Nature Reserve; Motherwell Green Link; and Clyde Walkway. These are shown on the following map:



8.7. The following paragraphs briefly describe these resources:

- **Strathclyde Country Park** – located to the west of Ravenscraig on the River Clyde. The Country Park spans the M74 motorway, creating a regionally important resource for residents of North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire and beyond. It contains mature woodlands, wetlands, wildlife refuges and more formal parkland as well as Strathclyde Loch. It is a major resource that provides watersports, cycle hire and a visitor centre that provides catering facilities. It also forms part of the Motherwell Greenlink, Clyde Walkway and provides a connection into South Lanarkshire.
- **Dalzell Park** – located to the south of Ravenscraig, adjacent to the River Clyde and Baron’s Haugh reserve. The area is a designed landscape associated with Dalzell House, providing a range of woodland walks in its landscaped grounds. The park has recently been the focus of a £1.5m restoration project with the aim of restoring landscape features (including pathways), habitats and providing signage and interpretation.
- **Baron’s Haugh** – adjacent to Dalzell Park and the River Clyde. It is an RSPB run reserve that contains a range of wetland, woodland and parkland habitats important for flora and fauna.
- **The Motherwell Green Link** – a 5km multiuse route connecting Strathclyde Park, Motherwell Town Centre and towards Ravenscraig. The link uses the route of the South Calder Water to form a connection between various communities the town centre and the Country Park.
- **The Clyde Walkway** – a 40mile route connecting the centre of Glasgow with the Falls of Clyde at New Lanark. In the Ravenscraig area, the Walkway provides access between Strathclyde Country Park, Baron’s Haugh and Dalzell Park. It is a nationally important route that provides connections both into Glasgow and to the south.
- **Greenhead Moss** – a Community Nature Park located on the south east edge of Wishaw which incorporates Perchy Pond Local Nature Reserve. A highly regarded community asset that has been developed through a partnership between NLC, SE, CSFT and SNH. It provides a range of facilities including health walk, outdoor education opportunities and biodiversity rich environment.
- **Chatelherault Country Park** – located within South Lanarkshire, the Park is disconnected from Ravenscraig by the M74. However, it is accessible through Strathclyde Country Park.
- **Core Path Network** – various elements of the proposed Core Path Network provide connections to Ravenscraig.

8.8. Ravenscraig is located in within a short distance of each of these resources. They represent the top level in the local Green Network ‘hierarchy’ – those sites that are likely to serve as attractors for people not living in their immediate vicinity. They serve a variety of functions and provide range of facilities from formal recreation

activities at Strathclyde Country Park (watersports, cycle hire, and fishing) to environmentally based recreation at Baron's Haugh.

- 8.9. Whilst these locations serve different purposes, it is important to consider them as part of an overall network. The connections between them are vital, and in most cases established. The Ravenscraig development should link with existing connections and where possible improve them.

Landscape

- 8.10. Post-demolition, Ravenscraig has become a green wedge linking the wider countryside into the urban centres of Motherwell and Wishaw. The character of the area will change significantly over the next 20 years but the connection with the wider environment, both physically and visually, should be maintained. The future Green Network can help to do this by providing physical links between urban and rural areas but it is also important that the construction of the area is cognisant of the wider environment.

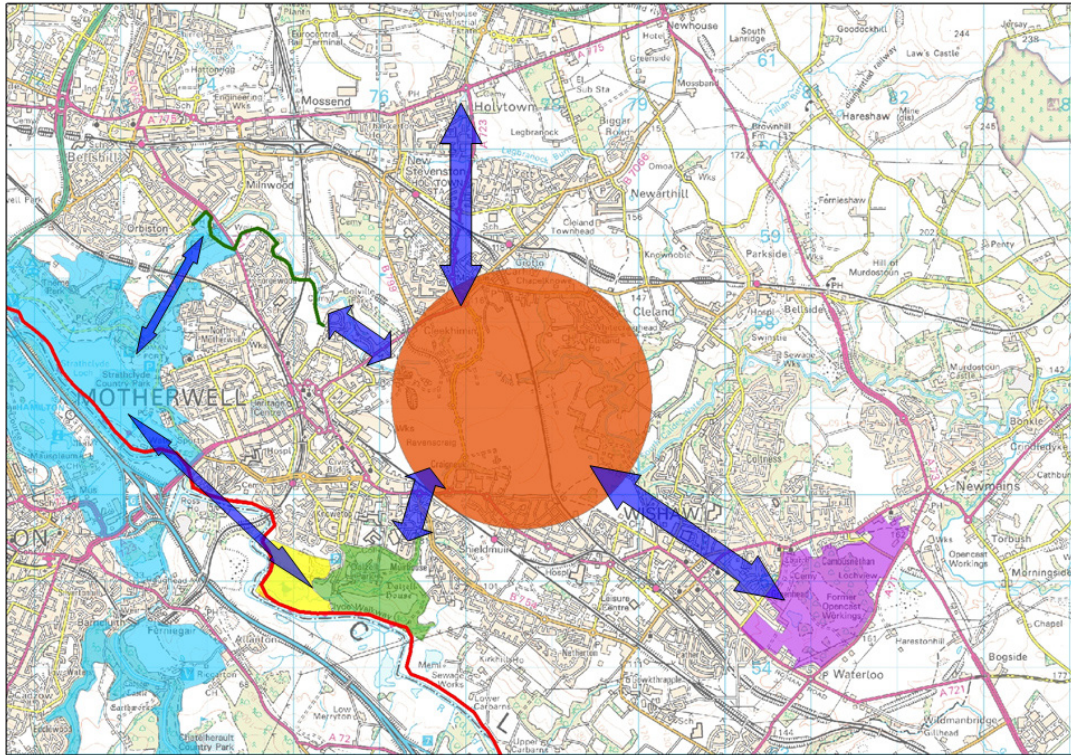
Biodiversity

- 8.11. Ensuring the future Ravenscraig Green Network has protects and enhances the biodiversity value of the area has been one of the determining factors in the layout and design of the area's masterplan. Extensive work has already been conducted in surveying, relocation and habitat creation at Ravenscraig, identifying connections/links both internally and externally across the site. The previous studies should inform any potential biodiversity projects.
- 8.12. The **Integrated Habitat Network** modelling project is a strategic initiative being led by the Biodiversity & Environment Green Network Partnership. The purpose of the initiative is to create a strategic framework for the development of functioning habitat networks across the whole of the Glasgow and Clyde Valley area, focusing on three key habitat types:
- unimproved grassland;
 - floodplain management wetlands;
 - woodland habitats (using a range of woodland types).
- 8.13. The use of the model provides an opportunity to integrate any development with existing habitats and habitat networks. It examines each habitat in terms of:
- functional connectivity;
 - relationship to designated sites;
 - balancing priorities/resolving conservation conflicts;
 - planning issues; and
 - potential for targeting of agri-environmental incentives.

- 8.14. The use of the IHN offers an important opportunity to ensure that significant habitat links to and from the site can be developed and improved.

Recommendations

- 8.15. Ravenscraig is a strategically well located area in relation to the wider Green Network. However, to maximise the potential of the new development, integration with the wider Green Network resources should be undertaken in a number of ways:
- The Motherwell Green Link should be extended into the Ravenscraig site to provide a strong physical link between Motherwell and the site. This would create a strong connection to Strathclyde Country Park, the Clyde Walkway and potentially Chatelherault Country Park. This connection could be made using the old railway line (see chapter 9).
 - There are also potentially useful walking/cycling connections to the Cleland area using Glen Road/Wishaw Low Road that could be developed to encourage access to the site.
 - The potential for developing a 'green link' into Wishaw through the 'Community Nature Park' should be explored. This link would also help to provide access to Greenhead Moss. This would help connect Wishaw town centre along Glen Road/Wishaw Low Road to the Ravenscraig site (see chapter 9). The development of any route would need to be compatible with the nature conservation priorities in the area.
 - The existing and proposed cycle network along the major arterial routes within Ravenscraig should be connected to improved routes off site (e.g. the upgrade of the A723 north of Cleekhimin).
 - 'Intellectual' access from within Ravenscraig should be a key priority. Signage and information should be located on the green links and cycleways within Ravenscraig to provide users with information on the potential destinations that are accessible. Any developments should complement the recommendations made in the Ravenscraig Arts Strategy.
 - A green connection should be installed to the south of the Ravenscraig site to Dalzell Park and the Clyde Walkway. It is likely this would utilise the new road connection into the business quarter at Flemington.
 - Opportunities to integrate the creation of wider linkages with the priorities of the NLC Core Path Plan should be investigated during the development of the Ravenscraig site.



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Integration with Green Network Themes

8.16. The following table provides an evaluation of the above recommendations against the four Green Network themes:

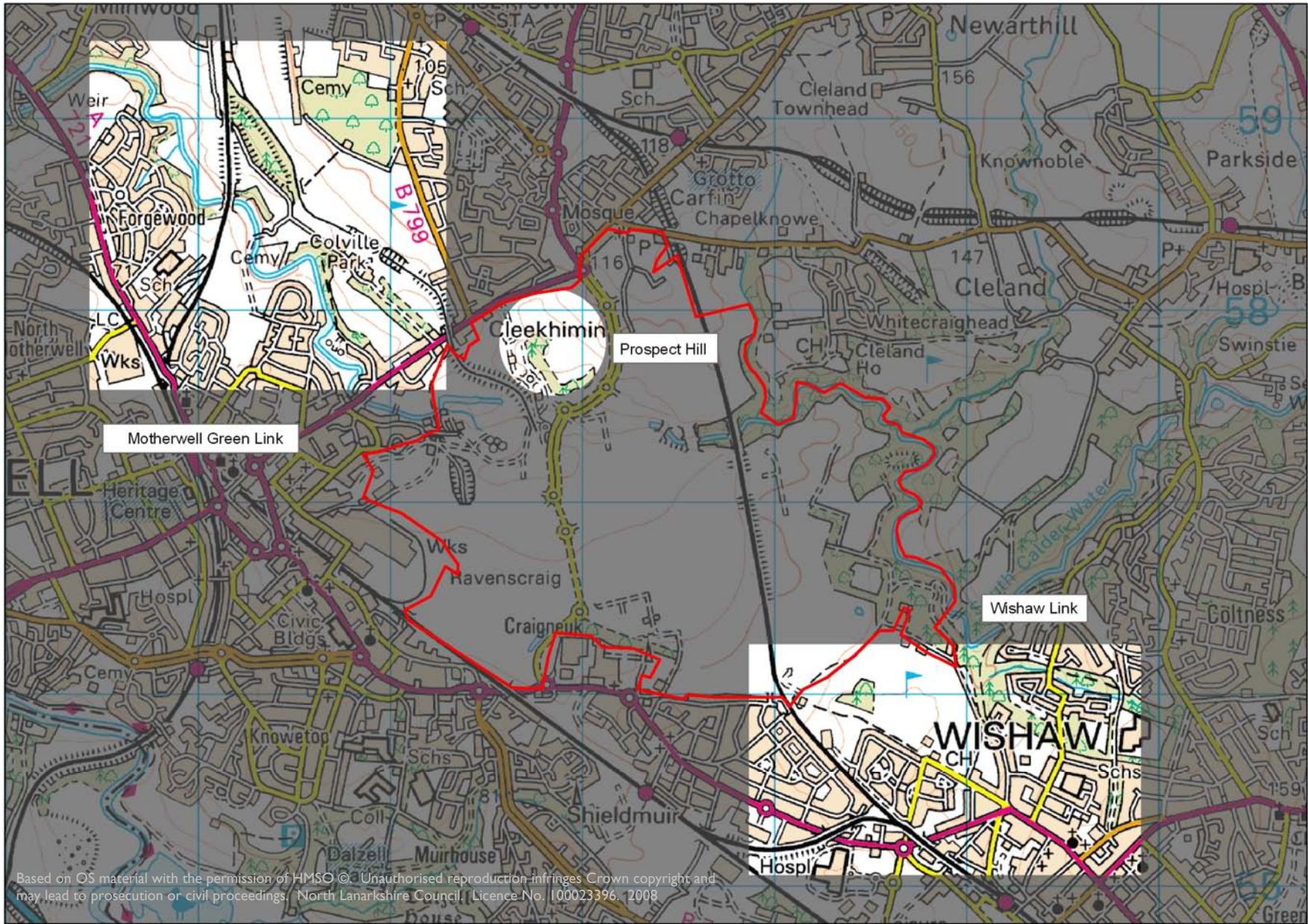
| Green Network Theme | Evaluation |
|----------------------|--|
| Stronger Communities | <p>The implementation of the recommendations under this Strategic Objective would have a minor positive impact on the Stronger Communities theme.</p> <p>The improvement of elements of the Green Network such as the Green Link would provide greater connections to services and employment opportunities for some of the more deprived communities in Motherwell and Wishaw.</p> |
| Health Improvement | <p>The recommendations under this Strategic Priority would have a positive impact on the Health Improvement theme. The creation of an integrated Green Network could have benefits for the health of local residents by providing a better and more attractive access network. These benefits would be strongest when connections are made to communities with poor health, such as those in Motherwell and Wishaw.</p> |

| Green Network Theme | Evaluation |
|------------------------------|---|
| Biodiversity and Environment | Implementing the recommendations would have a minor positive impact on the Biodiversity and Environment theme. The Green Network could help to create or reinforce habitat networks for flora and fauna. It could also be used to foster understanding of the environment through interpretation and signage. |
| Enterprise Development | The recommendations are likely to have a positive impact on enterprise development. The development of the Green Network should help to improve the attractiveness of the environment which in turn can help stimulate investment. There may also be opportunities to create training schemes and employment opportunities through the development of the Green Network. |

9. KEY PROJECTS

INTRODUCTION

- 9.1. The previous chapters have identified a number of projects that would be important in the development of a future Green Network at Ravenscraig. This section of the report provides further detail on Key Green Network Projects for the area.
- 9.2. These projects were identified through analysis of the SWOT, consultation with the project steering group and from the findings of the stakeholder workshops.
- 9.3. The key projects are:
 - the design and creation of **Prospect Hill Park**. The Prospect Hill Park is a key asset for the Ravenscraig Green Network;
 - the creation of **pedestrian linkages from Motherwell** into the park;
 - the creation of **pedestrian linkages from Wishaw** into the development.
- 9.4. These projects have been identified to help integrate and improve the Green Network in and around Ravenscraig. They will require further planning and detailed design specification work before they are ready to be implemented.
- 9.5. The timescale over which they are developed will also vary significantly. The Motherwell link connects with an area of Ravenscraig which is currently under construction making its development an early priority. Prospect Hill will become an important central greenspace as the site is developed over the next 10-15 years so detailed plans for its improvement should be designed over that timescale. The Wishaw connection will become important during the latter stages of development of Ravenscraig when the area in the south east corner is built in 15-20 years.
- 9.6. The following map shows the location of the projects.



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Pedestrian Linkages from Motherwell

- 9.7. The natural setting along the South Calder Water is very interesting with steep wooded slopes, grassed plains, historic cemetery and good connectivity with other parks. It bears great opportunities for a naturalistic setting within Motherwell which connects to Ravenscraig development
- 9.8. The potential for linking directly into the site using the former railway bridge has been lost since its removal. However the use of the former railway line to connect with the Green Link remains a viable option. There may be scope in the future to replace the railway bridge with a pedestrian/cycleway but the costs of this are likely to be significant.
- 9.9. The development of pedestrian linkages between Ravenscraig and Motherwell should be timed to coincide with housing development to encourage positive use of the route.

Threats:

- Fly-tipping and vandalism are the main problems for the site, the area is neglected and feels insecure.
- Tracks from quad bikes can be found throughout this area, in particular on the historic cemetery and at the playing field near the pool.
- The green spaces along the path are not sufficiently maintained which increases the likelihood of further vandalism.
- Drainage problems impact negatively on the paths and green spaces.

Opportunities:

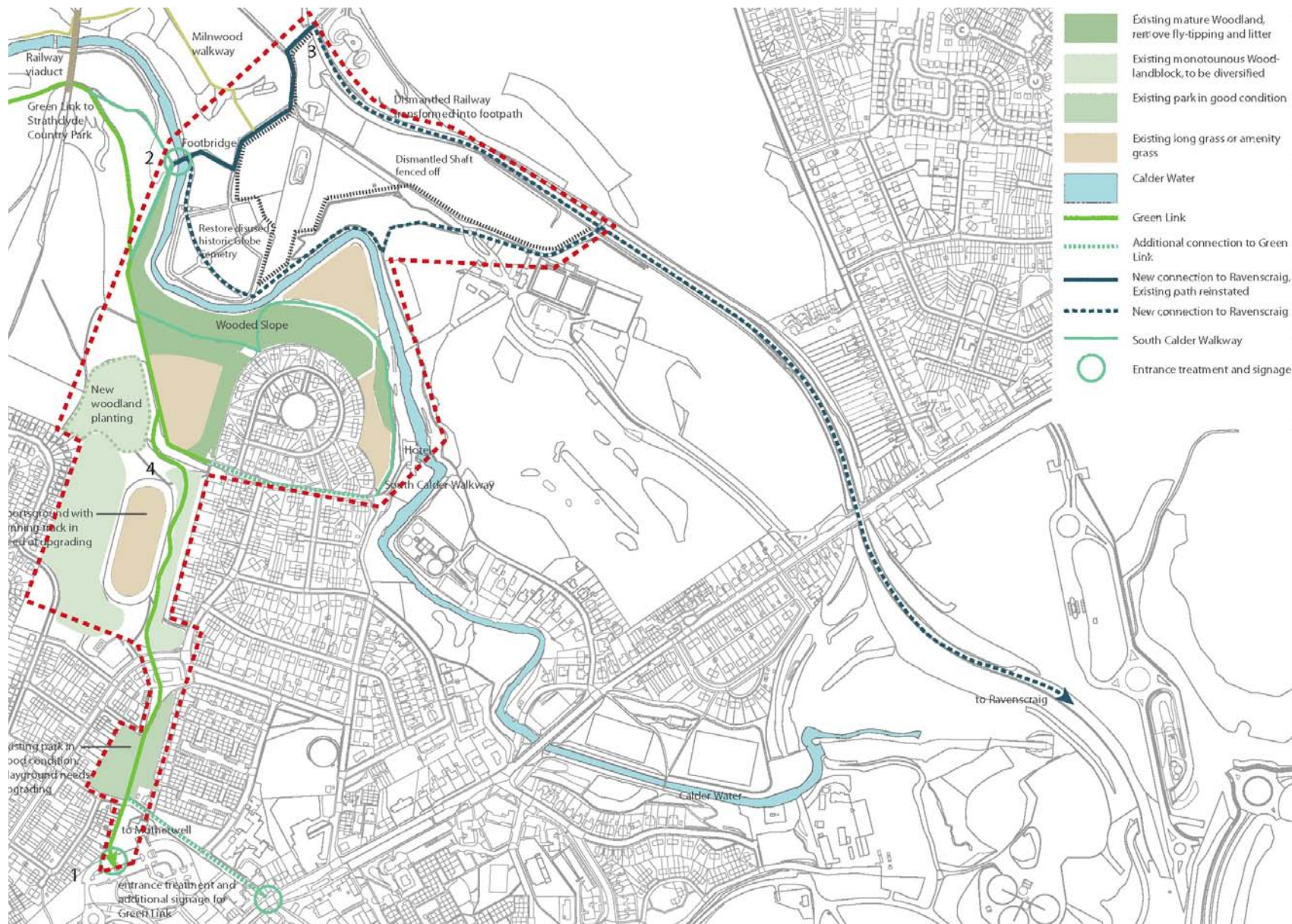
- Integrate the green space much more into the city and improve the connectivity through reinstatement of existing paths, creation of pedestrian links and additional signage in Motherwell.
- The most obvious action to be taken seems to be removal of fly-tipping and the regulation of access to the green space. Access for unauthorised motorised vehicles, such as cars and (quad) bikes needs to be minimised.
- Increase Maintenance of the green space which will have a positive affect on the attitude of people towards it.
- Improve the quality of planting through thinning out of dense scrub woodland and planting of new trees and shrubs, reinstating and clipping of mature hedge lines.
- Develop programmes for involvement of the local community would change their attitude towards the green space.

Project:

- Make the starting point of Green Link more obvious through improved entrance treatment and signage.
- Improve the play facilities at the existing neighbourhood park near the Leisure pool, integrate new play equipment and implement tree planting.
- Upgrade the existing sports ground with running track.
- Improve quality of amenity grass playing field.
- Reinstate whin dust running track.
- Interplant and extend existing monotonous woodland blocks and plant additional mixed woodland, including understory.
- Upgrade footbridge and footpath leading towards disused historic Globe Cemetery and new footpath on dismantled railway track.
- Transform dismantled railway track into footpath link to Ravenscraig development and connect to the existing path network.

9.10. Outline costs are provided below.

| Description | Cost |
|---|-------------------|
| Path network of whin stone paths | 45,500.00 |
| Entrance and footbridge treatment | 20,000.00 |
| Implement new play equipment and wet pour rubber surface | 20,000.00 |
| Perimeter timber fence and access control for vehicles | 25,000.00 |
| General street furniture and signage | 10,000.00 |
| Improve disused Globe Cemetery, including hedge planting | 15,000.00 |
| Site clearance, including removal of fly-tipping and thinning of dense scrub woodland | 10,000.00 |
| Woodland Planting | 2,000.00 |
| 50 Nr. Specimen tree planting | 5,000.00 |
| 1 year maintenance | 12,000.00 |
| Total | 164,500.00 |



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Existing Situation Motherwell Proposed Interventions



1 Entrance to park from Leisure Pool



Defining the Entrance to Green Link



Entrance gate to Green Link



Entrance gate to Green Link



2 Footbridge leading towards cemetery and railway track



Feature Bridge



Wooden bridge



Iron bridge with upgraded planting



3 Railway bridge and dismantled railway



Path reinstatement under bridge



New Path on top of dismantled railway



Landart feature



4 Sportsground with running track

Prospect Hill Park

- 9.11. The development of Prospect Hill Park as a recreational resource will be vital for the new communities in Ravenscraig and Motherwell for generations to come. New links into the site from both the south, the west, through existing entrances and connections with the existing path network will be developed.
- 9.12. The site will remain the responsibility of Corus because of its function as a 'secure containment site'. The functionality of the site may limit the potential for development, construction and improvement. However, the proposals below outline a 'best case' scenario for the future Green Network.

Threats:

- To the north west and west the slope is steep and limits access.
- Some tracks from quad bikes can be found, in particular leading down the steepest slope of Prospect Hill to the southwest.
- The Woodland planting at the bottom of the hill in the south is not dense and diverse enough and doesn't contribute positively to the site character.

Opportunities:

- Establish a medium sized park with the Prospect Hill as a beacon at its centre.
- Link the park to other existing greenspaces and path networks, make the park accessible for the communities on all sides of the park and develop internal walks while having less able people in mind as well.
- The Park already offers 360° views from the top of Prospect Hill over the development site and Motherwell to far distance over a gentle grassed slope. There is good opportunity to improve the setting.

Project:

- A 10m high beacon will be installed at the hills highest peak with signage complementing the setting while describing the scenery of each direction. The development of any structure would have to be compatible with maintaining the integrity of the 'secure containment' function of the site.
- The top of the hill will be kept free of high vegetation to allow view over the open ground. A second beacon will draw the eye towards east.
- A path network would link various entrances to the site and create interesting routes through the park with health walks through native woodland blocks and open wildflower meadows, paths on top of the hill will be of grasscrete to minimise their visual impact.
- Feature benches and strips of hard surface will emerge from the woodland to create further interest.
- Large areas on the south facing slope will remain grass covered.

9.13. Outline costs are provided below.

| Description | Cost |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Path network | 45,500 |
| Drainage | 37,500 |
| 5 Nr. Hard surfaces | 25,000 |
| 10 Nr. Feature benches and bins | 30,000 |
| Beacons and signage | 50,000 |
| Perimeter timber fence | 25,000 |
| General street furniture and signage | 10,000 |
| Woodland Planting | 10,000 |
| 50 Nr. Specimen tree planting | 5,000 |
| 1 year maintenance | 24,000 |
| Total | 262,000 |



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Existing Situation Prospect Hill



1 View towards Prospect Hill from Southwest



2 View towards back of Prospect Hill from Northwest



3 View over grassed south facing slope

Proposed Interventions



Landart Projects



Health Walks

Pedestrian Linkages from Wishaw

- 9.14. The improvement of pedestrian links between Ravenscraig and Wishaw is likely to be undertaken in the long term. The south east corner of the site, close to where the project is proposed, will not be developed for around 15-20 years. Therefore the
- 9.15. The study area which consists of high scrubland open grassland appear to be neglected and isolated at the present. The study area offers an interesting opportunity for a green connection between the somewhat isolated residential area of Shieldmuir and Wishaw with Ravenscraig to allow locals to take advantage of the newly developed facilities within the development area.
- 9.16. The development of pedestrian linkages between Ravenscraig and Wishaw should be timed to coincide with housing development to encourage positive use of the route.

Threats:

- Fly-tipping and vandalism appear to be the main problems for the site, the area is neglected and feels insecure. This discourages people from using the area.
- Tracks from quad bikes can be found throughout this area, in particular on the historic cemetery and at the playing field near the pool.
- The green spaces along the path are not sufficiently maintained which increases the likeliness of further vandalism.
- Drainage problems impact negatively on the paths and green spaces.

Opportunities:

- Integrate the green space much more into the city and improve the connectivity through reinstatement of existing paths, creation of pedestrian links and additional signage in Wishaw.
- The most obvious action to be taken seems to be removal of fly-tipping and the regulation of access to the green space. Access for unauthorised motorised vehicles, such as cars and motorbikes needs to be minimised.
- Increase Maintenance of the green space which will have a positive affect on the attitude of people towards it.
- Improve the quality of planting through thinning out of dense scrub woodland and planting of new trees and shrubs, reinstating and clipping of mature hedge lines.
- Develop programmes for involvement of the local community would change their attitude towards the green space.

Projects:

- Create new community square and central activity zone with play and recreational facilities which serves as main hub for the park with paths into all areas and other facilities.

- Create sensory prairie planting along footpaths and woodland walks.
- Develop lighting strategy to create more diverse effects and improved safety at night.
- Develop signage strategy.
- Involve locals into creation of park and public art projects.

9.17. Outline costs are provided below.

| Description | Cost |
|---|----------------|
| New path network of whin stone paths | 30,000 |
| New community square 2 | 200,000 |
| New community square 1 | 200,000 |
| Activity zone with new play equipment and wet pour rubber surface | 100,000 |
| Perimeter timber fence and access control for vehicles | 4,000 |
| General street furniture and signage | 3,000 |
| Site clearance, including removal of fly-tipping and thinning of dense scrub woodland | 10,000 |
| Interplant existing woodland | 500 |
| 124 Nr. Specimen tree planting for new alley | 12,400 |
| Woodland thinning and management | 3,800 |
| Sensory prairie planting | 10,000 |
| 1 year maintenance | 18,000 |
| Total | 591,700 |



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Existing Situation Wishaw



1 Entrance to park from Wishaw



2 Activity zone



3 Community Square as main access point into park



4 Path network within park

Proposed Interventions



Alley leading into the park



Climbing Structures



New Square with postindustrial charm



Upgraded woodland and path network



Prairie planting with grasses & perennials



Scating and cycling



Detail of edge treatment



Lighting of core paths



Public art with community involvement



Art and play



Detail of seating with planting



Woodland walk

10. MANAGEMENT OPTIONS FOR THE GREEN NETWORK

INTRODUCTION

- 10.1. This section of the report examines the various options available for the future management and maintenance of the Green Network in Ravenscraig. The issues of maintenance and management have been examined as part of the overall development of a Green Network Strategy for the Ravenscraig area. The main objective of this study is to evaluate the various methods used for management/maintenance of greenspaces and to identify which would be most suited to long term, sustainable management of the Green Network within the Ravenscraig development.
- 10.2. In undertaking this review we have looked at the range of mechanisms used to manage and maintain greenspaces. These range significantly in type and scale and can be broadly categorised under three headings:
- **Facilitating measures** – which includes the Planning System and Local Authority involvement;
 - **Managing maintenance** – which examines the various structures used to manage and maintain greenspace; and
 - **Delivery mechanisms** – which looks at the range of options used to maintain greenspaces.
- 10.3. The creation and improvement of greenspaces in both new and existing development has risen higher on the political agenda as the benefits to society and biodiversity are recognised. Significant investment has followed but the long term management and maintenance of these sites is often overlooked (Groundwork, 2006). Poor arrangements and funding for day-to-day maintenance can lead to the deterioration of greenspace quality.
- 10.4. This report looks into the various options for greenspace management and funding including examples and case studies. Not all of the case studies relate to sites like Ravenscraig but they attempt to show how smaller scale initiatives can be used for parts of large sites, where appropriate.
- 10.5. Case Study examples for each measure/mechanism are located in Appendix 3.

FACILITATING MEASURES

The Planning System

- 10.6. The planning system can play an effective role in the management of greenspace. Experience has shown that securing greenspace delivery through the planning system ensures that multifunctional greenspaces are created with strategies linked to transport plans, rights of way plans, cycling strategies, health plans, biodiversity action plans, community strategies, flood risk assessments, SUDs and landscape strategies.

10.7. PAN65 states that

'46. Planning agreements or bonds are often used to secure financial contributions from developers for open space provision or enhancement. Planning conditions or agreements can also be used to ensure that maintenance is put in place. Agreements must be reasonable and relevant to the proposed development.'

10.8. This principle is often used to ensure the maintenance of greenspaces in new developments.

10.9. Conditions and legal agreements can be incorporated into planning decisions to ensure the long term maintenance of a greenspace.

- Section 75 Agreements (Section 106 in England) can be used to deliver wider environmental and infrastructure benefits to a development, i.e. maintaining open spaces and ensuring maintenance of SUDS.
- Trend towards increasing use of agreements in Scottish planning system.
- They need to be transparent, quick to use and easy to understand, and must establish requirements early on.
- Costs for this maintenance may be passed on to residents of a new development.

North Lanarkshire Open Space Strategy, (2004):

10.10. The North Lanarkshire Open Space Strategy outlines the way in which Section 75 agreements can be used to address local needs for open spaces. These include:

- Commuted capital and revenue payments could be derived in lieu of direct provision where development sites are small and fragmented.
- Commuted maintenance sums for the long term management and maintenance of new or improved open space could be secured to ensure financial viability.
- Finance for feasibility studies on specific improvement projects could be secured that would allow an effective management and funding regime to be identified.

Strengths of the Planning System (CABE 2006a):

- Plans are sorted out at the design/development stage so they fit in with the character of the area and not done as afterthought.
- Steady funding can be secured at the outset.

Weaknesses:

- The time taken to conclude agreements can be lengthy.
- There is uncertainty around the legitimate scope of S75.
- There is often fierce competition for funds from other public infrastructure like transport and waste management. (SECRU, 2000, CABE 2006a).

- Potential for investors to look elsewhere if the financial burden for management is placed on them at the outset – may be more cost effective for investors to locate in areas without the additional cost.

Local Authorities (LAs) and the Public Sector

- 10.11. Local Authorities are often the major contributor to the maintenance and management of open spaces. This maintenance and management is a significant cost to Council budgets which are often stretched trying to fulfil existing commitments. There has therefore been a gradual move towards private maintenance solutions by some local authorities.
- 10.12. There are, however, a number of ways in which local authorities can be involved in the maintenance of greenspace:
- take over ownership of greenspaces from developers. The developers provide a commuted sum for maintenance or the LA can use its own money. The commuted sums are generally a multiple of the annual maintenance costs (PAN65, 2003);
 - work with and apply for grants from, for example the Forestry Commission (Woods in and Around Towns scheme), and the Lottery who provide grants for schemes to improve the attractiveness of residential areas. Community-LA partnerships are encouraged as some grants are not accessible to LAs, but are to small community groups;
 - apply for funding that is available specifically to public services such as schools, nurseries, care centres and community centres. Greenspace Scotland is an organisation dedicated to improving the development and management of greenspace in urban Scotland. Their website contains a number of examples of greenspace initiatives that have provided improved and sustainable open spaces for local communities.
- 10.13. In addition to the above points, there are a number of initiatives that LAs can start in their areas.

Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme (LABGI)

- 10.14. This encourages LAs to increase business growth in their area. The Government then give the LA additional revenue created from the increase in business rates to spend on greenspace or other priorities. Spending money on improving greenspace could encourage more businesses to locate to an area thus increasing the business rates further.

Business Improvement Districts (BIDs)

- 10.15. Like LABGIs, this is another way of using business to improve an area. Businesses that want to get more from their trading area (i.e. attracting more customers and employees) are encouraged to pay for services that are not provided by the LA.

Local Authority Strengths (CABE, 2006a)

- Relatively stable source of funding on an annual basis, from local and national taxation.
- Provide strategic thinking that can pool resources from all sectors of society.
- Poor provision for openspace in tight LA budgets can be topped up by the increase in sources of capital funding, such as the New Opportunities Funds, the SportsScotland Lottery Fund and the Heritage Lottery Fund (SECRU, 2001).

Local Authority Weaknesses (CABE, 2006a)

- Annual funding arrangements can result in uncertainty and lack of long-term thinking. In addition, Barber (2005) has noted that budgets have reduced significantly thus leaving fewer financial resources available for open space.
- Open space funding has low priority due to non-statutory status and cuts are often made.
- LAs can risk taking on too many sites which spreads a thin budget even thinner.
- A 2006(b) study by CABE, into the results of increased investment in parks and open spaces revealed that provision of these amenities still has low status and local government tends to split up management responsibilities between different departments and agencies. This leads to confusion and poor organisational structures with lack of coordination of 'activities, services and responsibilities.' This sub-contracting of management can weaken the link between day-to-day management and strategic planning decisions, which 'jeopardises long-term thinking and investment' (Groundwork, 2006).
- There are several issues with commuted sums paid to local councils by developers. A Scottish Executive Central research Unit (SECRU) report (2001) highlights that some councils do not ask for commuted sums and when they do, developments in 'economically buoyant' areas tend to benefit more than those in poorer areas as commuted sums tend to come off the price paid for the land rather than the developer's profits.

Private Sector

- 10.16. Business Sponsorship. Local businesses that arrive in the area take on responsibility for the green space around their offices or sponsor a public green space, a specific park-based project, or even just a feature in a greenspace such as a flower bed or hanging baskets. For example, the Marston Vale Trust's 'adopt a tree' scheme funds tree planting. Local green groups can target businesses with good Corporate Social Responsibility aims and encourage them to help out with funding or by providing volunteers which provides benefits for both parties.
- 10.17. Channelling a proportion of the investment that arrives in a new area, into greenspace maintenance can help supplement limited public funds and helps create an environment that possibly encourages more investment in the future.

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORKS AND DELIVERY MECHANISMS

10.18. This section of the report examines the variety of options currently used to manage and maintain greenspaces. There is significant cross over between the potential management and delivery structures – some of the organisations outlined below both manage greenspaces and deliver their maintenance whilst others simply deliver the maintenance aspects of greenspace.

Third Party Organisations

10.19. LAs and developers can arrange for third party organisations to take over the management of an open space. For example, **Greenbelt** is a company that owns and takes over the management and maintenance of areas of green space that are formed as part of new developments. Such areas include nature reserves, playgrounds, playing fields and even SUDs systems.

10.20. Greenbelt was established in 1992 as the Strathclyde Greenbelt Company, a partnership between Strathclyde Regional Council, Scottish Natural Heritage and Scottish Enterprise Network. This organisation changed its name to the Scottish Greenbelt Company in 1999 then Greenbelt in 2004.

10.21. The original aims of the company were:

- own land;
- create income streams; and
- undertake land management in the Strathclyde area.

10.22. Today Greenbelt owns and manages land on 750 sites across the UK, 250 of which are operated under the greenspace ownership arrangement.

10.23. A more recently established organisation is the **Land Restoration Trust**, an independent organisation which was created by English Partnerships, Groundwork, Forestry Commission England and the Environment Agency. The agencies had identified the need for a 'special purpose vehicle' which could help tackle the legacy of undevelopable derelict land, and which could help avoid the pattern of newly created greenspaces falling into disrepair. The Trust is funded through endowments, investment, income from assets and developer contributions (financial and land). It works by acquiring derelict and underused land, and greenspaces created by regeneration projects and puts together the most appropriate mechanism to restore and maintain the land. Importantly, these mechanisms vary from place to place, but always involve identifying and working with local management partners to achieve desired outcomes (community and economic as well as environmental). While day to day management is devolved to local organisations, sites are subject to management agreements and the Trust always retains overall control. An example of an ongoing project is a major growth area at Ashford in Kent where the Trust has formed a joint venture with the developer and the local authority and where it is taking responsibility for the management of newly created greenspaces which will be funded by an endowment and ongoing service charges. The council is considering passing all its greenspaces to the Trust.

Voluntary and Community Trusts

- 10.24. Involving community groups in greenspace management is becoming increasingly popular. Residents and users of greenspaces often contribute huge amounts of time and sometimes money to a local park or nature reserve. A Groundwork (2006) study estimated that the annual economic value of community groups' work was as much as £35 million. In addition, local interest in greenspace is valued for its influence on local politicians (Barber, 2005). The following points outline some ways in which local communities can become involved:
- 10.25. The LA can support environmental campaigns to encourage residents to get involved. For example, the Britain in Bloom campaign helps set environmental policies and enhances the local environment whilst involving local people and businesses. Perth and Kinross Council entered the Britain in Bloom campaign to help substitute for financial cutbacks. 30 local committees have been set up to manage the campaign and have formed a committee to apply for community funding. An increase in local pride has resulted in reduce litter and vandalism and monies raised by the association has been used to improve and maintain parks and not just town floral displays (SECRU, 2001).
- 10.26. The council can recruit volunteers to undertake work to keep maintenance and staffing costs down. Lincolnshire Conservation Group regularly undertakes practical conservation work for the City and County councils to maintain and upgrade country parks, local greens and nature reserves. It provides members of the group free access to healthy and positive activities:
- 'Friends' groups/Residents Associations;
 - an increasingly popular choice for local communities who feel their council does not maintain/provide for an area of green space adequately enough;
 - they represent the views of local users to the council;
 - usually independent organisations that work in partnership with the local council;
 - residents donate their time to fundraising (quizzes, raffles, fun days) and groups often receive donations from local people, businesses or associations;
 - they often hold numerous events throughout the year, independently or in partnership with other organisations. Keeping parks and greenspaces 'busy' helps to stop anti-social behaviour and social exclusion (SECRU, 2001);
 - Edinburgh City Council has come to realise the benefit of such groups and plans to set up 'Friends' organisations for many of the city's parks (SECRU, 2001).
- 10.27. User groups, i.e. birdwatchers, anglers, horse riders and sports groups can be encouraged contribute to the upkeep or an area or reserve. User/interest groups can target a specific open space. For example, parents' groups and playgrounds, birdwatchers and wetlands/woodlands, gardening groups and community gardens/allotments.

Community Land Trusts

- 10.28. Community Land Trusts¹⁰ are a mechanism for the democratic ownership of land by the local community for the benefit of present and future generations. The land is taken out of the market and impact of land appreciation removed which enables long term sustainable and affordable development.
- 10.29. The Trusts can develop affordable housing and commercial units, maintain community services and facilities, and manage greenspaces and conservation areas. They also support community cohesion by including residents in all aspects of the Trust.
- 10.30. Organisations such as Groundwork, the Wildlife Trusts, BTCV or Civic Trusts can join community group/LA partnerships to provide specialist experience and advice.

Strengths of Community Involvement

- A greater sense of ownership and the involvement of young people have been shown to help decrease vandalism and anti-social behaviour, with increased self-policing (Groundwork, 2006).
- Local community groups can access funds not available to Local Authorities, such as the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme, National Lottery grants, 'It's your community' grants, etc.
- Charities and not-for-profit organisations get tax-relief benefits.
- Provides activities for all sections of society and contributes towards improving health, well being, and a sense of community. It can also provide training, for example in conservation techniques from BTCV.

Weaknesses of Community Involvement

- Fundraising provides well for short term projects but not longer term revenue funding.
- Funding for not-for-profits schemes is not always constant and reliable.
- Lack of cohesion if residents pull out of groups/leave the area.
- Sometimes groups can fail due to lack of support and advice from councils/experts.
- Generally these community trusts operate of a relatively small scale. The exception to this being Milton Keynes which generates significant income revenue from rental income.

¹⁰ <http://www.communitylandtrust.org.uk/>

Income Generation (Groundwork, 2006 and CABI, 2006)

- 10.31. Incorporating income generation projects into the design of the site will help secure longer-term funding for maintenance. These can take the form of charging for access or use of facilities like shops and cafes.
- 10.32. For example, Mile End Park, London incorporates a shop, cafes and a venue for weddings and conferences. Other options include using the green economy to generate not-for-profit sales of biomass, timber, plants or the provision of training.
- 10.33. Hallside Renewable Energy park, Lanarkshire, is one example of income an income generation project on a large (33 ha) ex-steelworks site. The site was deemed too contaminated to use for redevelopment and too expensive to remediate so it was turned into public greenspace. The Scottish Greenbelt Company was responsible for the creation of fields and peripheral woodland, planted with fuel crops such as alder and willow. Electricity converted from the farming of these fuel crops will help to fund the management of the site and in addition, the trees will aid the natural remediation of the contaminated land (SECRU, 2001).
- 10.34. Several issues arise, however, that affect the success of such ventures. For example, the affluence of the local community and ownership of the land. If the land is council owned, the income may have to be returned into the council budget.

Social Enterprise and Training

- 10.35. Social Enterprise is potentially a key component of the future management of the Green Network in the Ravenscraig development. The economic and social benefits of Enterprise Development have been shown in various projects across Scotland.
- 10.36. The examples of the Community Trusts outlined above demonstrate that social enterprise companies can have a role to play in the management and maintenance of greenspaces in a variety of contexts. There are numerous examples of schemes that have provided training and employment opportunities in Scotland.
- 10.37. Construction Lanarkshire is a partnership between North and South Lanarkshire Councils and Scottish Enterprise which aims to develop opportunities in for training and employment in the construction industry.
- 10.38. Other organisations with Intermediate Labour Market (ILM) projects include Easterhouse Works and the West Dunbartonshire Environment Trust (EDET). Easterhouse Works provides training and support for local unemployed people in a variety of sectors including environmental maintenance. The success of this project has led to the development of an Environmental Contracts Team that successfully run maintenance contracts in the Easterhouse area, including the contract for the Glasgow Fort shopping centre.
- 10.39. The West Dunbartonshire Environment Trust Enviro-Squad provides similar training and employment opportunities. It also takes on greenspace development and maintenance contracts on behalf of West Dunbartonshire Council and other organisations.

- 10.40. The large number of Social Enterprise companies currently undertaking greenspace maintenance work in Scotland demonstrates the potential for viable initiatives to be developed. They potentially have a significant role to play in the management and maintenance of the site.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

Working with Nature

- 10.41. This ecological approach to greenspace management benefits not only wildlife and ecosystems but is also a 'cost-effective long-term management solution'.
- 10.42. In a new development such as Ravenscraig, the greenspace created can be managed for their wildlife and biodiversity value which is cheaper than maintaining large grass fields which need regular mowing.
- 10.43. Wildlife sites such as wild flower meadows or woodlands are seen as more attractive and as interesting alternatives to traditional greenspaces like municipal parks and playing fields. This option is popular for contaminated or fragmented sites.
- 10.44. However the long term nature of these projects requires equally long term planning and funding which can be difficult to secure.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.45. The Glasgow and Clyde Valley Structure Plan (2006), states that most major UK greening initiatives have an overall coordinating body or 'delivery champion' to provide strategic planning and implementation. Therefore the best option for Ravenscraig may be to form a Trust to coordinate a range of management options selected from those above and to clearly identify roles, and set and monitor targets.
- 10.46. The above examples provide positive models from which to base the creation of a Trust for Ravenscraig. However, each location has a number of different factors that affect the success of a Trust. An analysis of the Milton Keynes Parks Trust model highlights a number of factors that aided their success but which may not be possible to replicate in other areas. For example, returns from property investment have remained strong for most of the Trust's life providing adequate income to spend on greenspaces. Therefore, Ravenscraig must be assessed independently to assess what is most appropriate.
- 10.47. However a general model can be applied, whereby a Ravenscraig Trust is formed incorporating the site's major players in funding, design, planning and management including for example, Wilson Bowden Developments Ltd, Scottish Enterprise, Corus plc, North Lanarkshire Council, Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership, Central Scotland Forest Trust, Scottish Natural Heritage, Fresh Futures (Transforming Your Space), Communities Scotland and Forestry Commission Scotland, and representatives from local communities and charities. This trust can then work with training organisations, public and private contractors, local community groups, residents, businesses, friends groups, and environmental bodies to create smaller scale projects for each type of greenspace that is planned for the development. The mix of these organisations may vary over time as well as geographically. Their work would not be confined to the Ravenscraig site but could extend into surrounding areas.

- 10.48. This sort of large scale partnership, that helps create and encourage smaller scale groups enables efficiency savings in the pooling of resources, knowledge and expertise, skills, and also provides a central body to ensure projects to do not overlap, are well managed and appropriate to the area. Strong, successful partnerships also help build community capacity. In addition, there will be a wider range of funding sources and grants available, from those aimed at large organisations and councils, to those for small community groups and not-for-profit charitable groups. Ensuring the greenspaces are multi-functional will help secure long-term funding for management as there will be more incentive to retain and manage a site that provides multiple benefits.
- 10.49. As this is a new development, community involvement may come from surrounding communities that will also benefit and that are already active in the surrounding area (such as the Greenlink Community Development Group). New community groups can be established once homes and businesses are built, to take over specific tasks but the trust will manage projects overall.
- 10.50. While this kind of model has the potential to deliver a wider range of local economic, training, community and environmental benefits than a more conventional solution, based on a management company and private contractors, it requires adequate funding, committed leadership and (although similar examples do exist) is a less tried and tested solution.

APPENDIX I
Workshop Reports

RAVENS CRAIG GNS STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP MINUTES 21/02/08

It was raised that allocation of greenspace areas had already been allocated through the NLC ecologists and site developers. Work on this was already a couple of years down the line.

It was thought that there is a difference between access linkages and conservation areas when debating greenspace provision. Therefore there are two different kinds of network, these may overlap and may not overlap. The Calder gorge was stated to be an example.

The Greenlink Cycleways were raised, especially the sustainable transport route to Strathclyde park. This is important to local communities but there is still a degree of misuse but the situation is improving. Progress has been made through changing attitudes, promoting physical activity. The possibility of sustainable commuting to new jobs provided at Ravenscraig was also raised

In-migration (from existing local areas to new housing) was raised as a potential scenario; how would this affect Ravenscraig. It was queried whether this was only in housing

It was confirmed that all phases of house building at Ravenscraig have community housing and that there are no concerns over in-migration. At Gowkthrapple there have been concerns over the tenure of housing (rented) but these have been tackled by a large housing project in the area.

In terms of access, it was stated that there is a need for a link to the south (greenlink) and the Clyde. At the moment there is a significant barrier to this and there maybe a need for a strategic access network. Such a link would bring in a larger population for access to Ravenscraig.

It was a stated that ideally the greenlink would also connect with the leisure facilities (such as the Regional sports facility) at the site. It was queried what the leisure side would/could provide to outdoor access.

Currently there are projects in Strathclyde Park which are jogging groups etc, they are over subscribed (over 500 people signed up). It would be excellent to spread the numbers out more.

There are also the Kids games being held in Lanarkshire in 2011, and it is hoped that RC would play a major hosting role.

The issue of play areas was raised. There have been a series of objections to the development of play areas at Ravenscraig, particularly in the housing phases. Play areas should be part of an open space strategy for RC.

A solution for play areas could be to move them to a larger open space with good access. At the moment play areas have to have a minimum distance of 15m between the closest installation and a backdoor or housing boundary. The major detracting

factor for play facility development is the prospect of teenagers causing anti-social behaviour.

It was suggested that the problems with play areas is that housing projects are now designed back to front, this is to say that to access a play area behind housing from a front door means a larger distance, as children have to go down the street and round the corner.

It was stated that this is a difficult problem to solve, due to other priorities in development of housing projects. To move formal play areas further away would therefore be an advantage.

It was stated that strategic thinking is key, helping areas become more attractive and therefore improving house prices.

The linking of play spaces/open space was stated to be desirable, as would result in a more formal area

It was stated that the proportion of development given to cars and infrastructure is too high, it should be a lower priority and 'people-friendly' options should be a higher priority.

This links with the 'twenty years' issues into context, i.e. more sustainable forms of house building.

It was raised that the CFST has carried out research on- the use of open space and perceptions on safety; this would be worth a look at.

It was raised whether the community plan had been looked at; response was that it had been looked at.

It was stated that it had been a difficult, long-haul to gain influence on the RC plan and its development. Ecologists and planners had to fight to get any influence (from council side). Have been quite contentious meetings with the developers but things are now becoming more positive. For example wild-life is being catered for (Graylings, Plovers and plants).

However it was still felt that there had been a 'watering-down' of the original Master-plan, for example the broad woodland link to the Calder.

It was suggested that a look at the old Clyde Forest Habitat Network (Peterkin Report) would be worthwhile as it showed the original gaps in woodland and vegetation running west to east (including RC).

It was stated that developers should still be pushed to deliver on master-plan promises

It was stated that the nature reserve area is now in; linkages are good, green links are proposed and included. However there may be problems with 'over-access' i.e. people trampling or disturbing badgers etc.

The management of the green areas was raised; how would green areas be managed?

It was stated that decisions on management were limited at the moment.

It was stated that maintenance is an issue that needs to be looked at.

Upcoming SNH work on green-links and biodiversity was raised

It was also suggested that the South of Scotland Forest strategy was worth referencing.

Maintenance costs were stated to be a problem. Land services would look at gaining additional financial help to maintain what is built. There are issues at the moment with the perception that the council are 'expected' to maintain land, however this needs to be dealt with or it will become a big problem at RC (*issue is that public and official bodies expect the council to maintain land, and to maintain it to a certain perception, however the council may not own the land or they may maintain it to a set standard which is not necessarily visually pleasing*)

It may be the case that there has to be a re-education of the entire land-services staff to maintain RC, since there may well be new flora/fauna to incorporate.

Actual maintenance contracts are still undecided, a similar case for sporting facilities as well.

It was stated that a management structure would be put in place for greenspace. However it was suggested that another layer of bureaucracy just means more people and reinvention of work already carried out. The CFST was stated to have a good link with NLC on greenspace and this covered maintenance, it was felt that this could extend to RC. A culture of respect for the greenspace at RC from the start would mean that attitudes would not have to be changed later down the line.

Concerns were raised about the Greenbelt Company, it has been shown that the company does not do the work it has tendered for and therefore problems arise over greenspace maintenance.

It was stated that this then leads to political pressures, which has a knock-on effect (for NLC ground services, amongst others)

It was asked how the council deals with such problems? Response was that it is not straightforward, since it becomes a political problem; an example given was the Airdrie Millennium Park. The main issue is that the land does not belong to the council but the perception is that the council should deal with it anyway.

It was thought that whoever has maintenance at RC should have a significant stake in the development (something that the Greenbelt company lost when it became private).

It was suggested that there is no need for a separate trust to deal with RC because eventually it will merge with the surrounding areas and it will not have a separate identity.

It was asked again where maintenance would go, would the council be interested in taking it up?

It was stated that the council would be interested in taking on the maintenance of RC and that they want to expand. RC would be beneficial to expansion of land-services as it would bring additional employment. However there is also an issue with industrial relations and the trade-unions could/would become involved

It was thought that this might happen as there would no-doubt have to be Industrial efficiency cuts else-where. These cuts limit the capacity of land services already. Growth bids were suggested to be a good method of gaining extra finance. Reply was that growth bids were put it but not granted.

The issue of the RC identity was raised again; it was felt that a separate identity would be a good thing for RC. In terms of maintenance there could be a more specialised focus with additional people on the ground, Greenhead Moss was given as an example.

The idea of RC being a unique, massive site was thought to be important. RC should be distinctive and, with respect, should not be lowered to the standard of surrounding areas, instead the aim should be to raise the surrounding areas to the level that RC will hopefully be at.

It was stated that the people on the ground make the difference.

It was felt that community projects need longer-term funding

Getting people (community) involved should be a high priority.

It was asked if it was too late for RC to be considered within a sustainable community initiative?

Schools were raised as a possibility for helping with greenspace development. Community access to schools was thought to be a high priority.

Community access was also stated to be important for the sports facilities. Sport Scotland has ear-marked the Regional Sports Facility to deliver on certain targets and environmental measures.

It was stated that Sustrans have a good document on sustainable access. It was stated that optimum sustainable access would be pushed for at RC.

Circular routes were stated to be important and additionally they are important for fitness as well.

It was thought that across new settlements/ housing projects that car access was poor. Cars should not conflict with residential areas and residents should have sustainable access to roads.

Local routes were thought to require more maintenance.

It was thought that links over council boundaries should be managed better (particularly with South Lanarkshire)

The 'Bartletts' was cited as an example of a private business with high quality greenspace. It was felt that the business owner (Ronnie Bartlett) felt having greenspace gave him a competitive edge.

It was suggested that it is hard to prove a link between investment/enterprise and greenspace (particularly with inward investment and tourism)

It was asked how strong the sense of place was, why would people go to RC? There was a given history link. The steel works were suggested, plus further history before this. It was felt that there was a big role for public arts.

A strong community identity was suggested, it has been noted that local communities have strong 'territoriality'. It was felt that this was not a problem on the greenlink and overall in communities. However it was felt that people take pride in communities and this can be a strong factor. Teenagers were suggested to be very territorial and gangs may be an issue? An example was a play area built on a boundary in Airdrie. Another example was the Wishaw Sports Centre.

It was thought that since RC is going to be 'brand new' that it should be able to stamp this out before it has a chance to become ingrained; this should also be the attitude towards other issues.

It was thought that prioritising RC could be a problem with a 'two-tier service' an issue.

It was asked whether the community are involved in the provision of play areas. The response was that the most successful play areas are those owned by the community with council support, this is because there is a sense of responsibility. It was added that supervising is a great success until it is withdrawn due to funding issues. It is an expensive option.

It was thought that supervision could be extended by off-setting maintenance money which would probably be spent due to vandalism etc once supervision was suspended.

It was stated that the greenlink had reduced anti-social behaviour.

It was thought that open spaces in big areas should be introduced to RC and that this should involve all residents. An example of a successful community open/play space initiative was given to be Glenboig. However it was also pointed out that Glenboig had an existing community.

The issue of night-time supervision and access was raised; experience was that thugs/gangs caused trouble at night-time in open space areas and that this was hard to deal with.

It was felt that community links and education were critical; a new community could be a benefit in terms of open space management. Additionally a new community could be a benefit

It was felt that often park services are the last to know of any changes or requirements. They felt that everyone is on a learning curve and that better service could only come from better communication.

RAVENS CRAIG COMMUNITY WORKSHOP MINUTES

21/02/08

It was pointed out that Planning and Environment NLC had developed a path from Cleland to Wishaw and that they were working on another in the south of the area. There were also wooded landscapes proposed to the north of the RC site.

It was asked what the philosophy on greenspace was, practicalities etc.

It was noted that the original cycle routes idea had been lost over security and maintenance concerns within NLC. However it was countered that there was still a decent set-up. However it was felt that this could have been more imaginative.

Imagination was a danger for the whole of RC, for example the revised central reservation concept which had seen its concept eroded. Further to this point it was felt that the first phase will not look like the master plan, for example the housing will be much denser.

Open spaces have also been in decline in NL

It was stated that RC still has high aspirations

There were concerns over play areas being too far from housing, so that they become insecure.

In terms of access and physical activity the three year natural gym initiative was raised. This involved participants cutting down trees, hedges etc, run by/with BTCV. The Lancaster circuit at Livingston was given as another example. These types of initiative tick the boxes for environment and mental health action.

It was stated that social enterprise work can come from the RC money available

It was asked whether the exercise LUC were undertaking at RC could become the 'bible' on open space management and provision. Additionally it was felt that open spaces projects suffer from a focus on niggles over the wider benefits, grass cutting was given as an example. It was felt that this was an educational problem.

Tannockside was cited as an example of a large settlement project that ended up not delivering on potential (ruined by housing developers)

It was felt that at RC all housing developers should be on the same script.

The route proposals were raised. Going north to south the A80 would be 'dualled' through Carfin to Eurocentral and there would be a dual-carriage way road in the south connecting to the site.

The potential for a path/access initiative at Shieldmuir station was raised.

It was stated that there is a proposed housing development at this area

There were concerns that a new station could lead to closures of other stations, and that there was a danger of RC becoming a commuter town.

Questions were raised about- missing part of the greenlink, how LUC envisage the greenspace/routes being used. A successful example at Strathclyde Business Park was raised.

Concerns were also raised over shared access plans, nowadays there were too many cars but the challenge had to be to get people to move out of their 'comfort zones'.

WORKSHOP ATTENDEES

Workshop 1

Sandra Mousdale Play Services, North Lanarkshire Council (NLC)

Paul Baker Conservation and Greening, NLC

Sharon McAlister Local Plans, Environmental Services, NLC

Brian Thomson, Conservation and Greening, NLC

Susan Rutherford, Greenlink, Central Scotland Forest Trust (CFST)

Mike Batley, CSFT

Lesley Woodbridge, Art in Partnership

Stuart Gallagher, North Lanarkshire Leisure, NLC

John White, Land Services- Parks, NLC

John Cox, Land Manager, NLC

Gordon Waverley, Area Manager (Grounds), NLC

Eilidh Johnston, Greenspace Scotland

Chris Hughes, LUC

Philip Graham, LUC

Workshop 2

Brian Cairns, Planning and Environment, NLC

David Mc Love, Transport and Access, NLC

Terry Taylor, Landscape Services Manager, NLC

Chris Hughes, LUC

Philip Graham, LUC

APPENDIX 2

Funding Sources

FUNDING

There is a wide range of potential sources of funding available for greenspace development and projects. This reflects the increasing profile which greenspace has in Scotland. The range of policy agendas which greenspace links into is reflected in the range of different funders who will sponsor greenspace projects in a variety of guises. These range from simple greenspace improvement to recycling schemes to biomass production.

The following paragraphs outline some of the key sources of funding available to improve and develop greenspaces. Some of these funding sources will be available only through local authorities whilst others will only be accessible to community groups.

Funding sources available to local authorities may include:

- greenspace provision as an integral part of new development;
- developer contributions to creation of 'off-site' Green Network resources;
- North Lanarkshire Council capital and revenue budgets;
- Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (Regional Transport Partnership).

Government and agency administered funding sources may include:

LOTTERY FUNDING

Big Lottery Fund

Awards for All is a small grants scheme, run jointly by the Big Lottery Fund, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Scottish Arts Council and sportscotland. It gives grants of between £500 and £10,000 for a wide range of community, arts, sports, heritage, health, education and environmental projects.

Big Lottery – Investing in Communities. The Big Lottery Fund in Scotland has £275 million to spend between 2006 and 2009. Grants of between £10,000 and £1,000,000 are available for projects which encourage the development and improvement of communities.

Heritage Lottery Fund

Your Heritage is a grants programme which supports projects which 'conserve and enhance heritage' and 'encourage communities to identify, look after and celebrate their heritage'. Awards range from £5,000 to £50,000.

Heritage Grants are awards of over £50,000 that are granted for projects which aim to 'conserve and enhance our diverse heritage' and 'encourage more people to be involved with their heritage'.

Parks for People is a programme which helps with the restoration and regeneration of public parks and gardens, including squares, walks and promenades.

Grants of between £250,000 and £5 million are available through the scheme. This is most applicable to the enhancement of existing greenspaces within surrounding communities.

Coalfield Regeneration Trust

The *Supporting Communities* element of the Coalfield Regeneration Trust grant scheme is designed to provide funding for projects which play an active part in regeneration including improving accessibility and promoting healthier lifestyles. The *Learning Communities* element of the grant scheme supports projects which aid personal development amongst people of all ages. The *Supporting People into Work* theme aims to complement government employment initiatives through support for innovative and locally designed approaches to supporting people into the world of work. The *Enterprising Communities* theme aims to increase the range and diversity of the social economy through initiatives to kick-start social enterprise and support organisations in pursuing income generation strategies.

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

The **Sustainable Action Fund (SAF)** provides funding for research projects, demonstration projects and other relevant activities in support of sustainable development in Scotland. Money is given in the form of core funding or project funding.

Core funding is given, with the approval of Ministers, to organisations whose activities support Ministerial priorities.

Grant funding is allocated to a wide range of projects that demonstrate sustainable development in practice. Grants are given to projects that are innovative, easily replicable, promote good ideas and practice and encourage people to behave sustainably.

Fairer Scotland Fund (which will replace the Community Regeneration Fund from the 31st of March 2008). This will be administered through the Community Planning Partnerships and will have a budget of £145m per annum for three years (at a national level). The fund will enable Community Planning Partnerships to work together to tackle area based and individual poverty; and to help more people access and sustain employment opportunities.

Forward Scotland

Landfill Communities Fund. The Landfill Communities Fund (formerly the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme) allows landfill operators to support the maintenance and development of community assets. In any given project, 90% of the funding can come from the Landfill Communities Fund but the last 10% must come from another source, known as a Contributing Third Party (CTP).

SGRPID (Scottish Government Rural Payment and Inspections Directorate) operates a number of land management schemes which could be used to help support measures to conserve and enhance the agricultural landscapes. The Land Management Contract scheme (forming Tier 2 of the Rural Development Contracts

introduced under the Scottish Rural Development Programme) provides a menu of funding measures including:

- training;
- farm and woodland visits;
- habitat creation in buffer areas;
- management of linear features such as hedges and ditches;
- development of the access network;
- woodland creation and management;
- management to favour wild birds.

The third tier of Rural Development Contracts will encourage measures delivering specific high value benefits.

Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme

The Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme closed in 2006 and is to be replaced by a new grant system which will be integrated with the Rural Development Contracts described above. Woodlands In and Around Towns (WIAT) grant funding is included within this review, with new arrangements to be introduced in the near future.

Voluntary Action Fund

GO4 Volunteering provides funding to help small voluntary organisations and community groups that rely on volunteers to be more effective and confident in involving volunteers. Grants of up to £2000 are available for small organisation (income under £50,000 per annum). Grants are targeted at supporting the involvement of volunteers in volunteer driven organisations and may include support for training of volunteers, development of volunteers in running the organisation, information materials for new volunteers, etc.

European Funding

The European Structural Funds are designed to assist areas of the European Union that compare unfavourably with the Union's average levels of prosperity.

European Regional Development Fund (Objective 2)

Objective 2 is the second highest level of funding available from the EU and aims to support the economic and social conversion of areas facing structural difficulties. This includes urban and rural areas where traditional industries are in decline and new sources of employment must be found.

The European Regional Development Fund is used to provide help in the form of grants towards project costs. These grants are set at the minimum level required to allow the project to go ahead. As a general rule, however, the European Union

contributes no more than 50 per cent of the eligible cost. The rest of the funding, known as 'match funding', comes from other sources such as regional development agencies, local authorities, government schemes including the Single Regeneration Budget, other public bodies and the private sector.

European Social Fund (Objective 3)

European social funding helps disadvantaged groups in the community who, for a variety of reasons, are excluded both economically and socially. The project aims to develop skills and labour markets so that firms, workers and people who are facing exclusion improve their skills, adapt to new working conditions, and compete more effectively in global labour markets.

European social funding pays for a proportion (usually 45 per cent) of a project's costs. The remaining amount (usually 55 per cent) is known as match funding. Monies from both public and private sources can create the required match funding but at least 10 per cent must be provided by a public authority.

Charitable Trusts and other Private Grant Giving Bodies

One example is the Esmée Fairburn Foundation, which aims to improve quality of life for communities. Provides grants for environmental programmes that contribute towards national and local biodiversity objectives and projects that help reduce carbon emissions.

Corporate Sponsorship

Another potential source of funding for projects is corporate sponsorship, approaching major private sector interests in the wider area to seek support for elements of the project.”

APPENDIX 3

Management Options Case Studies

Case Study 1 – Local Authorities and the Public Sector

Milton Community Nursery Garden – used funds from ‘Grounds for learning’ and funds sourced by a Greenspace to change their playground from a barren concrete space to a biodiversity garden.

- Encourage other public sector bodies that invest in, or benefit from the area, such as Network Rail, Highways Agency/Transport Scotland to be responsible for the quality of some greenspaces i.e. maintaining biodiverse roadside and railway edges.
- Pursue multi-agency funding. Due to the variety of departments within National and Local Government, a wide range of bodies can become involved in an overall greenspace management plan and provide funding for projects/initiatives. This is particularly useful when projects meet a range of ‘cross-cutting’ targets (i.e. public health, crime, youth services, and sustainable development).

‘Healthy Hillingdon’. A partnership between the parks department and the primary care trust to encourage the greater use of urban greenspace to promote public health and wellbeing (CABE, 2006a).

- LAs can also call upon the services of organisations such as the Land Restoration Trust.
- Created by English Partnerships, Groundwork, the Forestry Commission and the Environment Agency, it aims to regenerate unused and neglected sites to provide publicly accessible greenspace.
- The Trust can take over management of a greenspace site whilst it stays in LA ownership, or the Trust can completely take over ownership and management responsibilities from the LA.
- Their sites to date include numerous former collieries and demonstrate their ability to reclaim contaminated former industrial sites like Ravenscraig.

Case Study 2 – Business Improvement Districts

Paddington BID charges a small levy to local businesses which will raise over £1.6 million. This money is being used to attract more tourists to the area, remove graffiti, improve the streets with hanging baskets and better railings, and created a guide of shops, restaurants and services in Paddington.

Keswick BID, highlights that rural areas can also manage effective BIDs. Keswick BID has a budget of only £400,000 for 5 years to spend on 15 projects ranging from improving alley ways and streets to piloting a park and ride scheme to ease town congestion in the peak tourist season.

Case Study 3 – The Private Sector

Heartlands (Polkemmet Reclamation Scheme) is a regeneration project in West Lothian, incorporating the construction of 2000 new homes, two championship golf

courses and a business park. The plan hinges on extensive opencast coal extraction and the reworking of relict deep mine spoil to finance a comprehensive restoration scheme to remove significant areas of dereliction and contamination. The project features extensive partnership between the Local Authority, the funders (RBS) and developers (Ecosse Regeneration) to secure community benefits, appropriate public engagement and ensure environmental and fiscal compliance.

The site – should it prove successful – could be considered to be an exemplar of public-private partnership, using a range of business ventures to address serious social and environmental issues.

Extensive use was made of ‘Section 75’ agreements to guarantee the success of the restoration scheme through financial bonds and legal safeguards.

Case Stud 4 – Third Party Organisations

Priddy’s Hard in Gosport is a 650 unit development incorporating a 7 ha nature reserve. Greenbelt was involved in the formation of the reserve and eventually took over ownership in 2004. As well as providing landscape planting on some projects.

North Hamilton, Leicester. The construction of 1500 dwellings is being aided with funding from Greenbelt, in return for the company gradually taking over ownership and responsibility of the SUDS scheme and associated greenspace. This currently includes 27 ha of open space linked by watercourses that carry the development’s surface water through the SUDS network. There are also 13 play grounds and 16ha of grassland and woodland.

This type of third party arrangement has obvious attractions. The ownership, management, and responsibility for greenspaces passes to a private company which guarantees the long term maintenance of the sites. The cost of this arrangement is usually passed onto residents as a condition of their residence as outlined in their property title deeds. The annual cost is paid to the third party on an annual basis for the upkeep of the greenspaces around their property.

However, this type of arrangement has led to some problems. Since the ownership of the greenspace in the area passes to another company, local residents have little or no say in how the area is managed. This causes particular problems if residents are unsatisfied with the level of service they receive because they have no mechanism for replacing contractors and are still obliged to pay the third party owners.

Third party ownership of land has been described as an unfair ‘monopoly’ in a recent Scottish Parliament debate¹¹ (6th September 2007) following a wide range of complaints across a range of constituencies in Scotland.

Case Study 5 – Community Land Trusts

There are many of examples of community group and community involvement in greenspace initiatives. Below are a couple that highlight the popularity of open space

¹¹ <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-07/sor0906-02.htm#Col1566>

improvement and the commitment of local people to get their views across to local councils.

Whaley Thorns & Langwith Village Company. A four-acre wasteland has been transformed into a willow and hazel woodland, providing a valuable amenity for local people and a wildlife haven. Crops from the woodland will be coppiced to supply wood for a local furniture business, creating local jobs and training opportunities. In addition, the trust is improving abandoned allotments and implementing various social schemes to improve employment and access to affordable housing.

Melksham, Wiltshire – local adults teamed up with young people to design and get funding for a skate park. All ages of the community were involved, increasing social cohesion and reducing anti-social behaviour.

Dulwich Park Friends – this is a large registered charity that has been active for almost a decade and has 300 family memberships. It was set up, like many other Friends groups, to ensure management of the local park was still a high priority for the local council and to ensure local residents' views were heard. Over the years, the group has raised tens of thousands of pounds for new playgrounds, traffic reduction measures, new planting and garden areas, and a skate park. In many cases, user groups contacted the Friends Group to ask for help in securing new facilities. This highlights the importance of bridging the gap between the local community and the local council. Friends of Vauxhall Park are similar in size and activity to Dulwich but have included their own revenue generating 'buy a bench' scheme to help fund their initiatives.

Milton Keynes Parks Trust (MKPT)

MKPT is a registered charity and was given ownership status for the strategic parks and greenspace areas that were incorporated into the design of Milton Keynes. The Trust is self-financing and was given commercial properties and other assets to generate income to provide for the long-term management of greenspace. The Trust is governed by a Board of Trustees, made up of elected representatives of LAs, Sports councils, 'Friends' groups, and the forestry and agricultural societies. The Trust owns a wide range of greenspaces, from parks and play grounds, to woodlands and floodplains and aims to enhance the nature conservation value of the city. As the city expands, the Trust takes on more and more areas of greenspace and also applies to take over ownership of potential greenspace sites. Most of the physical maintenance and management of the greenspaces is carried out by contractors and topped up by more than 200 volunteers.

The success of the Trust is based on the income generated from the income earning assets transferred to the Trust in 1992. These included neighbourhood shopping centres, village/individual shops, industrial developments, office developments and public houses. At the time of transfer the value of these properties was estimated at £18m. In 2004 these assets generated an income of £2.7m, making up the vast majority of the £3.3m income the Trust had that year.

Case Study 6 - Partnership Trusts

Black Country Consortium

A company whose task is the regeneration of the Black Country, with members including the associated Local Authorities, Black Country Business Link and the Black Country Learning and Skills Council. In addition, there are numerous external partners including the regional development agency, the Environment Agency, a School Improvement Partnership, Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, Government Office for the West Midlands, Wildlife Trust, and Regeneration companies. They have made a bid for lottery funding and aim to restore and open up vast stretches canals, greenspaces and parkland corridors for the benefit of local people and to improve biodiversity.

Mersey and Red Rose Community Forests

An initiative to create new and management existing forests in the North West. It is a partnership between public, private and voluntary bodies including: The Countryside Agency, the Forestry Commission, six surrounding local authorities, local landowners, businesses, Government agencies, environmental and voluntary bodies, Countryside Services, communities, schools and many individuals. They are involved in greening both urban and natural areas. Community Forest North West is a registered charity that was created to support and coordinate the work of the two community forests. The forest trusts receive funding from a variety of public and private sources and in turn provide funds for local community initiatives that follow their key aims.

The Mersey Forest Partnership developed the Community Contracting Initiative, which aims to:

- Support existing community groups who are already helping to manage woodlands (by providing officer support, training and grants for woodland improvement).
- Identify woodlands that would benefit from the involvement of local people.
- Encourage the setting up of a number of new community groups to help manage woodlands in the Forest.
- To manage woodlands sustainably with community, wildlife and economic benefits.

Bankside Open Spaces Trust (BOST)

This trust was set up in response to several factors, crime and anti-social behavior and the area's open spaces neglected and unsafe. In addition, increasing regeneration of the Southwark area threatened open spaces.

The Trust's aim was to 'foster a sense of community through the protection, care and development of local green spaces.' The Trust acts as the community client on Local Authority-led projects. The Trust is made up of local residents and businesses that make up the Board of Trustees. They have made contact with experts for

advice on their own projects. BOST is involved in every stage of the process including liaising with the local community, organising community events and contributing to their maintenance.

In terms of maintenance, BOST buys in services from the council and external contractors, but also runs a community garden club.

Greenlink Community Development Group

They created a cycleway linking Strathclyde Country Park, Motherwell town centre and the planned developments at Ravenscraig. A rundown and neglected pathway was redeveloped into a tidy, biodiverse woodland area. The Greenlink Community Development Group was established to oversee the project and ongoing activities such as health walks, family fun days, raising awareness, community clean ups. It involves a large partnership between North Lanarkshire Council, Central Scotland Forest Trust, Scottish Enterprise, Scottish Natural Heritage, Fresh Futures (Transforming Your Space), and the Forestry Commission Scotland amongst others.

