




# Neighbourhoods Green

## NHMF Conference

January 26<sup>th</sup> 2011




IMPROVING THE GREEN SPACES FOR SOCIAL HOUSING




## Overview

1. Introduction to Neighbourhoods Green
2. Why is green space important – the evidence
3. HEIP Case Study
4. How can I get involved?



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## Introduction

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### What is Neighbourhoods Green?

- Partnership Initiative
- Importance of green space in the context of social housing
- Externally funded
- Builds on London pilot project started in 2003
- National Influence

   
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## Introduction



### Project Aims:

- To develop and coordinate a national Neighbourhoods Green partnership project
- To build a knowledge and resources base that will support social landlords to improve green spaces
- To champion good practice and share learning and expertise on the design and management of green space on housing estates
- To advocate the role of green space in place making and to influence relevant government departments and agencies to encourage policy and strategy that acknowledges the role of green space in social housing

   
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## Introduction

### Project Delivery 2011

- Mapping work
- Green Flag Award for social landlords
- Study Visits and Seminars and events
- Conference (October)
- Good practice management guide
- Website



## Evidence Base

### Benefits of Green Space

- **Social** – communities, health and well being, volunteering and community led management, crime and ASB
- **Environmental** – nature and biodiversity, water and flood management, energy and climate change, air quality
- **Economic Value** – property value, Industry/Employment



## Evidence Base

### Social Benefits

**Community:**  
 91% of the public believe that parks and public spaces improve people's quality of life  
 The number one ranked issue for good public spaces is that they give a 'sense of community'

**Health:**  
 Living near open spaces helps to reduce health inequalities regardless of social class  
 60% of interviewees thought local green spaces would improve their overall physical health  
 Green exercise is free and does not carry the potential for negative side effects, unlike anti-depressant drugs which cost £750 million a year



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## Evidence Base

### Social

**Volunteering and community led management:**

- The annual economic value of the work of community groups in parks and green spaces in the UK ranges between £17 million and £35 million
- Social Return on Investment research shows that £1 invested in environmental volunteering can lead to a return of up to £4

**Crime and ASB:**  
 When public space is not managed and maintained, it attracts crime and ASB, reduces property prices, community cohesion, opportunities for healthy living and limits economic development



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## Evidence Base

### Environmental

#### Nature and biodiversity


- Green space and provides an opportunity for interaction with nature and this can positively impact on mental well being
- A study of urban gardens in Sheffield found almost as many plant species and the number of species native to Britain


#### Air quality


- Tree planting can help lower carbon emissions in the atmosphere and reduce day time temperatures by 2 – 3%

#### Climate Change

- A 10% increase in green cover can potentially eliminate the effects if climate change on surface temperatures
- Surface run off of green space is estimated to be 10-20% compared to 60-70% for hard landscaped urban areas.







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## Evidence Base

### Economic

- 50,000 are directly employed in the public parks and green space industry
- The money spent managing green space makes a substantial contribution to local economies
- Attractive and well managed green space can directly add value to adjacent properties










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## Case Study

### Housing Estates Improvement Programme

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## How can I get involved

- Action Plan
- Visit the website
- Green Flag Assessor training
- Green Flag status
- Open space strategy
- Quality contracts
- Partnerships
- Lever in funding

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