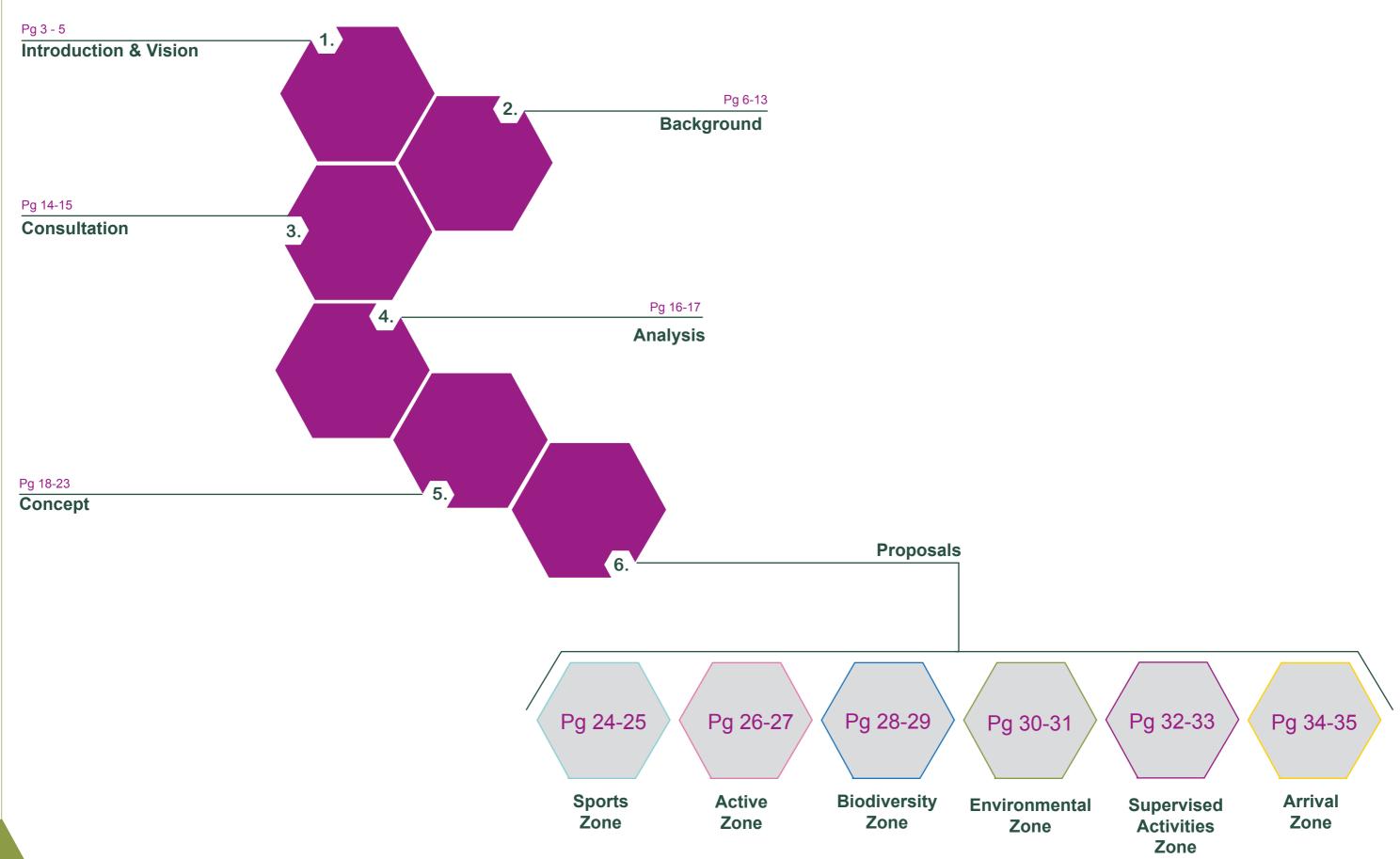






## CONTENTS



**P2** 



## Introduction

Mission Statement 'A Masterplan for the biggest new park in the North West.

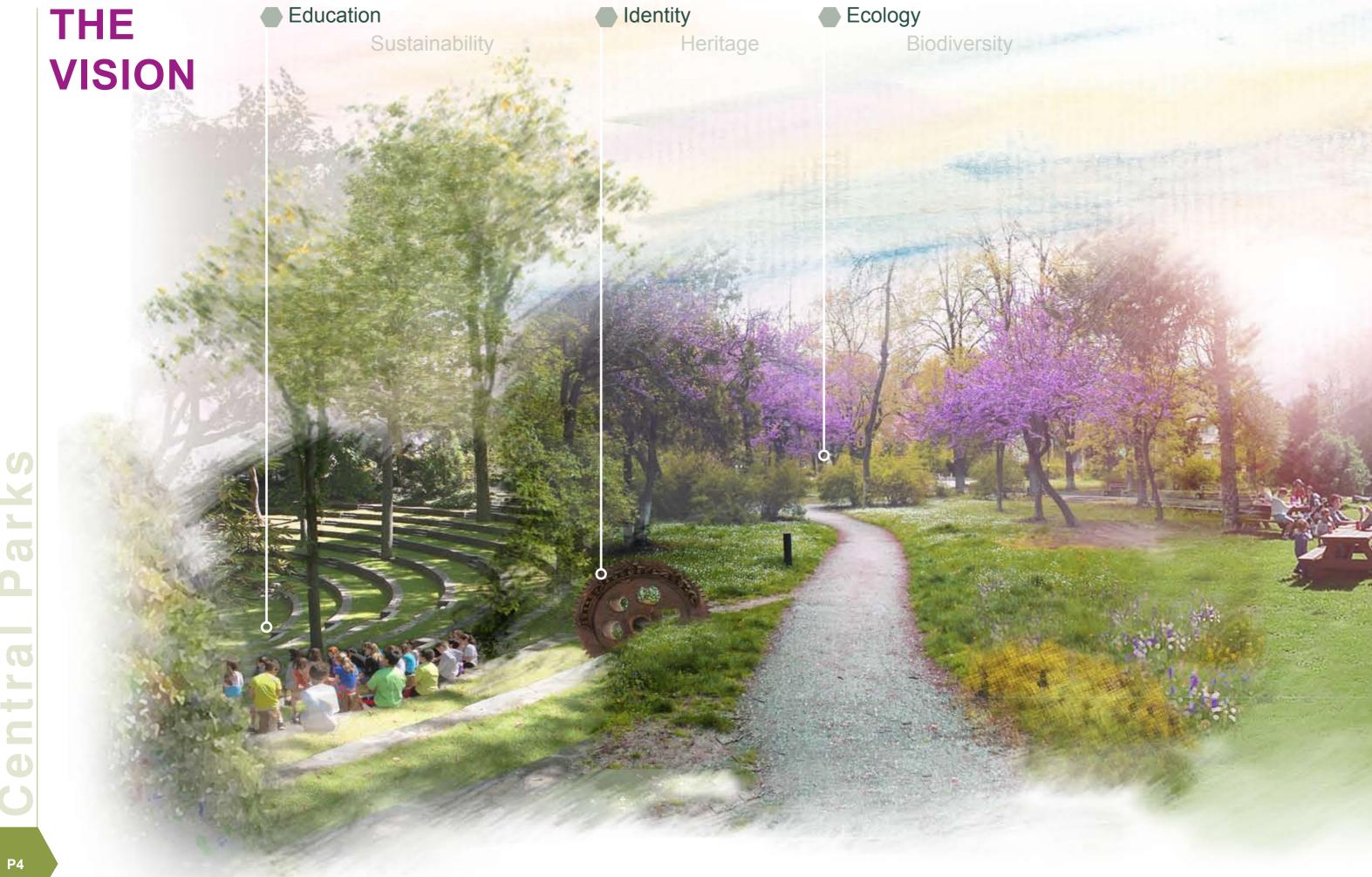
What is Central Parks Creating a high quality, fun and viable community space that best serves the needs of our existing and future communities'.

Covering the Borough of South Ribble, the 'Central Parks Strategy' will act as a framework for bringing together green spaces across the region. This will form the basis for a unified network of public green spaces that offer a wide range of opportunities for residents and visitors.

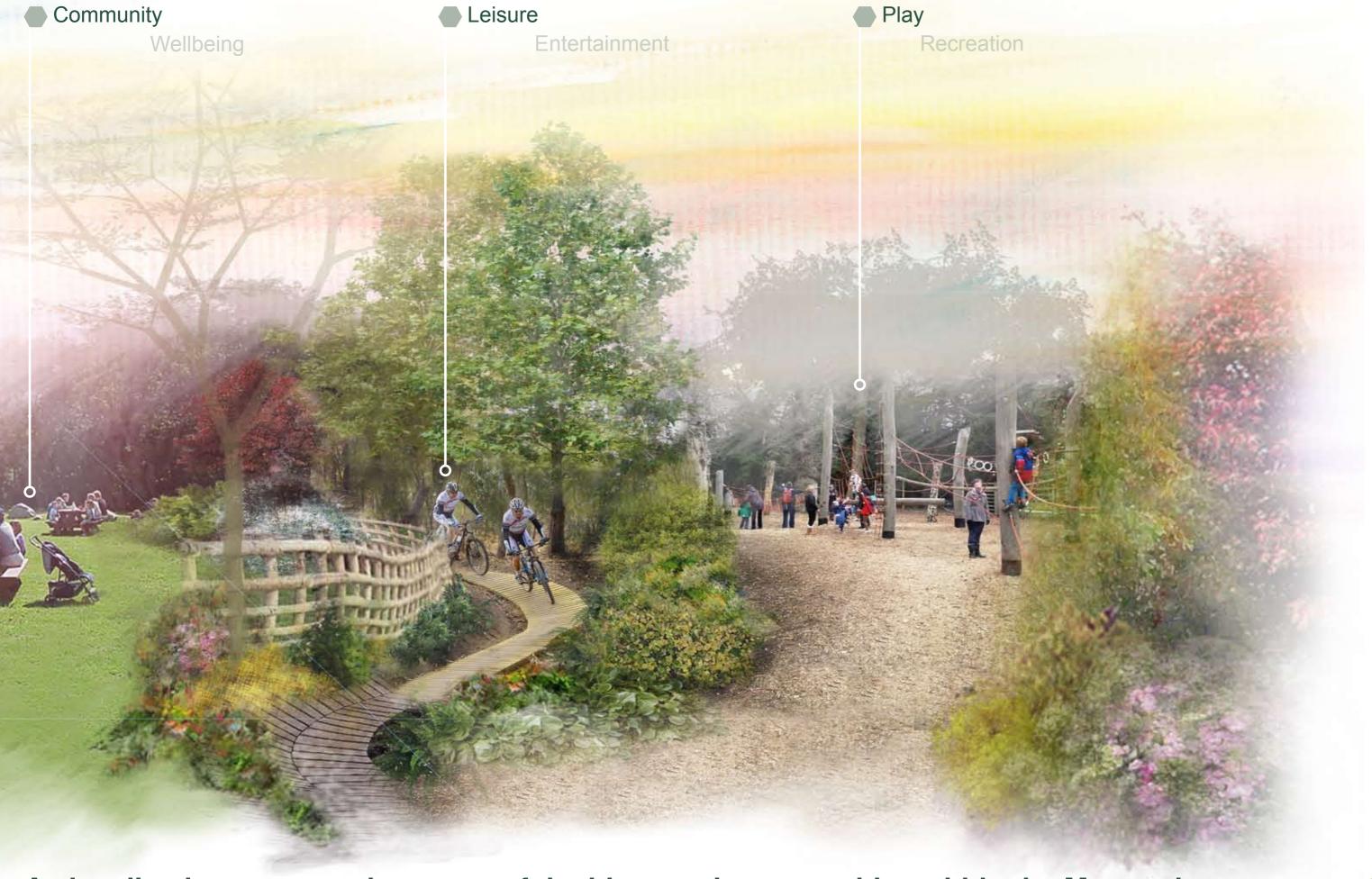
## **OBJECTIVES** What are the Aims



This document is a summary of the full Masterplan report/technical annexe produced for South Ribble Borough Council by Capita Property & Infrastructure.







A visualisation representing some of the ideas and opportunities within the Masterplan

## **Site Study**

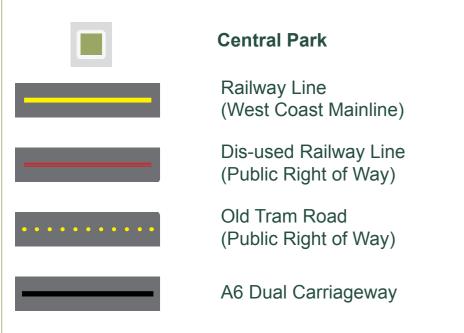
**Explanation of process & content** 

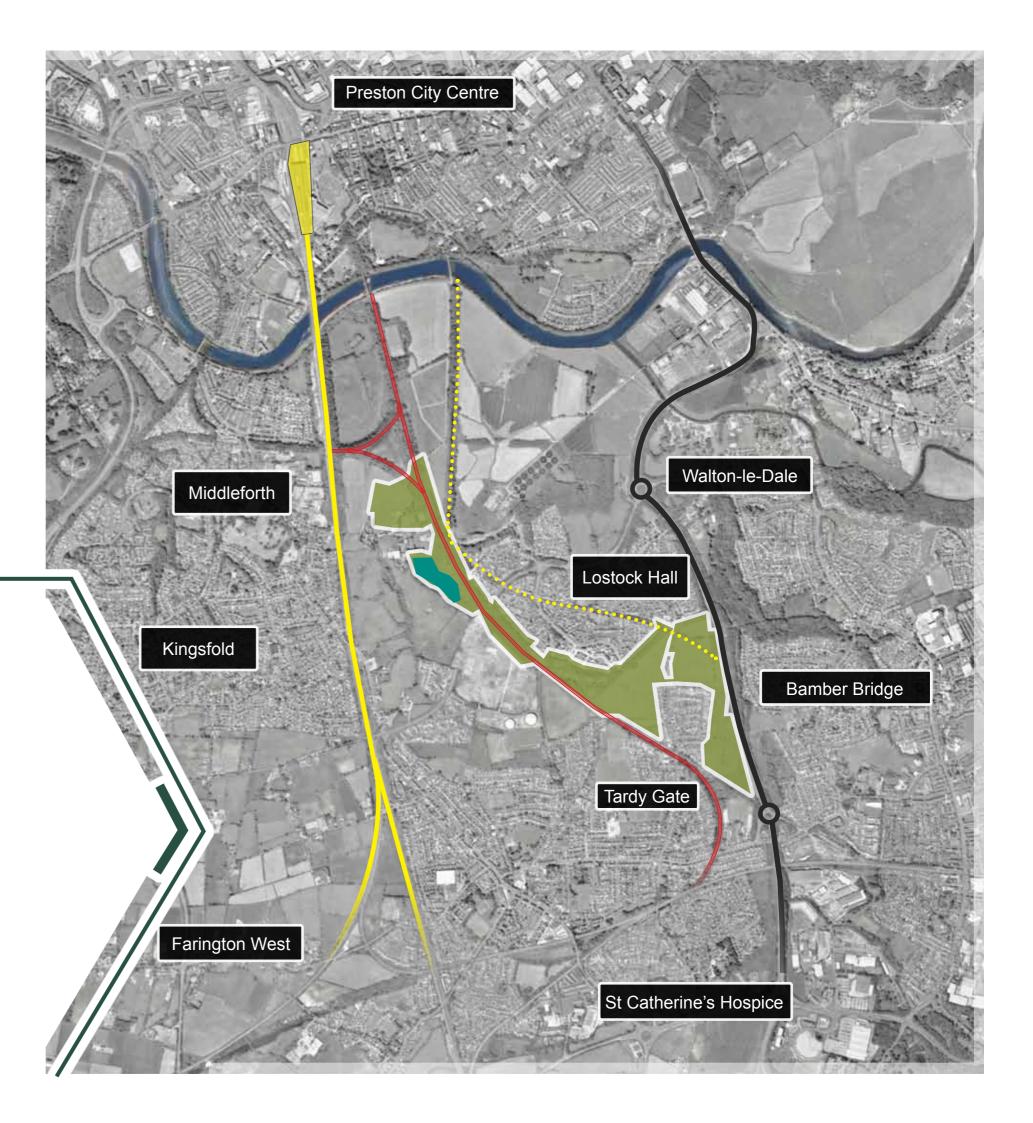
In order for a successful Masterplan to be put forward, a number of background studies have been carried out.

Below is a list of some of the key areas of background research that informed the masterplan process:

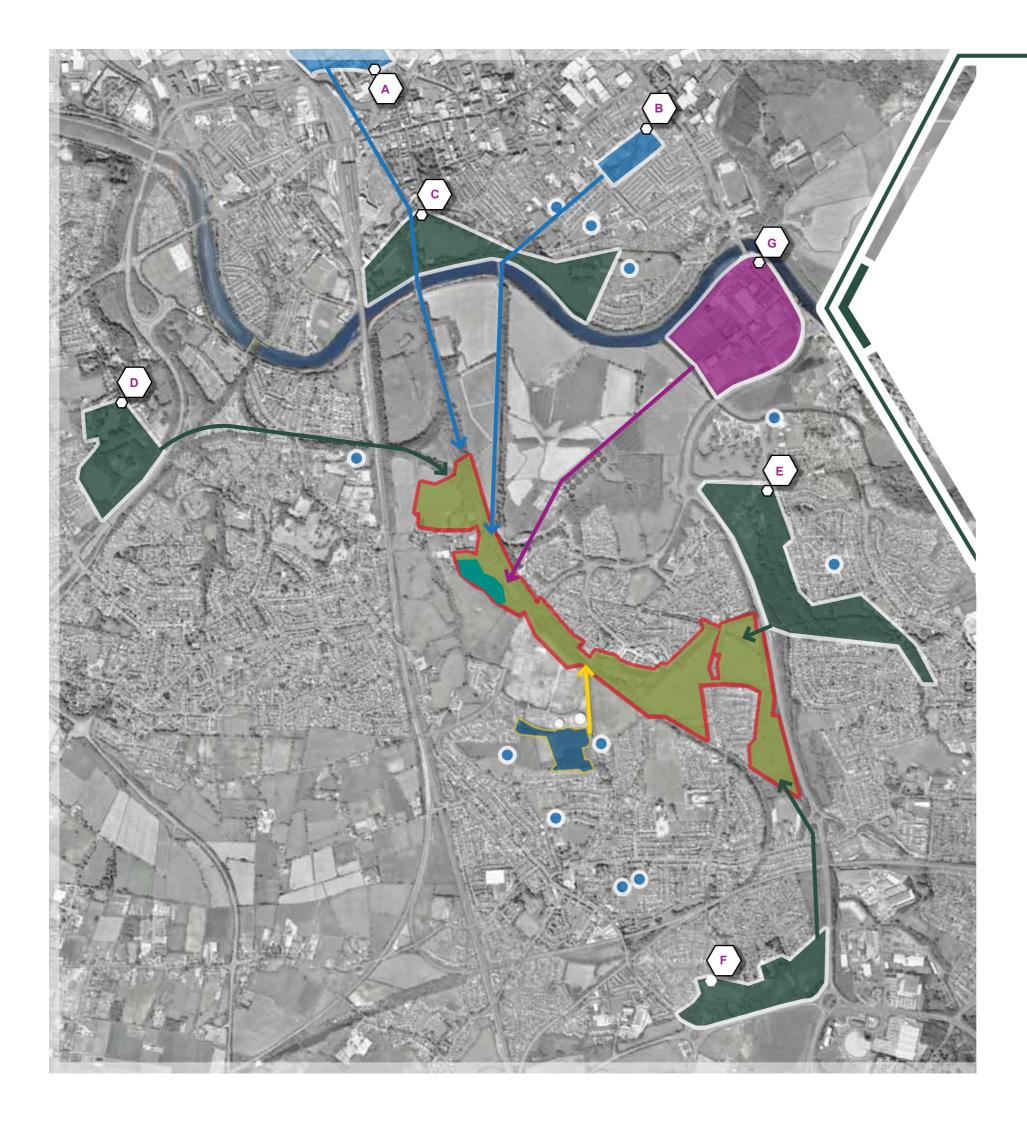
- The history of the site
- The community's use of the site
- Access and circulation
- Ecological and environmental conditions
- Planning policies
- Surrounding attractions
- Community needs and aspirations for the location

#### **Site Context**









## **Primary Connections**

- Educational Institutions
- Schools
- A University of Central Lancashire
- B Cardinal Newman College
- Key Parks, Woodland & Attractions
  - c Avenham Park/Miller Park
  - D Hurst Grange Park
  - E Dog Kennel/Cockshott Wood
  - F St Catherine's Hospice/Dandy Brook Park
- Retail
- G Capitol Centre
- Central Park
- Biodiversity Zone

## **Primary Connections**

The Masterplan identifies access links and integrates existing/proposed residential areas. It focuses on providing proposals which improve pedestrian, cycle and bridleway links with the surrounding areas and accessibility to the site. At the heart of this will be the development of a green infrastructure network which will provide connectivity and unity to what is currently a series of disjointed spaces.

The following is addressed:

- Circulation within the park
- Highway & transport links
- Links to public rights of way and nearby sites
- Links to proposed & existing housing areas
- Green Infrastructure

## **History, Heritage & Identity**

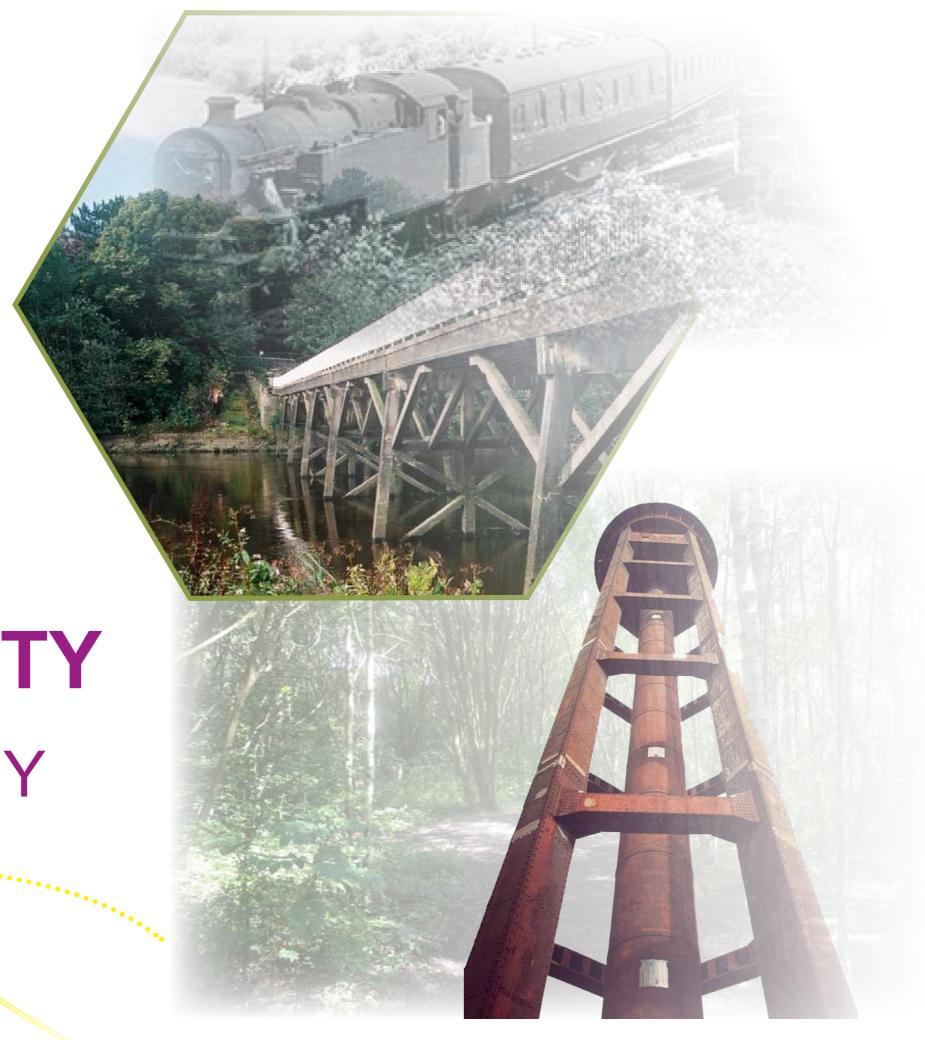
**Explanation of interpretation** 

It is important that the development of any public space relates to its context and the communities that use these spaces.

The local history of the railway and industry across the Lancashire region provides a strong sense of heritage and identity.

It is crucial that these historical foundations are reflected through new and exciting developments of the future so that a sense of place and character remains identifiable.

HERITAGE IDENTITY HISTORY COMMUNITY





## **Landscape Character & Uses**

**Explanation of design in context with the site's character** 

- The approach for producing the Central Parks Masterplan has been to enhance each existing character area and bring unity throughout the site.
- Each area is sensitively treated to improve accessibility, functionality and attractiveness.
- The location of particular leisure activities such as cycling, dog walking, natural play areas and picnicking is placed in consideration of its suitability and relationship to each character area.
- Routes and features that are currently used on site will not be removed, the aim will be to strengthen these areas in order to suit all users.



#### **Planning Policy**

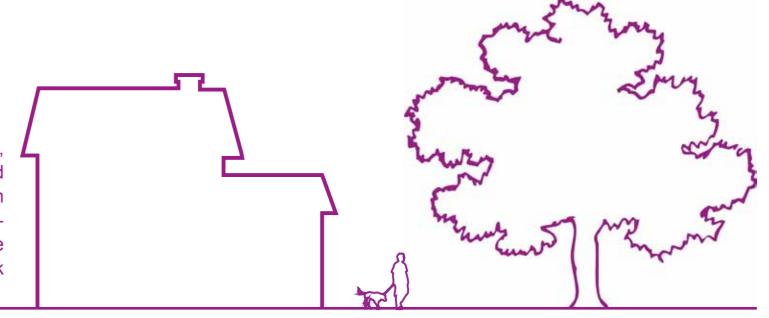
#### **G6 Central Park**

The Council is committed to the creation of a new park in the borough; Central Park, which is allocated within the Core Strategy and Policy G6 of the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document. The Park allocation allows a natural break in the built environment between the areas of Lostock Hall, Walton-le-Dale to the north, Bamber Bridge to the east and Penwortham to the northwest. The northern part of Central Park, stretching up to the banks of the River Ribble will also link to the Area of Separation between Penwortham, Walton-le-Dale and Lostock Hall.

The environmental designations on the site, including a Local Nature Reserve, Biological Heritage Site, Wildlife Corridor, Green Corridor/Green Wedge and Green Infrastructure provide further support for the designation of a new park, taking account of its ecological value through a future masterplan.

#### Allocated Residential Development Sites -





#### Particular focus will be placed on:

- Providing high quality accessible recreational and amenity green space for existing and future communities to ensure a balance between the need for new homes and the importance of public green space;
- Protecting and safeguarding all designated sites of international, national, regional, county and local level importance including all Ramsar, Special Protection Areas, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Biological Heritage Sites, Geological Heritage Sites, Local Nature Reserves, Wildlife Corridors together with any ecological network approved by the Council;
- Protecting, safeguarding and enhancing habitats for European, nationally and locally important species;
- When considering applications for planning permission protecting, conserving and enhancing the borough's ecological network and providing links to the network from and/or through a proposed development site.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) should direct funding from allocated residential developments into environmental enhancements and sports, leisure and recreation projects which will be coordinated as part of the Central Parks Masterplan.



#### **Attractions & Recreation**

Local community space

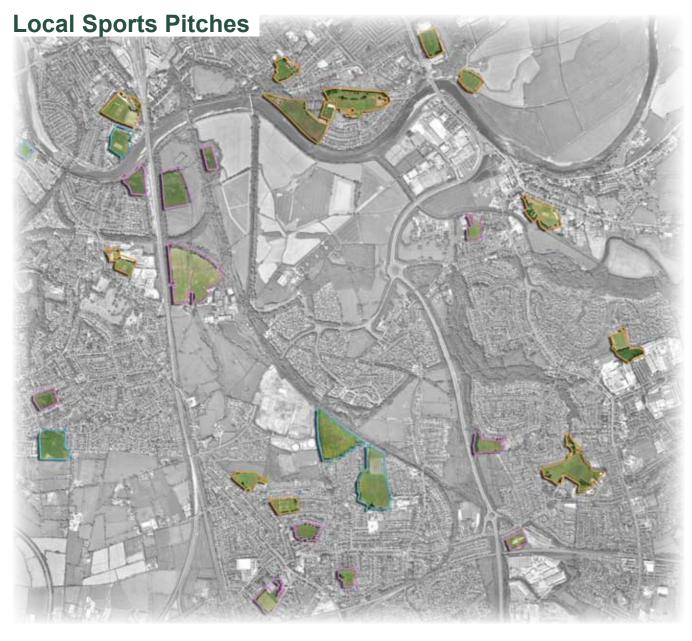
An assessment of the surrounding playing fields, sports pitches and play areas was carried out, evaluating their use, condition and relationship to the area. Below are the maps covering the sites which have been detailed in the full report.



















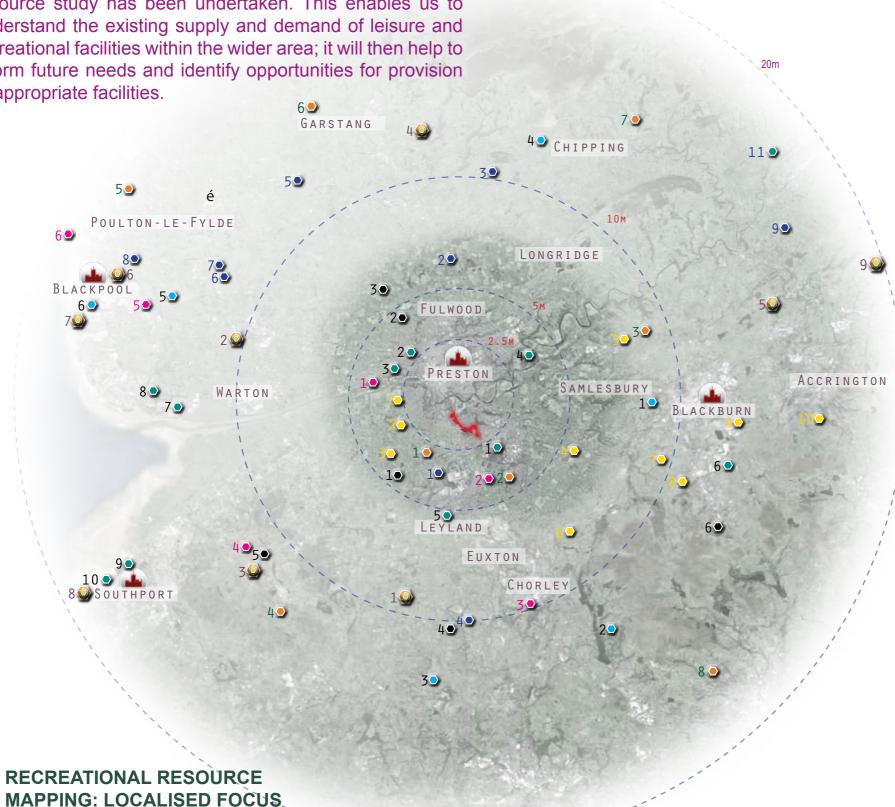




#### **Regional Attractions & Recreation**

Assessing supply & demand

As part of the site use analysis process, a regional recreational resource study has been undertaken. This enables us to understand the existing supply and demand of leisure and recreational facilities within the wider area; it will then help to inform future needs and identify opportunities for provision of appropriate facilities. 6 GARSTANG



#### **FISHERIES**

- 1. Fairhaven Fishery
- 2.Langley Lakes
- 3. Woodfold Fishery
- 4.Lancaster House Farm Fishery
- 5. Hudsons Farm Fishery
- 6. Whitemore Fisheries
- 7. Fylde Trout Fishery
- 8. Four Seasons Fisheries & Café
- 9. Pendle View Fishery

#### **HORSE RIDING**

- 1. Crookings Farm
- 2. The Gables Livery Yard
- 3.Isherwoods
- 4. Arkenfield Equestrian Centre
- 5.Osbaldeston Riding Centre
- 6.Chorley Equestrian Centre
- 7. Waddington Farm
- 8. Earnsdale Farm Riding School
- 9.Warrens

#### 10. Accrington Riding Centre

7. Bowland Wild Boar Park

8. Smithhills Open Farm

Saturation

#### **ZOOS & PETTING FARMS**

- 1. Turbary Woods Owl & Birds Of **Prey Sanctuary**
- 2. Cuerden Birds Of Prey
- 3.Mrs Dowsons
- 4. Windmill Animal Farm Ltd
- 5. The Living Jungle Mobile Zoo
- 6. Old Holly Farm
- (Blackpool Zoo is indicated within large mixed recreation sites key)

#### **MOTORISED ACTIVITIES**

- 1.Trax (Go Karting)
- 2. Cuerden Valley Park Segway
- 3.Extreme Karting
- 4.Segwayz
- 5. Ride Segway Tours In Blackpool
- 6.Formulakart

#### **DESTINATION PLAY**

- 1. Withy Grove Park
- 2. Haslam Park
- 3.Ashton Park
- 4. Brockholes Nature Reserve
- 5.Worden Park
- 6.Wellybobs
- 7. Queen Elizabeth II Park
- 8.Lytham Hall
- 9. Southport Model Railway Village









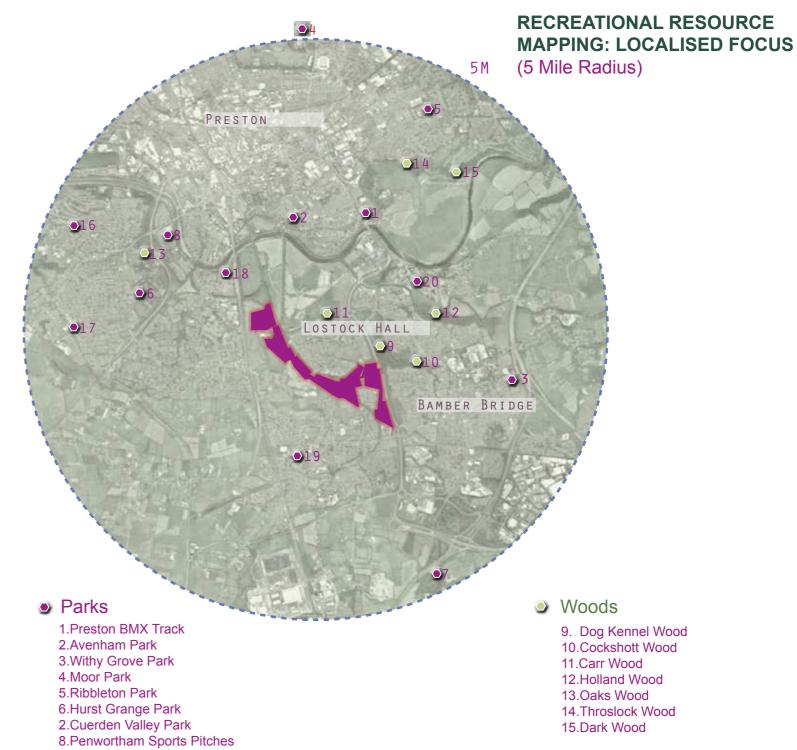
11.Waddow Hall



(20 Mile Radius)







#### Park Facilities & Key Features

#### 2. Avenham Park Café

Grade 2 listed grounds Section of route 6 & 55 pass cycle and walking route

Riverside trails Green flag awarded

#### 3. Withy Grove Park

Café Leisure Centre Children's Play Area Skate Park Sports Pitches Woodland

#### 4. Moor Park M.U.G.A-

Basketball Football Hockey Cricket

8xFootball pitches 4xBowling greens Cricket wickets Tennis courts 2xChildren's play Bowls pavilion Football pavilion

#### 5. Ribbleton Park

Basketball Football Hockey Cricket greens

M.U.G.A-

2xCrown green bowling 4xFootball pitches Football pavilion Children's play area Skate park

#### 6. Hurst Grange Park

Green Flag awarded Trim trails Sports pitch Playground Biological Heritage Site

## Consultation

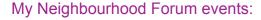
## **Public Opinion**

Taking on board feedback

A key step to transforming the park is to begin by addressing the community's most pressing needs and aspirations. Early community and stakeholder engagement provided us with some strong recommendations and included some realistically achievable ideas which will have the support of existing users.

We will also ensure the park's traditions and stories are captured in the strategy and Masterplan framework, working closely to identify opportunities to incorporate artworks and information displays that begin to tell the story of the park (seen through the lives of local people).

A series of consultation events (advertised and promoted in local press and media by SRBC) were held with local community groups and the general public to raise awareness, get communities involved at an early stage of the project and to be transparent and inclusive from the start.



7.00-8.00pm Monday 15th September 2014 - Leyland & Farington Social Club, Derby Street, Leyland 7.00-8.00pm Thursday 18th September 2014 - Samlesbury War Memorial Hall, Cuerdale Lane, Walton-le-Dale

7.00-8.00pm Thursday 2nd October 2014 Church Hall, Cop Lane, Penwortham

#### **Public Consultation events:**

2.30-7.00pm Monday 6th October 2014 - Foyer of Sainsbury's Store, Bamber Bridge
2.30-7.00pm Thursday 9th October 2014 - St Gerard's Parochial Centre, Brownedge Road, Lostock Hall
2.30-7.00pm Monday 13th October 2014 - Penwortham Sports and Social Club, The Institute, Leyland Road, Penwortham





# CAPITA

## Consultation

## **Public Opinion**

#### **Consultation feedback conclusions**

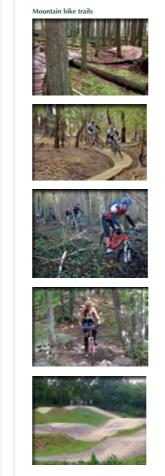
Feedback from the public consultation exercise identified the following activities which received most support:

- Mountain bike trails
- Trim trails/jogging routes
- Natural play areas
- Adventure play
- Natural amphitheatre
- Entrance/gateway features
- Improved circulation network
- Café

All of these are uses which have been identified as suitable (in terms of compatibility with the site and shortfall of similar provision elsewhere within the locality). In addition, these uses generally require a relatively low capital cost to implement. These can be brought forward at an early stage of the Masterplan implementation as part of the park infrastructure.









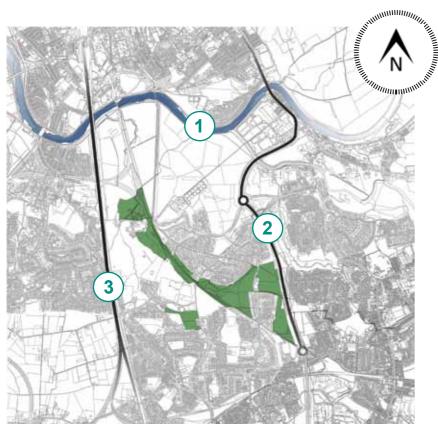


# Analysis

## **Finding the Right Approach**

How to work with the site

The analysis process covered a range of opportunities and constraints on site. This included conditions such as flood risk, land ownership, access and circulation, safety, alongside a number of other considerations. One key issue that was apparent was the safety and potential user-group conflict along existing narrow routes.



- 1. River Ribble
- 2. A6
- 3. West Coast Mainline

The site is constrained by significant physical barriers, which surround it on three sides, forming accessibility constraints.









#### **Access For Users Of All Abilities**

## **Strengthening Routes Into Site**





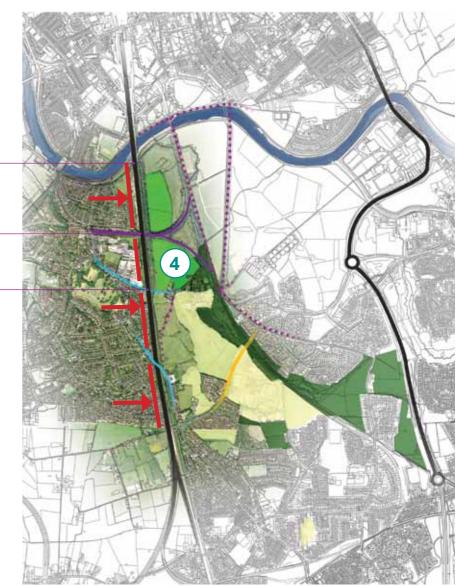




Restricted Access along Factory

Preston Junction EntryRoad links through Rail LineProposed Link Road

•••• Public Rights of Way



4.Vernon Carus/Cardinal Newman College sports pitch facilities







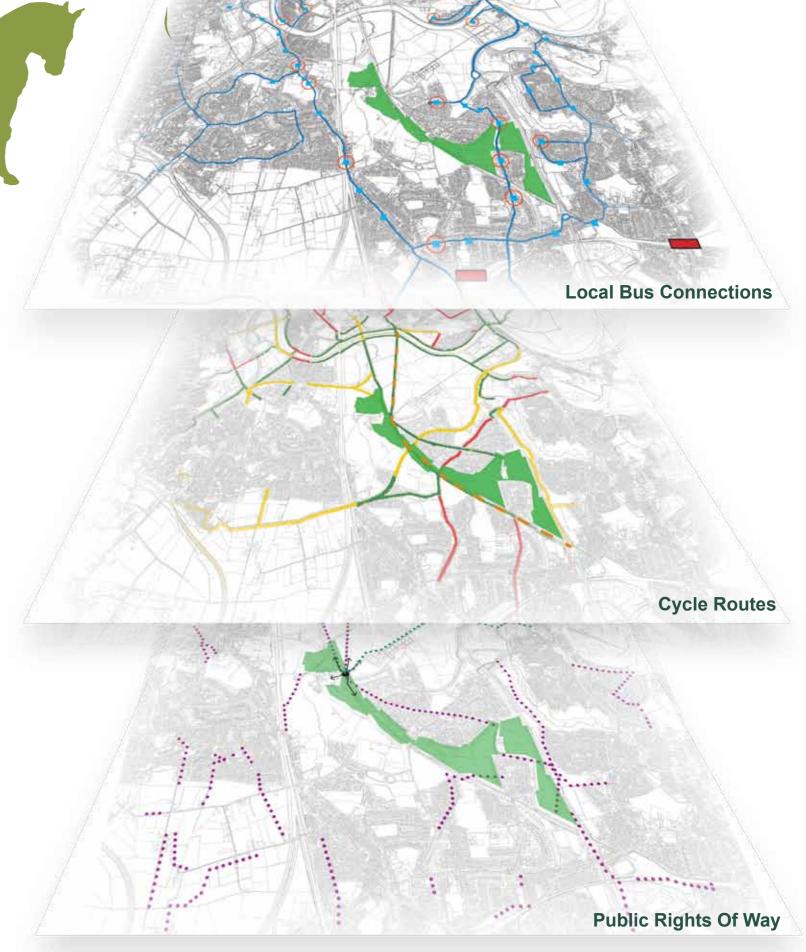




Looking at access & movement

A study of connecting routes associated with the Central Parks site has been a primary concern. In order for the site to act as a community resource for all the surrounding areas, the access and circulation, both internally and externally, must be clear and user friendly. This challenge of encouraging a wide range of uses has been addressed through a number of methods. Some of the key strategies suggested:

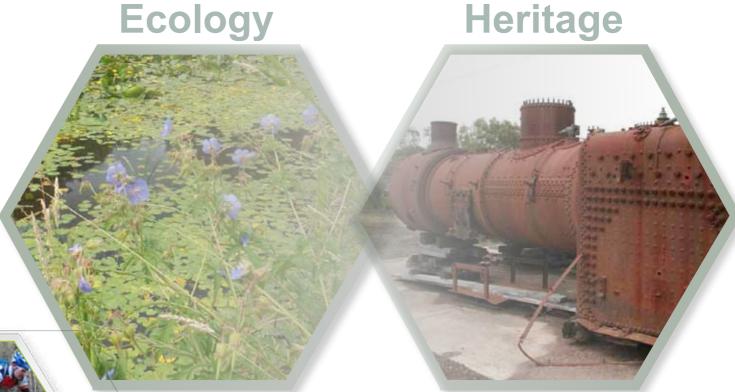
- Clear signage and wayfinding markers
- Gateway features indicating approaches to site
- Improvement of damaged or poor quality surface conditions
- The re-connection of fragmented and broken public footpaths and cycle routes
- The separation, where possible, of cycle and walking routes



The Central Parks Masterplan draws together a number of disjointed spaces and gives them a united sense of identity.

Through the masterplanning process; community/stakeholder consultation and analysis of the park's wider context, the need to establish a coordinated approach to link green spaces across the borough has been identified.

This philosophy has led to a "Central Parks Strategy" which pulls together the recreational resources of a number of the borough's green spaces and identifies potential linkages to enhance the green infrastructure network.





activity.

through a considerate selection of materials and effective placement of each



Spaces & Use

Establishing a relationship between the site's character and proposed uses

#### **Existing Character**

- A Playing Fields
- **B** Linear Woodland
- C Community Space
- D Agricultural Land
- E Woodland

#### **Proposed Zone**

- A Sports Zone
- B Active Zone
- C Biodiversity Zone
- D Environmental Zone
- E Supervised Activities Zone
- F Arrival Zone

The translation of existing site characteristics into user friendly activity zones has been indicated in the supporting diagram. These zones and their relationships are covered in more detail in the following pages.



## **Enhancing Character Zones**

### Linking the site's characters

An underpinning aim in linking each zone is to improve our ecology. An Environmental Zone will provide a hub for walkways, nature trails, picnic areas, trim trails and a number of ecologically based features.

In connection with the strengthening of green infrastructure, themes that help unify and define the park's character will be carried through the site, establishing a strong sense of place.





Old Railway Path (Heading North)



## **Central Park Masterplan**

Conceptual zonal plan

The Central Park Masterplan is represented here as a Conceptual Zonal Plan. This zonal plan provides a template for future proposals to co-ordinate with the sites conditions and requirements.

## **Zonal Key**



**Sports Zone** 



**Active Zone** 



**Biodiversity Zone** 



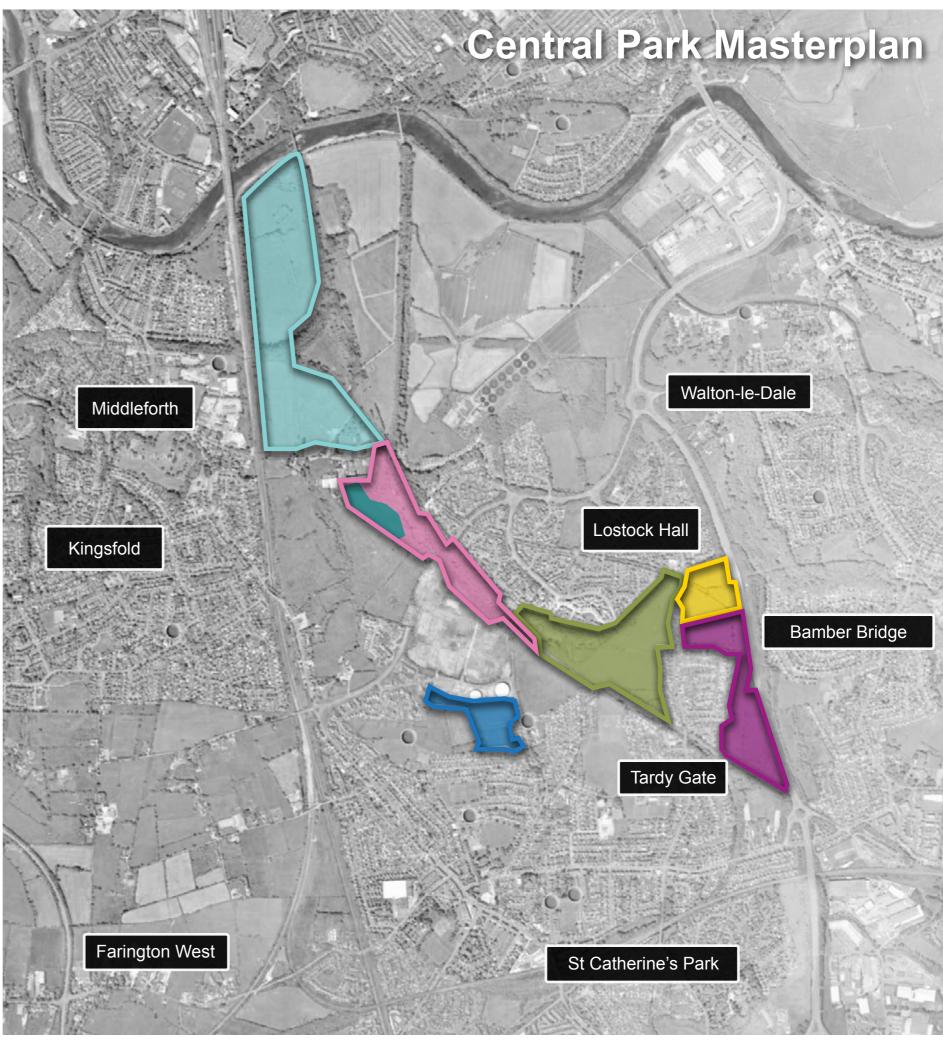
**Environmental Zone** 



**Supervised Activity Zone** 



**Arrival Zone** 



#### The 'Central Parks Strategy'

## **Establishing networks**

The first of the new Central Parks is St Catherine's Park; for which a draft/outline proposal has been produced by SRBC. This identifies a number of environmental improvements, key to which will be the consolidation of St Catherine's Hospice and Dandy Brook Park. It will combine the open space and amenities of the two separate areas into the first deliverable project of the Central Parks Strategy.

The following existing and proposed elements will be coordinated to provide a new recreational resource:

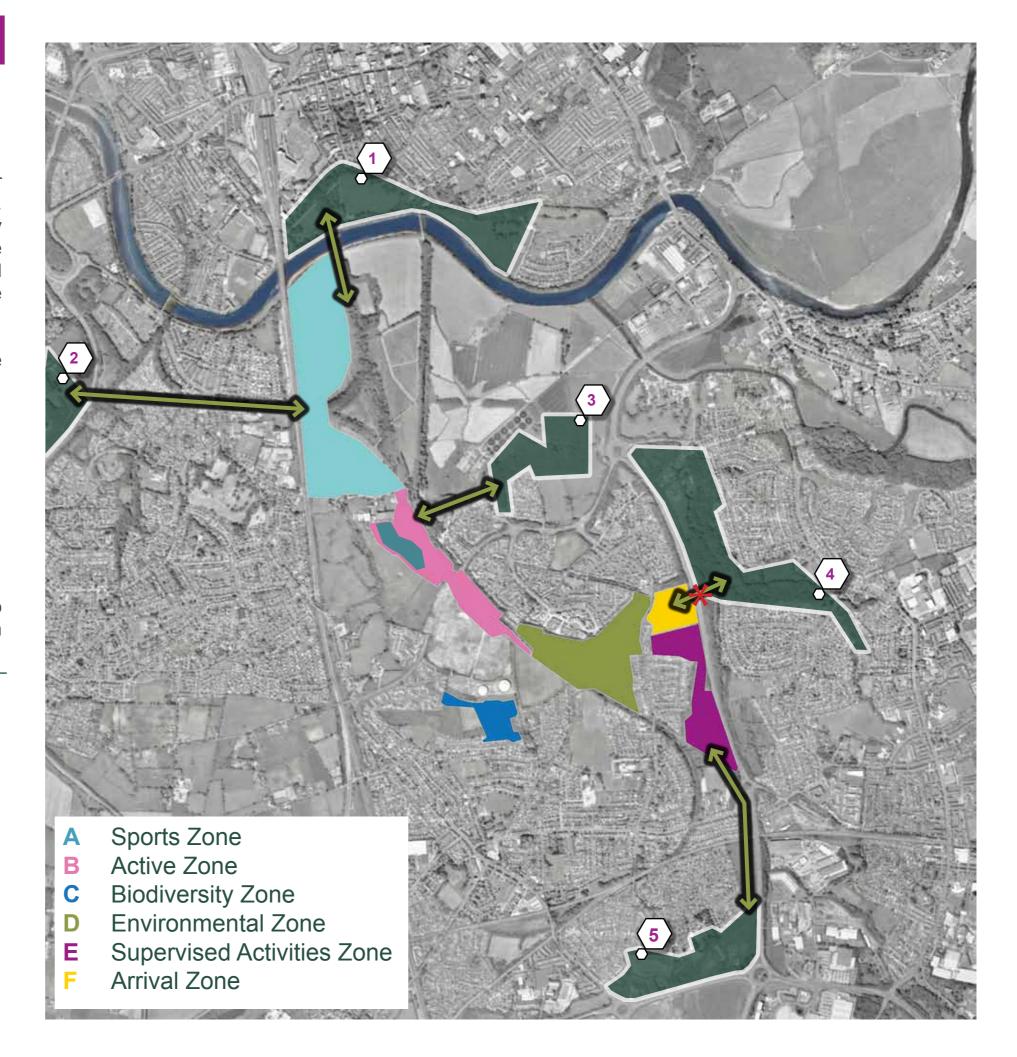
- Peace garden and WW1 Borough Memorial
- Gateway, bridge and footpath extended network/links
- Additional parking
- Mini soccer pitch
- Mill Café/Visitor centre
- · Wildlife garden and nature corridor
- Play facilities

In addition a physical link with the core of Central Parks to the north will be identified and established through creation of a public right of way.

- 1 Avenham Park/Miller Park
- 2 Hurst Grange Park
- 3 Carr Wood
- Dog Kennel/Cockshott Wood
- St Catherine's Park

(St Catherine's Hospice & Dandy Brook Park link)

- Links into Central Park
- ★ Garden Bridge Green Link



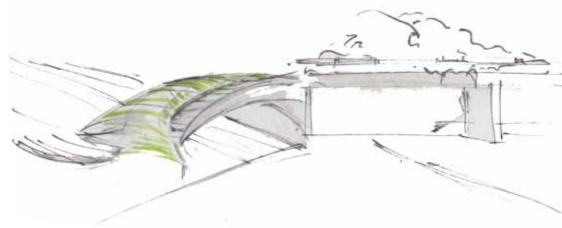


## **Garden Bridge**

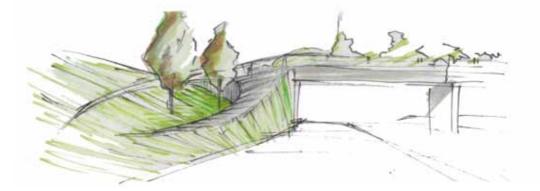
## Linking green infrastructure

A wildlife crossing, or garden bridge, is intended to serve as an aid to wild animals, enabling them to cross busy transport routes such as motorways, highways and even railway lines safely and thus mitigating the impacts of increasing landscape fragmentation.

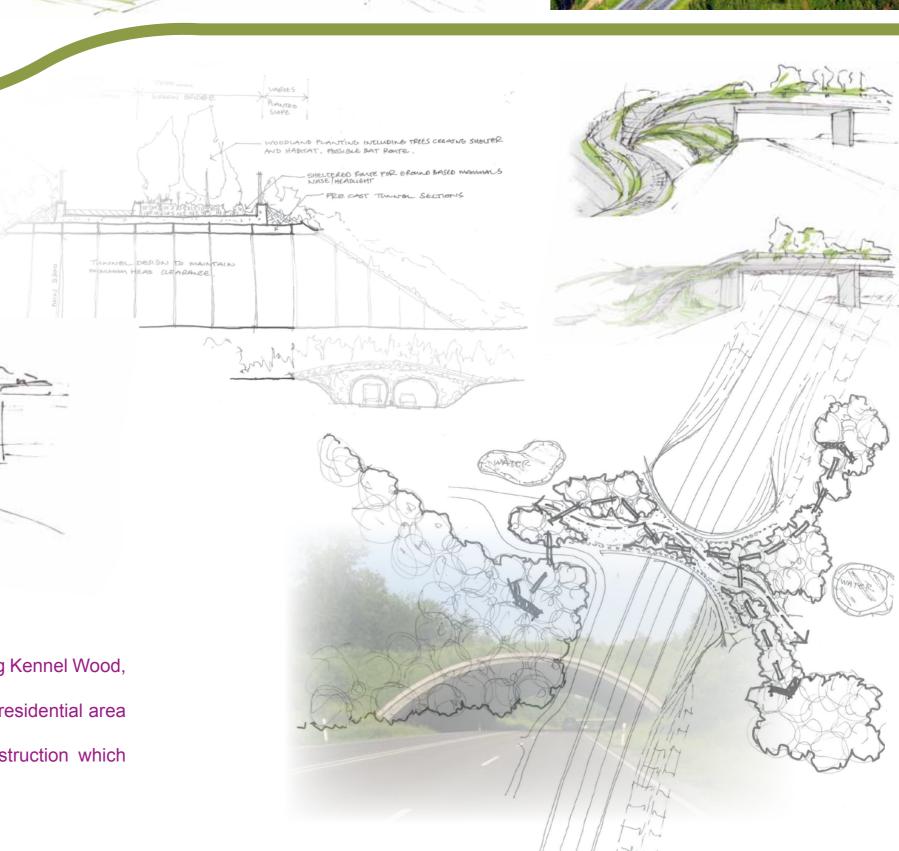
The A6 forms a significant barrier to connectivity both in terms of leisure/recreation access and wildlife/biodiversity. A garden bridge could address connectivity issues and establish improved links with adjacent green spaces, offering benefits to:



- Wildlife/biodiversity
- Green infrastructure connections
- Pedestrians
- Cyclists
- Enhanced links to adjacent green space would be established Dog Kennel Wood, Cockshott Wood.
- Potential for establishment of new public rights of way to adjacent residential area of Bamber Bridge on the east side of the A6.
- Establishment of a landmark feature with pioneering green construction which would raise South Ribble's profile as a leader in sustainability.







## Zone Theory

## Central Park

Due to its location and existing uses, this part of the site is identified as the Sports Zone. The site has been extended to the north to include further existing sports pitches. Existing facilities within the zone belong to Cardinal Newman College and Vernon Carus Sports and Social Club.



Vernon Carus Sports and Social Club facilities can be enhanced and linked to/coordinated with the Active Zone

**Sports Zone** 

Isolated pitches to the north will be made more accessible • and usable through provision of access track and car parking.

Existing open character of sports pitches within this area will be maintained and possible joint working could bring enhancements and better connectivity.

P24

café.



# Proposals

## Aims and Objectives

- Investigate joint working/co-operative business plans
- Enhance existing sports facilities with improved pitches and better accessibility
- Consider new sports facilities such as a 3G pitch facilitated through grant funding based on shared/community use and investigate joint working/co-operative business plans.
- Provide better management of existing facilities through improved shared/community use



# Active Zone Zone Theory

Mountain Bike Trails

## Central Park

Due to its location and character, this part of the site is identified as being suitable for recreational activities; it sits adjacent to the Sports Zone, and the proposed uses will be related to the Vernon Carus Sports and Social Club. In addition, links to site-wide routes and trails will focus on an "activity hub" in this zone. Existing site features and topography within this area are utilised to establish exciting and challenging features as part of the proposed activities. Vernon's Lodge is also located within this zone.

Skate Park

Cafe Bike Hire

 Vernon's Lodge fishing lake will be largely unchanged with emphasis on wildlife/biodiversity and improved access for education

**Proposed Character** 

 Woodland and water body management to improve accessibility, natural vegetation regeneration and biodiversity habitat (links with site-wide nature trail)  Building to have low visual impact, in keeping with wooded character of location. 'Tree house' style - multilevel, with decking access/viewing platform to upper level, linking to adjacent tree-top boardwalks

 Utilise natural landform and features to provide exciting and challenging experiences for natural and adventure play areas

Natural Play

P26



# Proposals

## Aims and Objectives

- · Hub building to accommodate café/hire shop, observatory
- Provide challenging skate park, track/features and mountain bike activity area for young people
- Construct mountain bike leisure trail through site that is accessible to a wide range of ages and abilities
- Provide challenging and exciting natural play and adventure play facilities for young people
- Establish a regional attraction play facility
- Provide fishing facilities to attract a wider user group attract children/families and improve accessibility for disabled users





# C Biodiversity Zone

## Central Park

## Zone Theory

Separate from the main body of the site, this area will provide a local recreational, nature conservation and green infrastructure resource, with an enhanced green link to Central Parks via Wateringpool Lane.



## **Proposed Character**

- Maintain rural/agricultural character of this part of the site.
- Footpaths will be low-key, bound gravel-type surfacing, timber post and rail fencing etc.
- Nature area will be largely unchanged with emphasis on wildlife and biodiversity, with improved access for education.



# Proposals

## Aims and Objectives

- To enhance biodiversity and nature conservation opportunities.
- To provide informal recreation and leisure facilities.
- To establish a green link/enhanced green infrastructure between St Gerard's and the main body of Central Park via Wateringpool Lane.
- To provide community facilities such as allotments/green burial ground



# Environmental Zone Zone Theory

# Central Park

Develop the site's agricultural character and provide an attraction that showcases sustainability, ecology and organic farming for educational and leisure purposes.



- Character
- Enhance rural/agricultural character of this part of the site.
- Building to be low-impact (visually and environmentally), partially below-ground/farm-type building with a zero-carbon aspiration.
- Footpaths will be low-key, bound gravel-type surfacing, timber post and rail fencing etc.
- Nature area and fishing pond will be improved with emphasis on wildlife and biodiversity, with improved access for education.



Hub

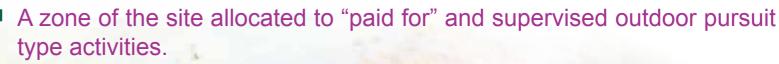
## Proposals



# Supervised Activities Zone Zone

## Zone Theory

Central Park



Located on the edge of the park, adjacent to the A6 London Way, it will be directly accessible from the regional road network.

# Proposed Character

- Wooded and enclosed character will accommodate activities with minimal visual intrusion.
- All facilities to be low-impact (visually and environmentally) and in keeping with existing landscape character.
- Appropriate activities would be of a recreation and leisure nature. For example, this might include high ropes activities, climbing wall, adventure play, archery etc.
- Potential link via garden bridge to green infrastructure on east side of A6 (Cockshott and Dog Kennel Woods and adjacent residential areas).

P32



# Proposals

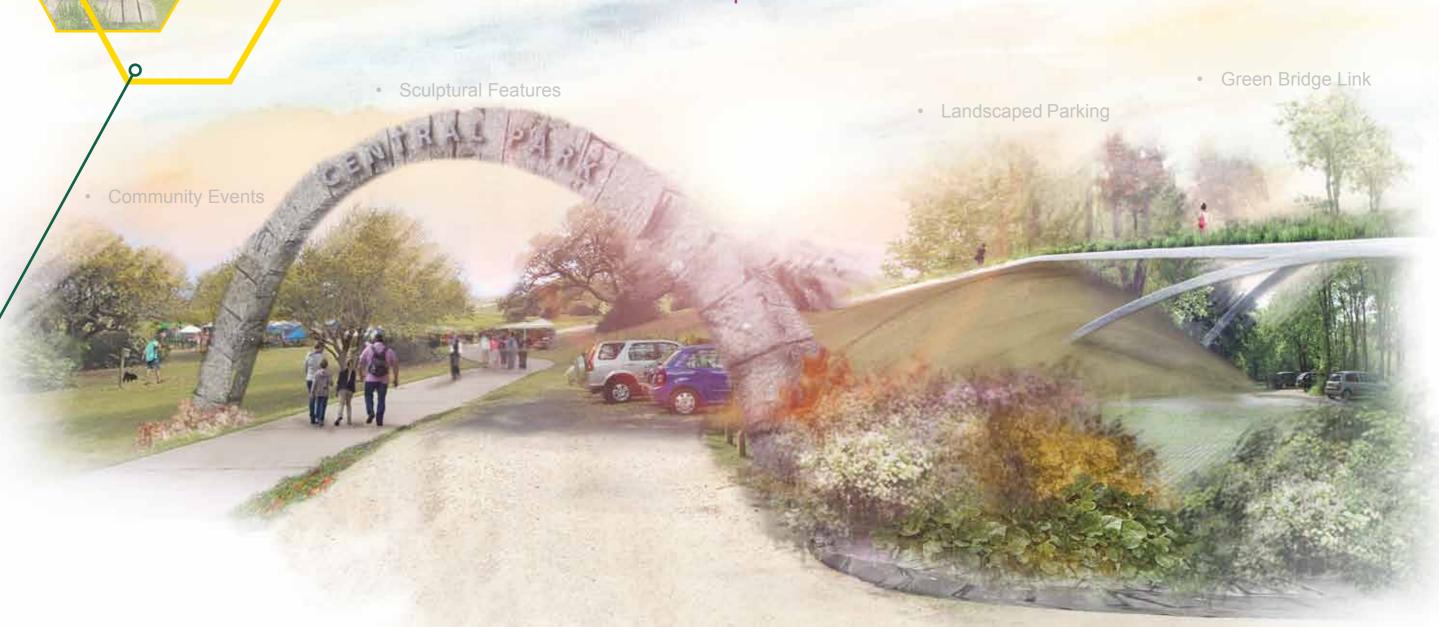
## Aims and Objectives



## **Zone Theory**

## Central Park

Located adjacent to the A6 London Way, this zone will provide ease of access to and from the regional transport network. The zone is capable of accommodating appropriate levels of car parking. Adjacent to the Environment Zone and Supervised Activities Zone, this part of the park will enable visitors to easily access the more use-intensive parts of the site.



## **Proposed Character**

Landscaped access/egress road from A6 will provide • vehicular access with minimal disruption to nearby residential areas and users of the park

**Arrival Zone** 

- potentially serve as a venue space.
- Large open space/parkland entrance, which will Well-vegetated landscaping will break up large expanses of car park and screen from nearby residents and park users



# Proposals

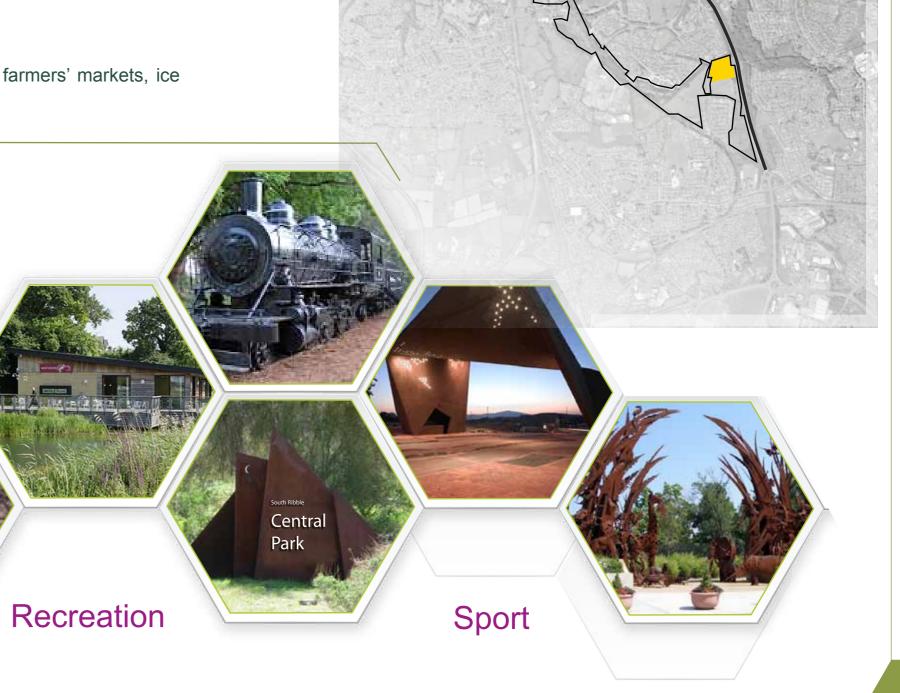
## Aims and Objectives

- Provide large entrance area/feature to announce arrival and strengthen park identity
- Adequate parking to accommodate visitors arriving by car
- Establish distribution point for visitors to site, providing orientation and interpretative information
- Provide facilities for visitors toilets, information point etc

**Biodiversity** 

 A flexible space that can accommodate "pop up" events such as farmers' markets, ice rinks, galas etc

Community



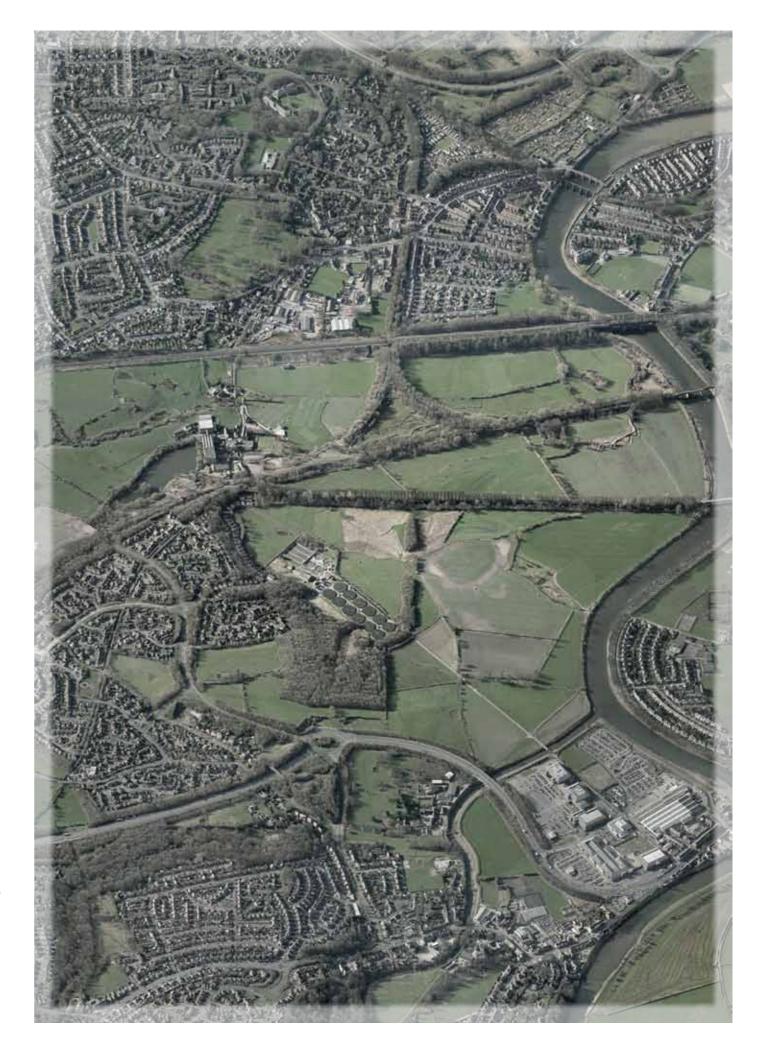
## Conclusion

This document is a summary of the full Masterplan report /technical annexe produced for South Ribble Borough Council by Capita Property and Infrastructure. The full report provides detailed information which will be used to inform the development of a phased implementation of the Central Parks.

The next steps in the implementation process will be:

- Formal Consultation on submission of the Masterplan, a formal consultation process will be commenced over a period of 6 weeks. Once formally adopted by SRBC, the delivery of the project will begin.
- Stakeholder Discussions ongoing with landowners and organisations with which relationships have been established and partnerships will be developed.
- Development of the proposals within the adopted Masterplan to provide and consider:
- Preparation of details;
- Scope of works and required inputs;
- Timings/phasing of work elements;
- Cost estimates;
- Issue analysis/viability of proposals;
- Stakeholders consultation, engagement and partnerships.

The undertaking of these stages of the development process will enable the preparation of individual business cases for specific areas and zones. This will in turn lead to the identification of projects to be brought forward for early delivery.







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