

# Green Space Provision & The Levelling Up Parks Fund

- A review of the impact of the Government's Levelling Up Parks Fund
- Is Government prepared to fund parks effectively?
- The challenge of balancing the expectations and needs of the community with the commitment of Government

# A review of the impact of the Government's Levelling Up Parks Fund

- Autumn statement?
- £9m by Government to Parks levelling up
- Different to pocket parks funding as this has not been done by a bidding competition
- Head of Greenspace at DHLUC - hopeful this was the start of something

## Is Government prepared to fund parks effectively?

- We know the economy is in a mess - Government likely to deprioritise Local Government versus Health
- Councils facing unpalatable choices across a range of services - unlikely to find any additional income for Parks.
- Parks remain critically important to the public's health, to the economy and most importantly to the very soul of local place.
- We face huge challenges in attracting and retaining people to work in the sector, many of us will be facing severe skills shortages amongst staff

## **The challenge of balancing the expectations and needs of the community with the commitment of Government**

- We know how high profile parks and greenspaces have become as a result of the pandemic
- There continues to be a strong case to be made for Parks and their impact as one of the most important preventative services.
- Parks and greenspace contribute hugely to the public's quality of life and we need to retain and keep them available for the public to access
- APSE's opinion polling through Survation finds Parks as the highest regarded service by the public in each of the last seven years.

# Satisfaction levels vary between services

**Satisfaction with Services**  
(mean score out of 10) [comparison with 2020]



# Conclusions

- There is broad acceptance of benefits parks and greenspace – still awaiting evidence of sustainable and realistic financial support.
- Huge increase in visitor numbers – adding pressure on parks budgets when income has reduced.
- Increased connection with nature ongoing.
- Climate change and biodiversity now seen as key responsibilities for parks managers.
- Income generation will remain important
- Some signs of reduction in level of budget cuts.
- Need to continue fight to protect parks and greenspace

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# Contact details

**Paul Naylor, Executive Head of  
Neighbourhood Services, Eastleigh Council**

**Email: [pnaylor@eastleigh.gov.uk](mailto:pnaylor@eastleigh.gov.uk)**

**Association for Public Service Excellence**

3rd floor, Trafford House, Chester Road,  
Old Trafford, Manchester M32 0RS.

**telephone: 0161 772 1810**

**web: [www.apse.org.uk](http://www.apse.org.uk)**



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