# **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

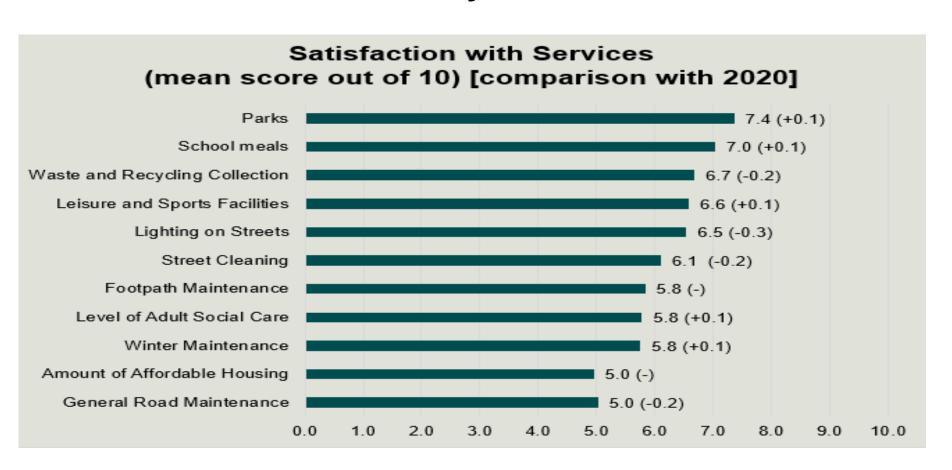
#### Is Government prepared to fund parks effectively?

- 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 publics 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



#### **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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