

# Report to Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel

Agenda  
Item:  
**A.3**

Meeting Date: 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021  
 Portfolio: Communities, Health and Wellbeing  
 Key Decision: No  
 Within Policy and Budget Framework: Yes  
 Public / Private: Public

Title: ACTIVE SPACES REVIEW  
 Report of: DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
 Report Number: CS 02/21

## Purpose / Summary:

The document outlines the planned programme of capital investment into the council's active spaces stock for 2021/22 whilst also giving the longer-term strategic direction for making improvements beyond next financial year.

## Recommendations:

The Panel are asked to review and make comments on the approach taken to manage active spaces.

## Tracking

Executive:	
Scrutiny:	15 <sup>th</sup> January 2021
Council:	

## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. Carlisle City Council inspects and maintains a wide range of active spaces across its parks and open spaces, mostly within urban wards.
- 1.2. Historically, play areas; multi-use games areas; BMX tracks; outdoor exercise areas; and skate parks have been looked at individually. The Active Spaces review brings these together to strategically assess the best locations in order to maximise the health and wellbeing benefits for the most people.
- 1.3. In 2013/14 the City Council undertook a play area review which established principles of quality and accessibility for our fixed equipment play area provision. The aim of the review was to increase the play value of the sites that we managed, whilst ensuring accessibility for residents.
- 1.4. This review builds on these principles and gives short- and medium-term priorities for all types of Active Spaces that the council will aim to deliver on. The review will be updated annually.
- 1.5. The current Active Spaces that Carlisle manages directly comprise:
  - 40 children's play areas;
  - six multi-use games areas;
  - three BMX pump tracks;
  - five outdoor exercise areas;
  - one skate park.
- 1.6. Facilities located in rural wards which are not included in this document are managed by the relevant parish council. The City Council supports parish councils by facilitating annual independent inspections of their sites for a minimal fee, offering advice and by seeking Section 106 (developer contribution) funding from applicable housing developments.
- 1.7. All Council sites are subject to a regular inspection programme by trained members of staff and external contractors.
- 1.8. Routine maintenance and repairs are scheduled according to the priorities determined by the inspection regime.

## 2. CONTRIBUTION TO HEALTH AND WELLBEING PRIORITIES

- 2.1. The Active Spaces review is a delivery mechanism for achieving the council priorities of improving the local environment and green spaces, and developing sports facilities and encouraging physical activity.
- 2.2. The improvement of our Active Spaces also links in with our aspirations for improving health and wellbeing through our status as a WHO Healthy City.
- 2.3. Carlisle is a member of WHO Healthy Cities programme, now in Phase VII, within which the 6 P's run through all the interventions.
- 2.4. WHO 6 "P"s:



- 2.5. The Active Spaces aims to enhance the role that our green spaces will take in improving our residents physical and mental wellbeing. This role has become even more important as we try and support residents and communities in the Covid recovery.
- 2.6. Active Spaces provide a valuable opportunity to promote physical activity from our residents throughout their life course. Increasing activity benefits individual's physical and mental health.

### 3. METHODOLOGY

3.1. The approach we have taken aims to maximise the funding available, which is then strategically targeted at sites that will provide the most benefit to local communities.

3.2. Sites are assessed under the following criteria:

- Safety
- Play / exercise / recreational value

3.3. Sites are then prioritised according to their need for improvement on these criteria.

3.4. The following documentation is used to inform these decisions:

- Independently conducted annual inspections
- Independently conducted six-monthly operational inspections
- Play Areas Inventory – this gives details of all the individual pieces of equipment on each site.

3.5. The sites are categorised into four categories which are reviewed annually:

Category	Definition
Priority 1	The site is in need of investment, subject to the confirmation of funding, the project is due to commence during the 2021/22 financial year.
Priority 2	A requirement for funding in the near future has been identified. Confirmation of funding availability may still be required.
Priority 3	Future requirement for medium to long term investment has been identified. Confirmation of funding availability will be required.
Priority 4	No requirement for capital investment identified.

3.6. Within this financial year we have existing projects where the funding has been committed and the work is due to complete by March 2021.

3.7. Appendix 1 shows the current Active Spaces projects and Priority 1-4 categories.

### 4. FUNDING

4.1. The aim is to deliver improvements in a prioritised order so that sites with the highest need for improvement are delivered first.

4.2. Funding is sought from a variety of sources, with some projects' funding coming

from several different sources in order to maximise the outcome. Funding sources in recent years have included:

- Council Capital funding
- External Grant funding
- Section 106 development contributions.

4.3. Approximately £642,000 of internal and external funding has been secured over the past five years in order to develop 14 active spaces in the City.

4.4. Projects may have to be carried out in a different order to that listed due to funding availability but will only be carried out where there is a need identified.

## **5. CONSULTATION**

5.1. All Active Spaces improvement projects are subject to consultation exercises with the local community, ward councillors and other stakeholders.

5.2. Consultation exercises are only undertaken following the confirmation of funding and when capacity in the work programme has been identified.

## **6. CONTRIBUTION TO THE CARLISLE PLAN PRIORITIES**

6.1. “Continue to improve the quality of our local environment and green spaces so that everyone can enjoy living, working in and visiting Carlisle”

6.2. “Further develop sports, arts and cultural facilities to support the health and wellbeing of our residents”

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**Appendices  
attached to report:**

- Active Spaces capital programme

**Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:**

- None

## **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS:**

**LEGAL –**

**FINANCE –**

**EQUALITY –**

**INFORMATION GOVERNANCE –**

## **Appendix 1**

### **Key**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Current Projects	Funding has been committed and the work is due to be completed in the 2020/21 financial year.
Priority 1	The site is in need of investment, subject to the confirmation of funding the project is due to commence during the 2021/22 financial year.
Priority 2	A requirement for funding in the near future has been identified. Confirmation of funding availability may still be required.
Priority 3	Future requirement for medium to long term investment has been identified. Confirmation of funding availability will be required.
Priority 4	No requirement for capital investment identified.

<b>Current Projects</b>					
Funding has been committed and the work is due to be completed in the 2020/21 financial year.					
Site	Investment Requirements	Estimated Expenditure (£ thousands)			Funding Available/ Confirmed
		0—10	10—35	35 +	
<b>Houghton</b>	Replacement of play equipment and safety surfacing with new.			✓	City Council Budgets.
<b>Hammonds Pond</b>	Play Area Replacement of infants and junior play equipment and safety surfacing with new.			✓	S106 funds; City Council Budgets.

**Priority 1**

The site is in need of investment, subject to the confirmation of funding the project is due to commence during the 2021/22 financial year.

<b>Site</b>	<b>Investment Requirements</b>	<b>Estimated Expenditure (£ thousands)</b>			<b>Funding Available/ Confirmed</b>
		<b>0—10</b>	<b>10—35</b>	<b>35 +</b>	
<b>Hammonds Pond</b>	Games Area Replacement of games wall and seating with outdoor exercise equipment.			✓	S106 funds; City Council budgets.
	BMX Track Repairs and resurfacing as required.		✓		S106 funds; City Council budgets.
<b>The Beeches</b>	Replacement of play equipment and safety surfacing with new.			✓	Not confirmed.
<b>Windsor Way</b>	Replacement of play equipment and safety surfacing with new. Potential relocation of equipment within site.			✓	S106 funds; City Council budgets
<b>Hadrian's Gardens</b>	Refurbishment of swings and seesaw, replacement of safety surfacing.		✓		Not confirmed.

**Priority 2**

A requirement for funding in the near future has been identified. Confirmation of funding availability may still be required.

<b>Site</b>	<b>Investment Requirements</b>	<b>Estimated Expenditure (£ thousands)</b>			<b>Funding Available/ Confirmed</b>
		<b>0—10</b>	<b>10—35</b>	<b>35 +</b>	
<b>Chances Park</b>	Replacement of custom timber multi-unit, climber and safety surfacing with new.		✓		Not confirmed.
<b>Yewdale Park</b>	Replacement of swings, multi-unit, roundabout and safety surfacing with new.		✓		Not confirmed.
<b>Cummersdale</b>	Replacement of safety surfacing with new.		✓		Not confirmed.
<b>Parkland Village</b>	Replacement of play equipment and safety surfacing with new.			✓	S106 funds.
<b>Dale End MUGA</b>	Refurbishment/repairs to fencing and teen shelter as required.		✓		S106 funds.
<b>Esk Road</b>	Removal of equipment or replacement of equipment and safety surfacing with new.		✓		Not confirmed.
<b>Briar Bank</b>	Replacement of equipment and safety surfacing with new.			✓	Not confirmed.

**Priority 3**

Future requirement for medium to long term investment has been identified. Confirmation of funding availability will be required.

Site	Investment Requirements	Estimated Expenditure (£ thousands)			Funding Available/ Confirmed
		0—10	10—35	35 +	
<b>Bitts Park Skate Park</b>	Refurbishment/replacement of skate features and surfacing as necessary.			✓	Not confirmed.
<b>Bitts Park</b>	Refurbishment of climber and replacement of safety surfacing with new.			✓	Not confirmed.
<b>Acredale Road</b>	Refurbishment/replacement of play equipment as necessary.		✓		Not confirmed.
<b>Acredale Road Outdoor Exercise</b>	Refurbishment/replacement of equipment as necessary.		✓		Not confirmed.
<b>Melbourne Park</b>	Replacement of aerial runway with new.		✓		Not confirmed.
<b>Edgehill Road</b>	Refurbishment/replacement of play equipment as necessary.			✓	Not confirmed.

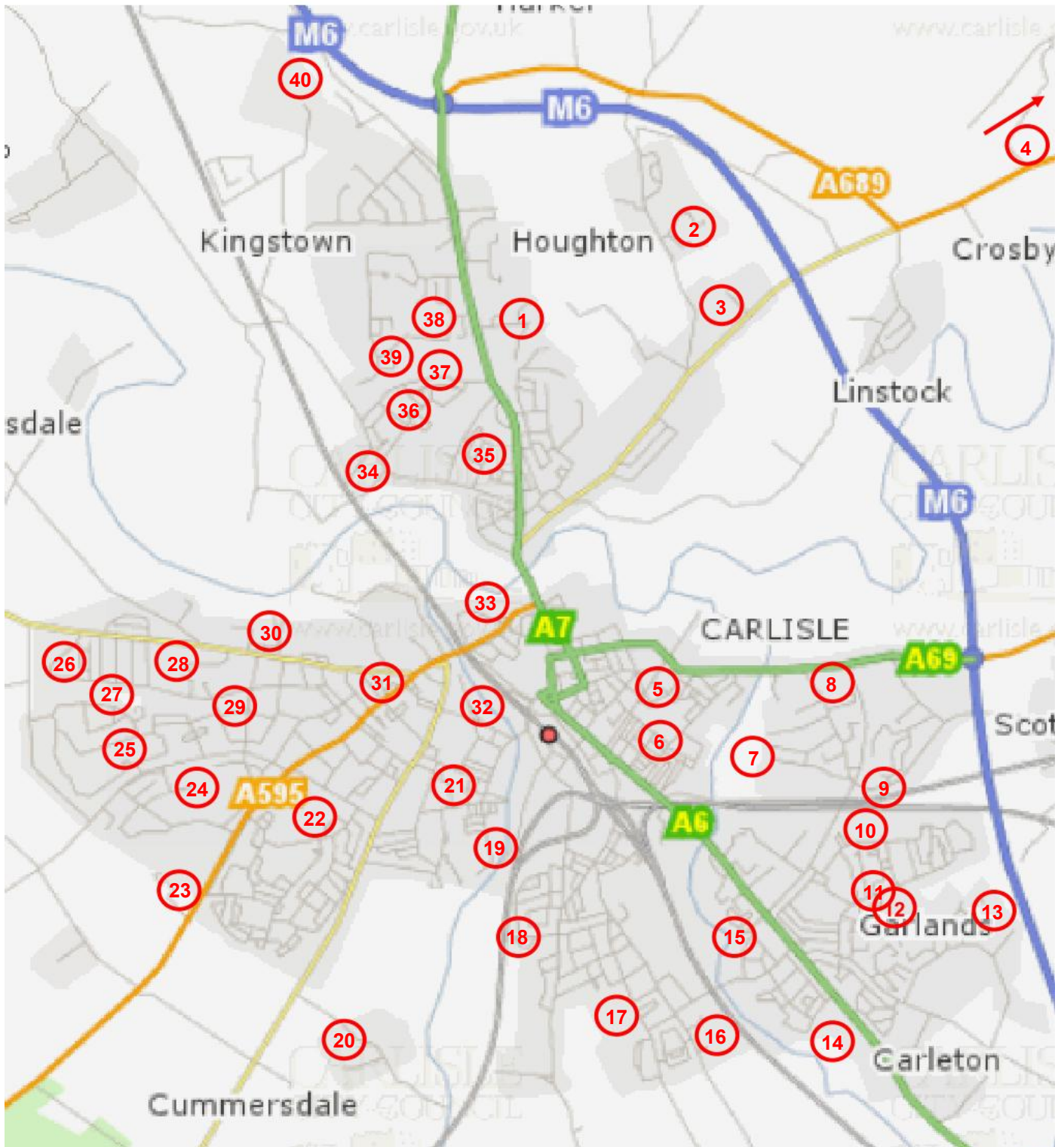
**Priority 4**

No requirement for capital investment identified.

<b>Site</b>	<b>Management Intentions</b>
<b>Bitts Park Outdoor Exercise</b>	Monitor and maintain as required.
<b>Milbourne Street</b>	Monitor and maintain as required.
<b>Jubilee Road</b>	Monitor and maintain as required.
<b>Brisco Meadows</b>	Monitor and maintain as required.
<b>Denton Holme</b>	Monitor and maintain as required.
<b>St James' Park</b>	Monitor and maintain as required.
<b>Chances Park MUGA</b>	Monitor and maintain as required.
<b>Yewdale Outdoor Exercise</b>	Monitor and maintain as required.
<b>Morton West</b>	Monitor and maintain as required.
<b>Trinity</b>	Monitor and maintain as required.
<b>Trinity MUGA</b>	Monitor and maintain as required.
<b>Turnstone Park</b>	Monitor and maintain as required.
<b>Spider Park</b>	Monitor and maintain as required.
<b>Heysham Park</b>	Monitor and maintain as required.
<b>Raffles MUGA</b>	Monitor and maintain as required.
<b>Heysham Park Extension</b>	Monitor and maintain as required.
<b>Broad Street</b>	Monitor and maintain as required.
<b>Fusehill Street</b>	Monitor and maintain as required.
<b>Charlotte Terrace</b>	Monitor and maintain as required.

<b>Site</b>	<b>Management Intentions</b>
<b>Pasture Walk</b>	Monitor and maintain as required.
<b>Melbourne Park MUGA</b>	Monitor and maintain as required.
<b>Melbourne Park BMX Pump Track</b>	Monitor and maintain as required.
<b>Keenan Park</b>	Monitor and maintain as required.
<b>Harraby Outdoor Exercise</b>	Monitor and maintain as required.
<b>Hunters Crescent</b>	Monitor and maintain as required.
<b>Dale End Field</b>	Monitor and maintain as required.
<b>Carliol Drive</b>	Monitor and maintain as required.
<b>Carliol Drive Outdoor Exercise</b>	Monitor and maintain as required.
<b>Clarksfield</b>	Monitor and maintain as required.
<b>Moorville Drive</b>	Monitor and maintain as required.
<b>Crindledyke</b>	Monitor and maintain as required.
<b>Briar Bank BMX Pump Track</b>	Monitor and maintain as required.
<b>Belah Parkside</b>	Monitor and maintain as required.
<b>Gleneagles Drive</b>	Monitor and maintain as required.
<b>Talkin Tarn</b>	Monitor and maintain as required.

## Active Spaces Location Plan—Play Areas



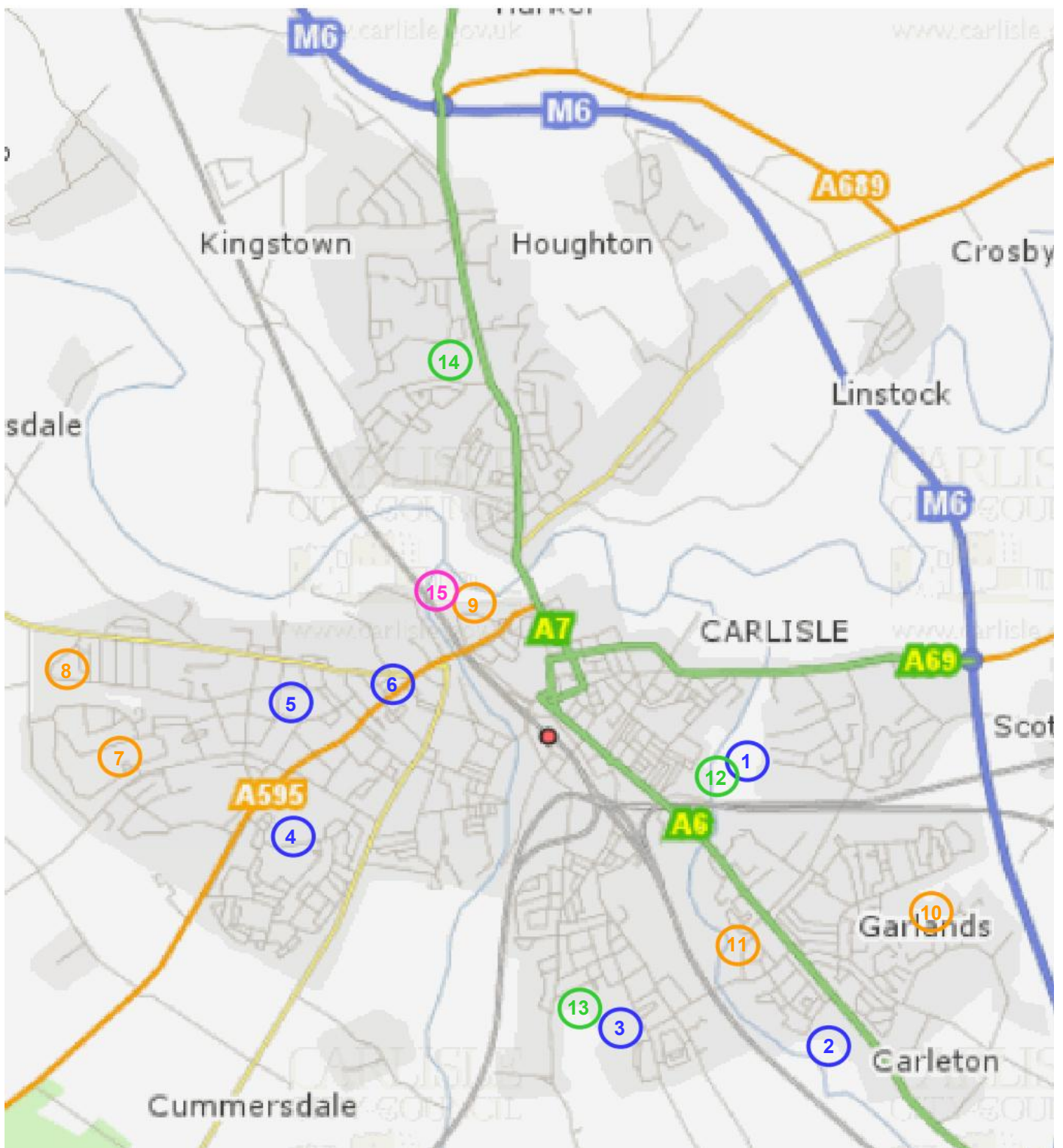
## **Active Spaces Locations—Key**

### **Play Areas**

1	Windsor Way
2	Houghton
3	Hadrian's Gardens
4	Talkin Tarn
5	Broad Street
6	Fusehill Street
7	Melbourne Park
8	Charlotte Terrace
9	Pasture Walk
10	Keenan Park
11	Edgehill Road
12	Hunters Crescent
13	Parkland Village
14	Dale End Field
15	Carliol Drive
16	Brisco Meadows
17	Hammonds Pond
18	Jubilee Road
19	Denton Holme
20	St James' Park

21	Cummersdale
22	Chances Park
23	The Beeches
24	Morton West
25	Yewdale Park
26	Acredale Road
27	Heysham Park Extension
28	Spider Park
29	Heysham Park
30	Turnstone Park
31	Trinity Churchyard
32	Milbourne Street
33	Bitts Park
34	Gleneagles Drive
35	Clarksfield
36	Belah Parkside
37	Briar Bank
38	Moorville Drive
39	Esk Road
40	Crindledyke

**Active Spaces Location Plan—Multi-Use Games Areas, Outdoor Exercise Areas, BMX Pump Tracks, Games Walls and Skate Parks**



<u>Active Spaces Locations—Key</u> <u>Multi-Use Games Areas</u>	
1	Melbourne Park
2	Dale End Field
3	Hammonds Pond
4	Chances Park
5	Raffles
6	Trinity Churchyard

<u>Active Spaces Locations—Key</u> <u>BMX Pump Tracks</u>	
12	Melbourne Park
13	Hammonds Pond
14	Briar Bank

<u>Active Spaces Locations—Key</u> <u>Outdoor Exercise Areas</u>	
7	Yewdale Park
8	Acredale Road
9	Bitts Park
10	Carliol Drive
11	Harraby

<u>Active Spaces Locations—Key</u> <u>Skate Parks</u>	
15	Bitts Park