

## Matter 10, Action 121

*Note to explain approach in areas where a shortfall of a particular typology of open space has been identified, of retaining all open spaces even where the scores of a particular site may be low. Also response to the question whether under these circumstances, has there been any assessment of which of the lower scoring sites has the most potential to be enhanced and hence taken forward as opposed to a more blanket approach.*

See response to Action 120.

An example of a site which scores poorly in terms of quality and value is Heather Bank, a semi-natural greenspace in Whitehaven (site 92). The OSA, page 128, notes that “*loss of site would result in settlement being below current provision levels in Copeland.*” The OSA therefore recommends this site for protection. The benefit of protecting such sites is that, should funding become available<sup>1</sup>, and if there is a willing land owner, this could be used to improve their quality and increase provision in the settlement.

The assessment does note that where quality/value cannot be improved protection of the site may not be warranted. The Council could carry out further assessment of these lower scoring sites to ascertain whether there is potential for future enhancement<sup>2</sup>. Sites which are unable to be improved could then be removed at Local Plan review stage, although these are likely to be few and far between.

The Council could make a commitment to carrying out this additional piece of work through additional text prior to policy N11: Protected Open Spaces:

**15.15.16: The Open Space Assessment identifies a number of protected open spaces that are of low quality at present. Where new open spaces cant be provided as part of new developments, developer contributions could be spent improving these poor quality spaces where there is a shortage in that particular typology within the settlement. The Council will carry out an assessment of low quality protected open spaces identified in the OSA to ascertain whether there is the potential for improvements, taking into account their availability.**

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<sup>1</sup> Including developer contributions in lieu of on site open space

<sup>2</sup> No such assessment has been undertaken at present