



7.1 Open space management analytical framework

operational levels. In England the falling status and budgets of open space management have resulted in an increasingly poorly motivated staff, and increased reliance on out-sourcing of open space services, with long-term implications for management standards. Key issues related to means of creating and maintaining the skills base required to face the challenges of managing open spaces.

## Research methodology

The research aimed to identify good practice in parks and urban open space management around the world using the experience in England as a comparator. As such, an early phase of the work involved the formulation of an analytical framework based around the key issues introduced above relating to the context for, and practice of, open space management in England. This is summarised in Figure 7.1 and formed the basis from which practices in different urban governance contexts,

cultures and public space traditions could be compared and lessons drawn.

The analytical framework was used as a basis to commission a series of reports from international experts on the management of urban parks and open spaces. Each expert was formally commissioned to prepare a report on their local practices following and addressing the structure and issues specified in the analytical framework. Time and resources did not allow original research in each country, although experts were encouraged to elicit the views of other key stakeholders and stakeholder groups within their country before compiling their reports. Reports were therefore based upon key stakeholder views, available existing case study data, secondary published sources and expert opinion.

Although the approach carried risks, these were heavily outweighed by the benefits. Foremost amongst among which were:

- the collaborative nature of the research and ability to tap into existing networks of expertise
- taking advantage of local in-depth knowledge about open space management and its institutional, political and financial context