

**FOR PUBLICATION**

**ENTERPRISE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT  
ON PARKS AND OPEN SPACES STRATEGY**

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MEETING: CABINET

DATE: 13 JANUARY 2015

REPORT BY: COMMITTEE AND SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATOR

WARD: ALL

COMMUNITY FORUM: ALL

KEY DECISION REFERENCE (IF APPLICABLE): FORWARD PLAN ENTRY REF:  
NON-KEY DECISION NO: 47

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FOR PUBLICATION

BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR PUBLIC REPORTS:

TITLE:

LOCATION:

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To present for consideration by Cabinet the report and recommendations of the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on the development and implementation of the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy.
- 1.2 To provide the statutory written notice that must be given by the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to Cabinet to take required action as at 3.3 below.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That Cabinet consider the recommendations of the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee as set out below :
- 2.2 That consultation is carried out with local residents and community groups when proposals are put forward for investment in a park or open space, in conjunction with promoting awareness of the health benefits. Such consultation should be in line with the Council's Community Engagement Strategy and regard should be given to the community engagement model produced by students from University of Nottingham's masters in public health course in partnership with Derbyshire County Council's Public Health Department.
- 2.3 That disability access should be prioritised when proposals are developed for investment in parks and open spaces.
- 2.4 That the Play Strategy be reviewed within the next 12 months in order to rationalise the provision of equipped play areas, taking into account the age profiles of the surrounding areas.
- 2.5 That the Council's website should be used more effectively to promote parks and open spaces with maps and details of community events and activities.
- 2.6 That signs and notices be used more effectively to promote the use of parks and open spaces.

## **3.0 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee agreed that a Scrutiny Project Group be appointed to look into matters associated with the development of the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy.
- 3.2 Further information and background detail are contained within the Scrutiny Review Panel's report attached at Appendix 1 which provides the purpose of the review and its findings.
- 3.3 Statutory Scrutiny Committees are also required to provide written statutory notice to Cabinet requiring action in response to its scrutiny report and recommendations. These actions require Cabinet to:
  - (i) consider the attached report and recommendations;
  - (ii) indicate the actions it proposes to take if any; and
  - (iii) publish its response within 2 months of the receipt of the report.

With regard to (i) and (ii) above the Council's Constitution provides for Cabinet to consider the report at the earliest practicable opportunity.

#### **4.0 SCRUTINY PROJECT GROUP REPORT**

- 4.1 The report of the Scrutiny Project Group was considered and its recommendations approved by the Scrutiny Committee on 18 December 2014 (Appendix A).
- 4.2 A further recommendation was put forward by the Committee (Recommendation 10.6 below) as it was considered that better signage would also promote usage of parks and open spaces in addition to the information provided online.
- 4.3 It was discussed that the improved signage could include information boards with details of the local landmarks, nature and biodiversity, as well as walking and cycling routes. Signs and notices used throughout the borough should be consistent and recognisable, as well as taking account of accessibility issues.
- 4.4 A workshop model developed by University of Nottingham students for consultation on the health benefits in using parks and green spaces, referred to in the recommendation at paragraph 10.2, is attached at Appendix B. Additional comments from the Members of the Scrutiny Committee are also included as the workshop model wording was received after the recommendations were approved by the Committee.

#### **5.0 RISK CONSIDERATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no risk considerations arising from the recommendations in this report.

#### **6.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 Action on recommendations in this report should be contained within existing budgets.

#### **7.0 LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no legal considerations arising from the recommendations in this report.

#### **8.0 EQUALITIES CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment is being completed as part of the development of the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy, and would be completed as part of the development of investment proposals for individual projects. The Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

recommend that the consideration of equality access is prioritised as part of this process so that reasonable adjustments are made to ensure access is promoted for people with disabilities.

## **9.0 HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS**

9.1 There are no human resourcing considerations arising from the recommendations in this report.

## **10.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

10.1 That Cabinet consider the recommendations of the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee as set out below:

10.2 That consultation is carried out with local residents and community groups when proposals are put forward for investment in a park or open space, in conjunction with promoting awareness of the health benefits. Such consultation should be in line with the Council's Community Engagement Strategy and regard should be given to the community engagement model produced by students from University of Nottingham's masters in public health course in partnership with Derbyshire County Council's Public Health Department.

10.3 That disability access should be prioritised when proposals are developed for investment in parks and open spaces.

10.4 That the Play Strategy be reviewed within the next 12 months in order to rationalise the provision of equipped play areas, taking into account the age profiles of the surrounding areas.

10.5 That the Council's website should be used more effectively to promote parks and open spaces with maps and details of community events and activities.

10.6 That signs and notices be used more effectively to promote the use of parks and open spaces.

## **11.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

To review the Council's strategy on Parks and Open Spaces and to contribute to the Council's overarching Health and Wellbeing plans.

DONNA CAIRNS  
COMMITTEE AND SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATOR

You can get more information about this report from Donna Cairns (Tel. 01246 3477).