

Report for: Cabinet 15 December 2015

Item number: 8

Title: Cabinet response to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Review of Finsbury Park Events

Report authorised by: Stephen McDonnell, Assistant Director of Environmental Services & Community Safety

Lead Officer: Simon Farrow, Head of Direct Services (interim), 020 8489 3639, simon.farrow@haringey.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: Harringay Ward and Stroud Green Ward

Report for Key/

Non Key Decision: Key

1. Describe the issue under consideration

1.1 The report sets out the proposed Cabinet response (attached as Appendix 1 to this report) to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Review of Finsbury Park Events (attached as Appendix 2 to this report), which was carried out over the summer of 2015.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

2.1 The Council welcome the recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as a positive contribution to addressing the needs of the local community while major events are held in Finsbury Park.

2.2 Over the summers of 2014 and 2015 much work was done to address local people's concerns around the organisation and management of these events.

2.3 While many acknowledge the improvements in delivery of events, we recognise that there is still plenty to do to ensure residents get the most out of the events and the effects are minimised.

2.3 The programme of major events for the summer of 2016 is currently being devised and the actions taken in view of the recommendations made by the Committee will positively contribute to the running of those events.

3. Recommendations

3.1 Members are asked:

- (a) To consider the Overview and Scrutiny Report of Finsbury Park Events (attached as Appendix 2).
- (b) To agree the responses to the Overview and Scrutiny report recommendations (attached as Appendix 1).

4. Reasons for decision

- 4.1 Haringey's Outdoor Events Policy came into effect in 2014, with subsequent large scale events taking place in Finsbury Park.
- 4.2 Over the summer of 2015 residents, park users, businesses, stakeholders and partners were invited by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to have their say on recent major events held in Finsbury Park, to reflect on, learn lessons from, and understand the impact of these events.
- 4.3 The Panel looked specifically at events held in Finsbury Park over summer and talked to people about planning and organisation; facilities; policing, security and crowd control; noise and complaints; transport, ingress and egress; damage and arrangements for remediation; and community engagement.
- 4.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee have now made a number of recommendations focused on how the Council and partners can improve their management of major events and handle the communication and flow of information around the events which will improve residents' knowledge and perception of when and why the events take place.

5. Alternative options considered

- 5.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee explored a number of views and opinions from a range of stakeholders to enable the collation of the report and subsequent recommendations.
- 5.2 The recommendations have been carefully considered. Responses to these have been drawn up to help the Council and its partners improve their management of major events and handle the communication and flow of information around the events, which will ultimately improve residents' knowledge and perception of when and why major events take place.

6. Background information

- 6.1 Haringey's Outdoor Events Policy was introduced in 2014, and since then the council has worked closely with statutory bodies, stakeholders and partners to ensure that together we successfully implement the Policy especially in regard to major events taking place within Finsbury Park.
- 6.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee review into Events in Finsbury Park was established:
 - (a) To understand the impact of recent events held in Finsbury Park to gain a greater understanding of the budget context for parks – including the income

and where this money is spent – and how this is balanced against the impact of local people and businesses.

(b) To consider the position of Finsbury Park as a major London park contributing to city-wide events.

(c) To reflect on recent large events that have taken place in Finsbury Park, with particular focus on the following: planning and organisation; facilities; policing, security and crowd control; noise and complaints; transport, ingress and egress; damage and arrangements for remediation; community engagement.

(d) In light of the above, to make recommendations to the Council and its partners for improvements in the arrangements for future events that are consistent with the aims and objectives of Haringey's Outdoor Events Policy and seek to minimise any potential adverse effects on the park.

6.3 One of the main reasons for carrying out the Scrutiny review was in response to public order concerns, particularly around attempts to break into the site relating to the Wireless Festival in July 2015.

7. Contribution to strategic outcomes

7.1 The recommendations and the responses made will contribute to policy and practice primarily in relation to Priority 3 of the Corporate Plan: 'A clean, well maintained and safe borough where people are proud to live and work'.

7.2 In addition, there are links to the Corporate Plan in relation to:
Priority 1: 'Enable every child and young person to have the best start in life...'
Priority 2: 'Enable all adults to live healthy, long and fulfilling lives'
Priority 4: 'Drive growth and employment from which everyone can benefit'

7.3 The section on tobacco also provides links to Key Priority 2 of Haringey's Health and Wellbeing Strategy in 'Increasing healthy life expectancy'.

7.4 The Medium Term Financial Plan sets out an increase of £600,000 of income during the period up to March 2018. All money raised by events is ring fenced back to the Parks budget to maintain and improve parks in the borough.

8. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)

8.1 Finance and Procurement

It is expected that implementing the agreed recommendations can be contained within existing budgets. If this subsequently proves not to be the case then funding will need to be identified before the recommended actions can take place.

8.2 Legal

Under Section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000 (“LGA”), Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the power to make reports or recommendations to Cabinet on matters which affect the Council’s area or the inhabitants of its area. Overview and Scrutiny Committee must by notice in writing require Cabinet to consider the report and recommendations.

Under Section 9FE of the LGA, there is a duty on Cabinet to respond to the Report, indicating what (if any) action Cabinet proposes to take, within 2 months of receiving the report and recommendations.

No specific legal implications arise in relation to the recommendations made and the Cabinet response set out in Appendix 1.

8.3 Equality

- (i) The Council has a public sector equality duty under the Equalities Act (2010) to have due regard to:
- Tackle discrimination and victimisation of persons that share the characteristics protected under S4 of the Act. These include the characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex (formerly gender) and sexual orientation;
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not;
 - Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.
- (ii) Haringey’s Outdoor Events Policy was agreed by Cabinet in December 2013. An equality screening tool was completed in regard to the proposed policy and that the proposal had no impact on protected characteristics other than religion or belief.
- (iii) The Outdoor Events Policy retains provision that organisations professing a religion or a belief can hire the park like any other group, but they cannot book the park primarily for an act of worship. Whilst this could have the effect of discouraging religious or belief organisations from using the park primarily for an act of worship such as praying, such events could by their nature exclude others from attending the events or using the park more generally. Further, the policy does permit acts of workshop where incidental to the overall event, for example a convention.
- (iv) Park users, in particular groups booking parks for events, are not monitored by protected characteristics. However, there was no evidence put forward during the review to suggest particular groups had experienced any disproportionate impact as a result of events taking place in Finsbury Park. In addition the Outdoor Events Policy aims to promote all events as inclusive to the whole community. For example, events for Friends groups are free while charges to community groups have been reduced.
- (v) To support this, a number of the Scrutiny recommendations have been put forward to help foster good relations, by promoting understanding between people from different groups, by developing a mixed and diverse range of events for Finsbury Park, and by identifying opportunities that help advance equality of opportunity.

9. Use of Appendices

9.1 Appendix 1 - Responses to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee report recommendations.

10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- a. Report of Overview and Scrutiny Committee –Finsbury Park Events Scrutiny Project -
[http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/Published/C00000128/M00007372/AI00046533/\\$CoverReportFinsburyParkEventsScrutinyProject2.docx.pdf](http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/Published/C00000128/M00007372/AI00046533/$CoverReportFinsburyParkEventsScrutinyProject2.docx.pdf)
- b. Finsbury Park Events Scrutiny Project: Appendix 1, 1a and 1b -
[http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/Published/C00000128/M00007372/AI00046533/\\$Appendix1FinalProjectReportwithAp1aandAp1b.docx.pdf](http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/Published/C00000128/M00007372/AI00046533/$Appendix1FinalProjectReportwithAp1aandAp1b.docx.pdf)
- c. Finsbury Park Events Scrutiny Project: Appendix 1c -
<http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/Published/C00000128/M00007372/AI00046533/Appendix1cFinsburyParkEventsScrutinyProject.pdf>
- d. Finsbury Park Events Scrutiny Project: Appendix 1d -
<http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/Published/C00000128/M00007372/AI00046533/Appendix1dToRFinsburyParkEventsStakeholderGroup2.pdf>
- e. Finsbury Park Events Scrutiny Project: Appendix 2 -
[http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/Published/C00000128/M00007372/AI00046533/\\$Appendix2Recommendations.docx.pdf](http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/Published/C00000128/M00007372/AI00046533/$Appendix2Recommendations.docx.pdf)
- f. Haringey's Outdoor Events Policy -
<http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/Published/C00000118/M00006442/AI00035723/OEPCLEAREDCOVERINGREPORT.pdf>
- g. Haringey's Health and Wellbeing strategy 2015 – 2018 -
http://www.haringey.gov.uk/sites/haringeygovuk/files/final_-_health_and_wellbeing_strategy_2015-18_0.pdf

