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22 February 2007

To: All Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee
c.c. All Other Persons Receiving Overview & Scrutiny Committee Agenda

Dear Councillor,

Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Monday, 26th February, 2007

I attach a copy of the following reports for the above-mentioned meeting which were not available at the time of collation of the agenda:

6. EXECUTIVE MEMBER QUESTIONS: EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING (PAGES 1 - 8)

Councillor Isidoros Diakides, Executive Member for Housing

7. EXECUTIVE MEMBER QUESTIONS: EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT & PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT (PAGES 9 - 12)

Councillor Dhiren Basu, Executive Member for Organisational Development & Performance Management

11. GREEN AND OPEN SPACES UPDATE (PAGES 13 - 30)

(Report of the Director of Adult, Culture and Community Services)

To update Members on the progress made in implementing the agreed recommendations, and to advise them of the outstanding work, and the proposed remaining programme and timetable for completion.

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Williams
Member Services

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DATE: 20 February 2007

RE: Overview of Housing Progress against Portfolio.

No	Area	Progress	Status
1	Lettings	Consulted upon and approved New Lettings Policy Introduced Choice Based Lettings (CBL) called Home Connections Completed a re-registration and re-pointing of all households on the Housing Register Agreed new nomination Agreement with Housing Associations	
2	Homelessness	Introduced new Prevention and Options service Ensured, award winning, high quality Domestic Violence service Developed a Temporary Accommodation Reduction Strategy Ensured Temporary Accommodation costs recovered in full Commenced conversion of temporary accommodation to settled accommodation within private sector.	
3	Strategic Framework	Produced updated Housing Strategy. Agreed to produce new Housing Strategy following consultation. Produced updated Homelessness Strategy Action Plan. Agreed to produce new Homelessness Strategy following consultation. Equalities and Diversity Framework approved following consultation. Private Sector Strategy currently subject to consultation. Established Housing Performance team. Established Strategy, Partnerships and Communications team. Developed close working with housing associations through Local Strategy Partnership (LSP) Commissioned and completed Housing Needs Survey. Made detailed response to Mayor's pre-draft Housing Strategy Made detailed response to the Cave Review of Social Housing regulation Made detailed response on the draft Sustainable Communities Plan. Contributing to the Well-Being theme group within the LSP	

No	Area	Progress	Status
		Worked with Housing Associations and other partners through the Housing Association Forum (HAF)	
4	Housing Supply 2006/7	<p>Agreed Appointment of housing associations key partners</p> <p>Secured funding for 945 new social housing homes over 2006/8.</p> <p>Target for 2006/7 625 units.</p> <p>Projected 2006/7 is 250 units.</p> <p>Established innovative Housing Association AST scheme (Notting Hill Housing Trust)</p> <p>Developed AST scheme with emergency accommodation providers</p> <p>Secured 77 new ASTs with private landlords</p> <p>Working to reduce Temporary Accommodation and meet national target.</p> <p>Ensured Council staff and housing Association staff liaising on Housing Development issues through Development sub committee of HAF</p>	
5	Private Sector	<p>Consulting upon private sector strategy.</p> <p>Working closely with Social Service on Aids and Adaptations</p> <p>Working with private landlords to let homes at a high standard</p>	
6	Partnership Working	<p>Strong and close working with housing associations</p> <p>Working with range of private sector landlords</p> <p>Working with Developers</p> <p>Working closely with DCLG to tackle Temporary Accommodation challenge</p> <p>Working closely with Audit Commission to tackle area of service weakness.</p> <p>Ensured Council staff and housing Association staff liaising on Housing Benefit issues through HB sub committee of HAF</p> <p>Ensured Council staff and housing Association staff liaising on Lettings issues through Lettings sub committee OF HAF</p>	
7	Homes for Haringey	<p>Monitoring performance against Management Agreement in monthly and quarterly monitoring meetings</p> <p>Reviewing the format of the monthly and quarterly reports</p>	

No	Area	Progress	Status
		Reviewing management agreement and Service Level Agreements Working with HfH on the Repairs procurement process Working together to ensure effective lettings service Contributed to revised Tenants Charter Agreed new Tenants Compact and new Participation strategy Participated in Board governance. Reviewed Housing Revenue Business Plan Review of HfH Delivery Plan and developing targets for 2007/08	
8	Equalities and Diversity	Produced Equalities and Diversity Framework after consultation Introducing more comprehensive monitoring on lettings Worked with Equalities division to produce diversity statistics for Home Connections and Lettings with agreement to produce for Equalities forum on a quarterly basis.	
		Audits against equality and diversity key codes of practice have commenced with target for completion 31/3/2007. The regular reporting of equalities and diversity information to SMT has commenced. The Equalities and Diversity Group will reconvene during March 2007 revised terms of reference that will deliver the scrutiny of data with recommendations from the group to SMT about issues and concern.	
9	External Liaison	Working closely with range of housing providers Contributing to work of London Councils Contributing to the work of the Mayor of London Working with Neighbourhood Management Working on regeneration bodies Working with the Police Working with the LSP Working with health services Working with the Voluntary Sector	

No	Area	Progress	Status
10	Regional and Sub regional Matters	Contributing to the sub regional and regional housing and planning processes. Working with Home Connections a sub regional CBL provider.	
11	Decent Homes	Working with Homes for Haringey to achieve Two Star inspection Working with Homes for Haringey to plan the roll out of the Decent Homes programme including funding from extra borrowing as a result of ALMO funding, Major Repairs funding and prudential funding.	
12	Regeneration	Working with a range of regeneration programmes and bodies such as Sure Start.	

Nigel Long

Strategy and Partnerships Manager

EXECUTIVE MEMBER QUESTIONS

Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Monday February 26th 2007

**Councillor Isidoros Diakides
Executive Member for Housing**

From Councillor John Bevan:

1. What progress has been made with ensuring joint working with the Empty Property Officer in partnership with Benefits and Local Taxation Service to design an up-to-date database showing the breakdown of all empty properties in the private sector?

Answer:

Meetings have been held between the EPO and Benefits/Taxation staff to improve joint working around empty property. The EPO has access to the Benefits/Taxation database which lists empty properties. This is used as a

basis for intervention work around private sector empty properties.

2. What is the current number of empty homes in Haringey.

Answer:

As at 1/4/2006, 2765 properties were empty.

3. Please can it be confirmed that the Empty Property Officer has direct access to the Council Tax database, to identify empty properties.

Answer:

The Empty Property Officer has had access to the Council Tax database for the past year, this has been a great help.

4. Please can it be confirmed that

The Directors of Housing & Environmental Services have designed clear standards and criteria for when enforced sales; compulsory purchases or empty homes management orders procedures should commence

Answer:

Enforcement action is considered at cross Dept. Enforcement Group meetings attended by Housing, Environment, Benefits/Taxation and Legal staff. The Empty Property Officer draws up an initial list for enforcement action, properties would be empty for over 1 year with the owner not co-operating. We are not aware of adopted criteria for enforced sales, CPO

and empty properties which have been signed off by members. However there is guidance and good practice.

Enforced Sales. Target properties are checked for debt first. Where debt to the Council of above £1,000 exists properties will be targeted for enforced sale. 2 enforced sales have succeeded (although one was not technically empty), with the owner paying the debt on a third. A further enforced sale was completed by Enforcement Service at the end of 2006.

Compulsory Purchase. An officer is currently being provided 1 day a week funded by the sub-region, who is working on potential CPO's and advising on the development of processes. He will prepare reports on suitable properties, however progress will depend on the identification of funds as the Authority has to specify that purchase funds are available for a CPO to succeed, even if it is planned to auction or sell on to a Housing Association. Reports on the first properties for consideration are in preparation following process work. The format and procedure for CPO which operates across the sub-region is being adopted by Haringey.

EDMO's. There are risks to the implantation of EDMOs due to a range of financial and practical difficulties. However it is pleasing to announce that the first interim EDMO has recently been served in the Country (South Oxfordshire DC). We are working in partnership with other sub-region authorities on a Management Order Contract which although initially focused on HMO licensing, now includes for empty properties. The contract is at the tender stage. In addition, we are working with letting agent partners in the accredited letting scheme in the development of an alternative voluntary scheme which would enable properties to be let as assured shorthold tenancies in the private sector.

5. Please advise as to how many enforced sales have been completed over the last 3 years.

Answer:

Two enforced sales have taken place, another failed as the owner paid the outstanding debt at the last moment. This property is still remaining vacant and we are targeting it for a CPO. A further enforced sale application is in process.

6. Please advise how many compulsory purchase orders have been completed over the last 3 years.

Answer:

There have been no CPO actions completed so far. However CPO action on 341-379 Seven Sisters Road is in progress. We are working on CPO proposals to Members concerning other certain long terms problem properties.

7. How many empty homes management orders have been implemented since the regulations came into force.

Answer:

None. There has only been one EDMO served in the whole country since the legislation was introduced in April 2006.

From Councillor Catherine Harris:

8. Why did he try to suppress all or some of the Homelessness and Allocations Scrutiny Review Report due at Overview & Scrutiny on 12/9/06?

Answer:

I did not at any time try to suppress or otherwise interfere with the content of the report referred to.

9. Why he met with the Leader of the Council, the Chair of Overview & Scrutiny and the Chair of the Review Panel the week before this to decide what would be in the report and whether the report in any version would be available at all? Why was this not left to the members of the full cross party Review Panel.

Answer:

The purpose of the meeting was to brief the Leader and myself on the recommendations in Overview and Scrutiny report, so that we could decide whether any urgent action was necessary.

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Organisational Development & Performance Management Briefing

Overview & Scrutiny – 26th February 2007

Improvement and Performance

Business Planning

- The Council's Business Units are completing their business plans for 2007/08 and these will be collated by the Performance Team. Each Directorate sets out how they will achieve their objectives with resources and targets. Information from the business plans will inform the Council Plan.

Council Plan

- The Council Plan explains how the council will achieve its priorities. It is being drafted and will set out the council's priorities, how these relate to the Community Strategy priorities and how the priorities will be delivered.
- The plan will contain an action plan for our priorities, based on information provided through the council's business planning process, together with a summary of the Council's Financial Strategy, performance against the Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) and 3 year targets. The plan will be published in April.

Ombudsman Enquiries

- The 19 day response time that the council achieves for ombudsman enquiries is the best for any London borough.
- There have been no cases of maladministration against Haringey Council for the last three years.

The Local Public Service Agreement

- We are finalising our claim for the Local Public Service Agreement reward grant. We met at least some of the stretch required on 9 of the 12 stretch targets in the agreement equating to a reward of almost £4.5M. Targets included were areas where we agreed to stretch our performance over and above what we would normally have achieved.
- The agreement covered the period 2003 to 2006. Some of the areas where we were successful included; reducing unauthorised absence, improving educational standards at Key Stage 4, reducing dumped rubbish and missed refuse collections, increasing energy efficiency in council homes, increasing the number of tenants re-housed, increasing the number of carers receiving assessment, increasing the number of people in extra care sheltered housing, improving education attainment for looked after children, increasing the number of those engaged in employment, education or training and improving overall cost effectiveness.

Personnel, Learning and Development

- Council sickness absence is reducing. Last year we had an average 10.4 days per employee. This year it is estimated we will end the year at 9.8 days.
- The use of agency temporary staff is being managed in accordance with our policy limiting duration. We are also on target to deliver our £800K savings on reduced supplier profits.
- Our staff survey indicates that 75% of permanent staff receive an annual appraisal up from 66% in 2004 and 41% in 2001. This year we will implement a revised appraisal format which is easier to administer and is linked to an improved competency framework.

- Our staff are more informed and committed than in recent years – again via the staff survey 90% of employees understand the council's aims and objectives; 87% know how they contribute to the Council's success

IT

Service Performance

The IT infrastructure remains stable with the overall availability and performance improving.

The Service Desk has shown marked improvement in performance with 61% of faults being resolved at the first call. The level of calls abandoned by callers has dropped massively, from 35-40% down to below 5% and the average answer time for queued calls has equally dropped from 2.5 minutes to sub 30 seconds.

The current areas of concern are:

1. Levels of storage (files and emails) continue to increase month on month despite improved housekeeping. A short term solution is being implemented while a longer term strategy is being developed.
2. Q-Matic – The system has been unstable for sometime. In order to stabilise the service and to simplify diagnosis of faults the remote server hosted by Serco will be migrated into the London Borough of Haringey network.

Capital Funds

The outline allocation of the ITS Capital programme is being discussed with senior management. At present these allocations are only indicative pending a detailed understanding from business units of the requirements and benefit to the council. In some cases monies have been reserved for strategic programmes that will improve services and enable the council to deliver through different channels such as SMS and geographical presentation. These are still to be more clearly defined as part of the individual projects. The process for expenditure authorisation and control is being determined and will need to be agreed with both CEMB and Member executive before being introduced.

Insource Programme

The Insourcing programme is now in the closure phase having successfully completed the delivery phase in December 2006 as planned. A programme closure report is being prepared for the final Programme Board meeting of 20th February 2007 that will document the programme out-turn. The report will include: a comparison of what was actually delivered versus what was planned for delivery; a comparison of the final costs versus what was budgeted; a handover of follow-on actions and activities; an ongoing benefits realisation plan; and the lessons learned. While the report is still being worked on and detailed figures are still to be finalised, the draft overall finding at this time is that materially, despite the many difficulties and uncertainties that are inherent in this type of undertaking in these circumstances, the programme delivered the desired outcomes within the timeframe and budget agreed by Members, and that this in turn sets the Council up to realise the longer-term benefits envisaged in the programme's business case.

Projects

A number of projects are currently being undertaken to deliver benefit to the council and its citizens.

- a. The software used by benefits and local taxation for managing the claims process is being upgraded.
- b. Mobile working pilots are being launched for PEPP and Benefit claim processing as well as an upgrade to mobile libraries.
- c. An urgent upgrade project was completed in time for the Libraries system to add new services and support changes in book identification numbering.
- d. The Siebel integration project to cleanse addresses and accept updates from the address gazetteer is due for completion in the next few weeks.
- e. The SAP team are currently scoping the activities for next year in support of the transactional efficiency programme.

- f. Work is being completed to ensure that the re-shaping exercise is not unduly affected by the IT systems in the council.
- g. A room booking management system for use by all users is being implemented and will be launched over the coming weeks
- h. Customer services are in the process of procuring a workforce management system to enable better resource planning for call centre staff.
- i. Design activity for the e-care financial interface to SAP is progressing well through a number of workshops.
- j. Shaping for the corporate Graphical information system strategy is well underway; functionality is planned for the coming financial year.

Cllr Dhiren Basu
Executive Member for Organisational Development and Performance

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Agenda item:

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**Date**

Report Title: Update on the Executive Response to the Scrutiny Review of Haringey's Green Open Spaces	
Report of: Assistant Director – Recreation Services	
Wards affected: All	
1. Purpose 1.1 To update Members on the progress made in implementing the agreed recommendations. 1.2 To advise Members of the outstanding work, and the proposed remaining programme and timetable for completion.	
2. Recommendations 2.1 That Members note the progress to date and the plan for 2007/8.	
Report Authorised by: John Morris	
Contact Officer: Paul Ely, Head of Policy & Development Telephone: 020 8489 5690 Email: paul.ely@haringey.gov.uk	
3. Executive Summary 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny review recommendations were considered by the Executive in July 2005. 3.2 The majority of recommendations approved by the Executive were then incorporated into the Haringey Open Space Strategy Action Plan approved by the Executive in November 2005. Development of the Strategy was itself one of the major recommendations of the Executive. 3.3 The major focus since this date has been to improve the quality of provision in the Borough's parks and open spaces.	
4. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 4.1 The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Open Spaces Review. Report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee April 2005. • Executive Response to the Scrutiny Review of Haringey's Green Open Spaces 5.7.05 	

5. Background

- 5.1 The Overview and Scrutiny review of Green Open Space made 24 recommendations which can be summarised under the following headings:
- Management and funding
 - Working with the community
 - Statutory planning issues
 - Biodiversity and nature conservation
 - Partnership working with Council and external service providers
 - Future work.
- 5.2 Central to the recommendations were adoption of the then draft Haringey Open Space Strategy and Action Plan which occurred in November 2005 and the use of the Green Flag national quality standard to improve the quality of parks and open spaces within the Borough.
- 5.3 In July 2006, the Council was awarded Green Flags for 7 parks, the highest number of any London borough. A target of 12 Green Flag parks has been set for 2010.
- 5.4 Subsequent to the review, substantial investment funding has been secured for parks and open spaces provided both by the Council and via external sources. An outline investment strategy has been developed for the next 5 years that covers current and proposed Green Flag sites, other open spaces and allotments.
- 5.5 The Borough is in the fortunate position of having approximately 30 Friends of Parks groups that meet on a regular basis in conjunction with Council officers. For 07/08, officers are proposing to resource a capacity building and inclusion initiative with the Friends groups, designed to develop their capacity and explore how Friends of Parks groups might be assisted to diversify their membership.
- 5.6 A number of statutory planning issues were the subject of review recommendations. The Executive chose to defer adopting recommendations when it considered the Scrutiny Panel report as the Council was at that time awaiting the report from the Enquiry Inspector for the draft UDP. This has subsequently been received and the UDP adopted. Comments in relation to the implementation of planning related issues have therefore now been incorporated within the attached Scrutiny Update.
- 5.7 Biodiversity and nature conservation recommendations have been partly addressed with the adoption of the Haringey Biodiversity Action Plan. However, other recommendations remain outstanding and these will be addressed in work programmes for 07/08.
- 5.8 The key recommendation for partnership working, also included within the Open Spaces Strategy, was to establish an Inter Departmental Forum within the Council to enable a more coordinated approach towards the management of open space. This was programmed for 06/07 but has now been revised to be implemented by June 2007.
- 5.9 The Panel recommended future reviews of allotments, backlands and private open space and that future work be undertaken on achieving Green Flag status for more of the Council's parks, ways in which parks are maintained and funded and usage of parks.
A scrutiny review of allotments has subsequently been undertaken and the recommendations for future work have been incorporated within Recreation Services business planning processes.

Appendices - 1. Scrutiny Action Plan Update

SCRUTINY UPDATE

Scrutiny Recommendation and Executive Decision	Target Implementation Date	What has been implemented and who Responsible	Implemented?	Service or Performance Improvement Measurable outcomes
		(who and what and when)	Yes/No*	<i>This must be completed</i>
<p>Recommendation One</p> <p>That the Council seek to develop a more integrated and co-ordinated model of Open Space management and that the Open Spaces Strategy should represent a renewed effort to co-ordinate and realign department priorities and approaches in order that there is a consistent Council - wide approach to managing open space.</p> <p><i>(Agreed /)</i></p> <p>Executive Decision (if Different)</p> <p>To establish a new, inter-departmental forum to co-ordinate planning in order to address issues of open space deficiency, quality and access.</p>	June 07	<p>To date, improved planning mechanisms have been established through the Better Haringey and Better Places groups. The new inter-departmental forum will be established in June 2007. Separately, standards for open space provision in Haringey are being developed for the UDP. An audit of housing open space and play provision has been undertaken.</p>	No	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forum established 2. Open Space standards adopted.
<p>Recommendation Two</p> <p>That representations be made to the DfES and ODPM regarding the lack of funding from Government towards the purchase of any new land (ie brownfield land or already</p>	N/A	<p>The proposed policy to build additional school accommodation on open space was rejected following representation. The</p>	Yes	N/A

<p>developed land) for the necessary building of new schools to accommodate the increase in pupil numbers due to the Government's target for new housing over the next decade to avoid pressure to expand onto Green Open Space.</p> <p><i>(/ Amended)</i> Executive Decision (if Different) That dialogue with Government departments concerning funding to enable necessary school expansion should continue.</p>		<p>Council has been successful in obtaining £165m from Government via the Building Schools for the Future programme for the development and improvement of local schools.</p>		
<p>Recommendation Three That in order to assist in park safety and maximising the diverse usage and to enable extra funding to be secured the Council be committed to developing a vision for all Green Open Space. Additionally a management plan for each park be developed. Furthermore inclusive accessibility should be a priority wherever possible and reasonable.</p> <p><i>(/ Amended)</i> Executive Decision (if Different) The vision for all Green Open Space is contained with the draft Open Space</p>	<p>Nov 2005</p>	<p>The Open Space Strategy was adopted by the Council in November 2005. Subsequent to the review, the Council, via its own and external funding, has invested over £5m in improving the quality of open space. This has addressed 'safety by design' issues. An additional £3m expenditure is estimated for 07/08. The Council had achieved 7 Green Flags by July 2006, the highest of any London Borough and is seeking 8 for 2007. Management Plans have been developed for each Green Flag site. A review of Council and other agency staffing for parks is currently in progress to address issues of safety and developing further usage.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strategy adopted. 2. Number of Green Flags awarded. 3. Parkforce review completed.

<p>Strategy. The draft Strategy does not currently propose developing a management plan for each site, rather it proposes that priority for the development of further management plans be given to potential Green Flag sites. This task is afforded high priority within the draft Open Space Strategy.</p> <p>The promotion of social inclusion and usage by all of Haringey's diverse communities is Objective 6 of the draft Open Space Strategy. A number of tasks are identified within the Action Plan to enable this objective to be obtained.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Expanding the Parks Constabulary - Priority High · Increasing usage - Priority High · Improving safety by design - Priority High · Assisting Friends of Parks groups to access external funding - Priority Medium 				
<p>Recommendation Four</p> <p>That the Council recognise the importance of working with Friends Groups and other stakeholders and develop partnerships to assist in the management and promotion of open spaces and to secure external funding.</p> <p><i>(Agreed / Executive Decision (if Different)</i></p> <p>The Executive noted that Objective 3 of the Open Space Strategy sought to “involve the whole community in the management of parks and open space” and that within the Open Space Action Plan there was an action to “Develop the capacity of the voluntary</p>	<p>March 2008</p>	<p>The number of Friends of Parks groups has continued to increase and there are now approximately 30 across the Borough, one of the highest in London.</p> <p>A new, temporary post is currently being considered for 07/08 to enable the development of voluntary sector capacity.</p>	<p>No</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of Friends groups operating. 2. Appointment of temporary officer.

sector in order to enable voluntary and community organisations to take a more active role in the management, development and funding of parks”.				
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<p>Recommendation Five That in respect of any proposals to develop on Open Space there be a consultation process including clear definitions of land classifications</p> <p>(/ Amended) <i>Executive Decision (if Different)</i> These are policy issues which are currently being considered as part of the Inquiry into the draft UDP. No response will therefore be made at this stage.</p>	Ongoing	<p>Clear definitions of land classifications are included within the Open Space chapter of the UDP. They are Green Belt, Metropolitan Open Land, and Significant Local Open Land. Other categories include Historic Parks Gardens and Landscapes, Other Open Space, Heritage Land, Allotments and Playing Fields. As part of any application to develop open space there would be a consultation process that would take place. The Council has a Council Consultation Strategy 2002 and there are also Development Control guidelines in respect of consultation.</p> <p>The development of standards for open space provision is being progressed in 07/08</p>	Yes	1. Standards to be adopted by Council.
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<p>Recommendation Six That all Council services accept and respect the policy of protection of existing Green Open Spaces.</p> <p><i>(Amended)</i> <i>Executive Decision (if Different)</i> These are policy issues which are currently being considered as part of the Inquiry into the draft UDP. No response will therefore be made at this stage.</p>	Ongoing	The policies within the Open Space chapter of the UDP all accept and respect the protection of existing green opens spaces, and there are other cross cutting policies within the Plan that reinforce this acceptance.	Yes	N/A
<p>Recommendation Seven That the criteria for Green Flag sites be adopted as a standard to which all parks and open spaces should aspire</p> <p><i>(Agreed /)</i> <i>Executive Decision (if Different)</i> "To use the Green Flag criteria as the standard to be aspired to for the management of all open space" - Priority High/Medium</p>	Nov 2005	<p>The Council, via the Open Space Strategy, formally adopted this recommendation in November 2005.</p> <p>Green Flag status has been achieved for Bruce Castle Park, Railway Fields, Chapmans Green, Priory Park, Stationers Park and Albert Road Recreation Ground. The Council is seeking to retain these awards and obtain Green Flag status for Finsbury Park in 2007.</p> <p>A target of 12 Green Flag parks has been set for 2010.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>	1. Number of Green Flags awarded to Parks in Haringey per year.

<p>“To retain the Green Flags already awarded for Priory Park, Bruce Castle Park, Railway Fields and Stationers Park, and to prioritise the following sites for future Green Flag awards: Albert Recreation Ground, Woodside Park, Downhills Park, Finsbury Park, Chestnuts Park, Lordship Recreation Ground, Chapmans Green, Wood Green and Tottenham Cemeteries”. - Priority High/Medium</p>				
<p>Recommendation Eight That the Council consider finding resources for the appointment of dedicated on site staff/park wardens for each substantial Green Open Space</p> <p>(/ Amended) Executive Decision (if Different) The promotion of social inclusion and usage by all of Haringey’s diverse communities is Objective 6 of the draft Open Space Strategy. A number of tasks are identified within the Action Plan to enable this objective to be obtained.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Expanding the Parks Constabulary - Priority High · Increasing usage - Priority High · Improving safety by design - Priority High · Assisting Friends of Parks groups to access external funding - Priority Medium 	<p>Sept 07</p>	<p>The Parkforce review, previously referred to at recommendation 3 is currently being progressed in conjunction with Friends of Parks groups and other stakeholders. A key element of the review is the identification of the ‘significant’ parks and open spaces in the Borough with priority for resources being given to ‘significant’ sites. The review will report in 07/08.</p>	<p>No</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parkforce review completed. 2. Review recommendation approved.

<p>Recommendation Nine That there be strategic consideration given to the use of Brownfield land or existing buildings surplus to current pressures in relation to the provision of community needs and housing so that perceived needs for housing development on Open Space is removed</p> <p>(/ Amended) <i>Executive Decision (if Different)</i> These are policy issues which are currently being considered as part of the Inquiry into the draft UDP. No response will therefore be made at this stage.</p>	Ongoing	<p>Policy HSG1 New Housing Development within the UDP makes clear the need for a sequential approach in terms of appropriate sites for housing. The sequential approach makes clear that the preferred location for housing would be on previously developed land. More specifically the Council will consider the following locations first:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites with high accessibility to public transport facilities; or • Redevelopment of existing housing sites at higher densities where appropriate; or • Re-use of buildings, including empty properties; or • Redundant/derelict sites. 	Yes	N/A
<p>Recommendation Ten That the Assistant Director Streetscene approach Transport for London with a view to seeking to transfer responsibility for TfL maintenance of TfL owned highways verges to Haringey (/ Rejected / <i>Executive Decision (if Different)</i></p>	N/A	(Rejected)	N/A	N/A

<p>The Executive did not respond specifically to this recommendation.</p>				
<p>Recommendation Eleven That the Housing Service keep details of Estate refurbishment's in relation to play facilities in order to be appraised of the adequacy of the provision</p> <p><i>(Agreed / Executive Decision (if Different))</i> The draft Open Spaces Strategy recommends an audit of play provision and the production of an outdoor play facilities strategy. This would incorporate play provision on housing estates. This is accorded a high priority.</p>	<p>March 2006</p>	<p>The audit of play facilities was completed in March 2006. This included facilities in parks and open space and on housing estates and covered playgrounds and ballcourts. An outdoor play facilities strategy for open space and housing estates will be developed in 07/08.</p>	<p>Audit completed March 06</p>	<p>1. Strategy completed in 07/08.</p>
<p>Recommendation Twelve That the Education Service be requested to examine the potential for community use of its open space and when considering school extensions Education Services be encouraged to expand upwards rather than outwards eg by building roof gardens and play decks</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Our policies on open space contained within the open space chapter all seek to safeguard open space from development. Even where that open space does not have a particular designation (e.g. MOL) policy OS10 of the UDP entitled "Other Open Space" seeks to preserve open space except in exceptional circumstances including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the appearance of the open space; • Activities associated with the open space use; 	<p>N/A</p>	<p>No specific targets to be set. Ongoing.</p>

<p>(/ Amended) <i>Executive Decision (if Different)</i> To investigate the potential for dual use of school playing fields.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if replacement open space of equivalent size and quality has been secured within the immediate locality for similar use; • If the development would not result in the loss of play space or any other facilities for children unless replacement is possible in a nearby and appropriate location; • If the development will not result in a deterioration of the open space, or where the quality of the open space can be safeguarded by the use of conditions; and • Improving the ecological quality of the site for the benefit of wildlife and biodiversity. <p>Relevant joint planning work is currently being undertaken between Recreation and Children's Services in the areas of Building Schools for the Future and Parks Management Plans.</p>		
<p>Recommendation Thirteen That there be a strategic and shared approach to the provision of sports and play facilities to ensure the efficient use of land (Agreed / <i>Executive Decision (if Different)</i></p>	<p>See Twelve above.</p>		

To investigate the potential for dual use of school playing fields.				
<p>Recommendation Fourteen</p> <p>That the Assistant Director Streetscene be requested to ascertain from appropriate expert advice whether work undertaken on behalf of Streetscene could be done more beneficially to wildlife and possibly at lower cost</p> <p><i>(// Amended)</i></p> <p>Executive Decision (if Different)</p> <p>That an assessment be undertaken by Recreation Services and Streetscene of the potential to reduce the frequency of cutting grass side verges in order to encourage wildlife and the cost implications of this.</p>	March 2006	The feasibility of this recommendation has been assessed and officers have concluded that the positive benefits for wildlife would be undermined by the likelihood that grass side verges which were perceived as being poorly maintained would become depositors for abandoned litter.	Yes	N/A
<p>Recommendation Fifteen</p> <p>That Planning officers draw up an inventory of all possible new open space sites throughout Haringey which should be reviewed annually in consultation with local community groups. There are numerous sites within the Borough where access could be achieved for community use. The Council should take special care to ensure the possibility of securing regeneration funding to secure provision and protection of these spaces</p> <p><i>(// Amended)</i></p> <p>Executive Decision (if Different)</p> <p>That the inter-departmental forum proposed within the draft Open Space Strategy to co-ordinate planning in order to address issues</p>	June 2007	An audit of housing open land was completed in June 2006. The inter-departmental forum will be established in June 2007.	No	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Interdepartmental Forum established. 2. Standards for open space provision adopted.

<p>of open space deficiency, quality and access should also consider funding issues to enable access to the new open space and the protection of existing space.</p>				
<p>Recommendation Sixteen That in respect of planning applications for large sites the Planning Service be urged to specify the creation of new Green Open Spaces in order to provide for the projected increase in population</p> <p><i>/ Amended)</i> <i>Executive Decision (if Different)</i> These are policy issues which are currently being considered as part of the Inquiry into the draft UDP. No response will therefore be made at this stage.</p>		<p>The adoption of the UDP has addressed this issue.</p> <p>Policy OS15 of the UDP is concerned with Open Space Deficiency and New Developments and states that "In areas of identified open space deficiency proposals for major new developments will be expected to: a) provide an appropriate area of open space; or b) improve the accessibility or quality of nearby open space. The policy also refers to the Atkins Assessment and the open space deficiency in the borough, and the need not to exacerbate this deficiency any further.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. UDP adopted.</p>
<p>Recommendation Seventeen That the Panel wholeheartedly welcomes the Council's decision to ensure the continued protection of Significant Local Open Land (SLOL) by withdrawing OSA2 of the draft Unitary Development Plan and reinstating the previous policy OS2</p>		<p>I can confirm that the previous policy OS2 has now been adopted as part of the UDP.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. UDP adopted.</p>

<p>(Amended) <i>Executive Decision (if Different)</i> These are policy issues which are currently being considered as part of the Inquiry into the draft UDP. No response will therefore be made at this stage.</p>				
<p>Recommendation Eighteen That the Planning Service initiates a continuous database of Open Space built on as a result of the planning process and split into different categories eg commercial, residential</p> <p>(Agreed / Rejected / Amended) <i>Executive Decision (if Different)</i> The draft Open Spaces Strategy recommends that changes (losses and gains) in publicly accessible open space be monitored and that data be published on an annual basis.</p>	Nov 2005	The Executive's recommendation was confirmed with the approval of the Open Spaces Strategy in November 2005. It is likely that the Interdepartmental forum for open space will take on this role as part of its terms of reference.	No	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Net gains/losses recorded. 2. Data published on an annual basis.
<p>Recommendation Nineteen That biodiversity be considered an intrinsic part of the management of parks and green corridors and consideration be given to reducing the frequency of cutting grass side verges in some areas in order to encourage wildlife. There is a need for sensitive management tailored to meet the needs of each specific site, taking into account basic ecological principles. The Panel further recommends that the Biodiversity Action Plan be adopted without delay</p> <p>(Agreed) <i>Executive Decision (if Different)</i></p>	Nov 2005	The Biodiversity Action Plan was adopted via the Haringey Open Space Strategy in November 2005.	Yes	N/A

The draft Open Space Strategy recommends adoption of the Biodiversity Action Plan.				
<p>Recommendation Twenty That environmental assessment and impact studies be carried out before any events are held in parks and that events be restricted to certain parks and contained within specific areas and that any damage caused by events be made good</p> <p><i>(Agreed)</i> <i>Executive Decision (if Different)</i> The draft Open Space Strategy proposes that an audit be undertaken of spaces suitable for providing arts, activities, events and festivals and that an arts, events and festivals strategy be developed for open space. The audit is considered high priority and a necessary prerequisite for the development of a strategy.</p>	July 2006	<p>The Audit was completed in July 06. The Strategy is included in the Recreation Services work plan for 07/08</p>	<p>Yes No</p>	1. Open Space festivals strategy developed.
<p>Recommendation Twenty one That an inventory of Open Spaces be developed with respect to biodiversity and nature conservation</p> <p><i>(Agreed)</i> <i>Executive Decision (if Different)</i> That Recreation Services develop an inventory of open spaces which support biodiversity and nature conservation.</p>		<p>The UDP has an existing inventory of sites which support biodiversity and nature conservation. Recreation Services have not been able to further develop this inventory to date.</p>	No	
<p>Recommendation Twenty two That the importance of parks be recognised and representations be made to the Government and the Audit Commission that</p>	N/A	<p>The Audit Commission have not included Green Flags or any other Parks indicators within the</p>	N/A	

<p>Parks protection, maintenance, usage and expansion be included as an area for additional assessment within the Comprehensive Performance Assessment process</p> <p><i>(Agreed)</i> <i>Executive Decision (if Different)</i> Best Value Performance Indicator 199 concerning the cleanliness and presentation of open space is part of the CPA assessment process.</p> <p>The Council's response to the current Audit Commission consultation process on new Cultural Services Block performance indicators should take into account the Panel recommendations.</p>		<p>key Performance Indicators for the Cultural Services Block.</p>		
<p>Recommendation Twenty three That the Council consider future Scrutiny reviews (covering biodiversity, access and protection) of allotments, backlands and private space including commercial statutory undertakers land and gardens</p> <p><i>(Agreed / Rejected / Amended)</i> <i>Executive Decision (if Different)</i> A review of allotments has been proposed for the current municipal year.</p> <p>Consideration will be given in future years for the review of backlands and private space including commercial statutory undertaken land and gardens.</p>	<p>March 2006</p>	<p>The review of allotments was undertaken in the financial year 05/06 and has led to the establishment of a borough-wide allotments forum.</p> <p>Additional capital expenditure is being proposed for the financial year 07/08 to improve infrastructure on allotments.</p> <p>There is a current SPG on</p>	<p>Yes (in part)</p>	

		Backland Development which states very clear perimeters for when development can take place. Planning has no plans to carry out future Scrutiny reviews on any of the above topics.		
<p>Recommendation Twenty four</p> <p>That future work be undertaken on the following areas:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieving green flag status for more of the Council's parks • Ways in which Parks are maintained and funded • Usage of Parks to determine whether they satisfy the current demand <p>(/ Amended)</p> <p><i>Executive Decision (if Different)</i></p> <p>“To use the Green Flag criteria as the standard to be aspired to for the management of all open space”.</p> <p>“To retain the Green Flags already awarded for Priory Park, Bruce Castle Park, Railway Fields and Stationers Park, and to prioritise the following sites for future Green Flag awards: Albert Recreation Ground, Woodside Park, Downhills Park, Finsbury Park, Chestnuts Park, Lordship Recreation Ground, Chapmans Green, Wood Green and Tottenham Cemeteries”.</p>	2010	The Council now has 7 Green Flag parks, the highest number of any borough in London. Through the LAA, it is proposed to achieve 12 Green Flag parks by 2010.	Yes	1. Number of Green Flag parks.

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