

Report for: Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 26 March 2018

Item number: 12

Title: Scrutiny Review on Parks

Report authorised by: Cllr Tim Gallagher, Chair of Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel

Lead Officer: Robert Mack, 020 8489 2921 rob.mack@haringey.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: All

**Report for Key/
Non Key Decision:**

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 Under the agreed terms of reference, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) can assist the Council and the Cabinet in its budgetary and policy framework through conducting in-depth analysis of local policy issues and can make recommendations for service development or improvement. The Committee may:
- (a) Review the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas;
 - (b) Conduct research to assist in specific investigations. This may involve surveys, focus groups, public meetings and/or site visits;
 - (c) Make reports and recommendations, on issues affecting the authority's area, or its inhabitants, to Full Council, its Committees or Sub-Committees, the Executive, or to other appropriate external bodies.
- 1.2 In this context, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 17 July agreed to set up a review project to look at the issue of parks that would be undertaken by the Environment and Community Safety Panel.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

N/A

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That the report and its recommendations be approved and submitted to Cabinet for response.

4. Reasons for decision

- 4.1 The Committee is requested to approve the report and the recommendations within it so that it may be submitted to Cabinet for response.

5. Alternative options considered

- 5.1 The Committee could decide not to approve the report and its recommendations, which would mean that it could not be referred to Cabinet response.

6. Background information

- 6.1 The rationale for the setting up of the review, including the scope and terms of reference, is outlined in paragraphs 1.1 to 1.6 of the report.

7. Contribution to strategic outcomes

- 7.1 This review relates directly to Corporate Plan Priority 3 – “A clean, well maintained and safe borough where people are proud to live and work”. However, parks also make a contribution to;
- Priorities 1 and 2, in terms of people’s activity levels, food growing and children’s play; and
 - Priorities 4 and 5, in terms of the creation of new green space or investment into existing green space and employment of apprentices or new business opportunities within parks.

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

Finance and Procurement

- 8.1 Where there are financial implications of implementing the recommendations within this report, it is important that the recommendations are fully costed and a funding source identified before they can be agreed. If the recommendation requires funding beyond existing budgets or available external funding, then Cabinet will need to agree the additional funding before any proposed action can proceed.

Legal

- 8.2 Under Section 9F Local Government Act 2000 (“The Act”), Overview and Scrutiny Committee have the powers to review or scrutinise decisions made or other action taken in connection with the discharge of any executive and non-executive functions and to make reports or recommendations to the executive or to the authority with respect to the discharge of those functions. Overview and Scrutiny Committee also have the powers to make reports or recommendations to the executive or to the authority on matters which affect the authority’s area or the inhabitants of its area. Under Section 9FA of the Act, Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the power to appoint a sub-committee to assist with the discharge of its scrutiny functions. Such sub-committee may not discharge any functions other than those conferred on it.
- 8.3 Pursuant to the above provisions, Overview and Scrutiny Committee has establish Scrutiny Review Panels of which include Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel to discharge on its behalf defined scrutiny functions. On

the request from Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel has undertaken a review on parks. In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Panel must refer the outcome of its review to Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration and approval.

- 8.4 The remit of the Scrutiny Panel's review is defined in the terms of reference set out in the review report. The Scrutiny Panel should keep to the terms of reference and ensure that its findings and recommendations are based good evidence, accord with good practice and are reasonable and rational.

Equality

- 8.5 The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- 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.

- 8.6 The three parts of the duty applies to the following protected characteristics: age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy/maternity; race; religion/faith; sex and sexual orientation. In addition, marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty.

- 8.7 The Committee should ensure that it addresses these duties by considering them during final scoping, evidence gathering and final reporting. This should include considering and clearly stating: How policy issues impact on different groups within the community, particularly those that share the nine protected characteristics; Whether the impact on particular groups is fair and proportionate; Whether there is equality of access to service and fair representation of all groups within Haringey; Whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people, are being realised.

- 8.8 The Committee should ensure that equalities comments are based on evidence, when possible. Wherever possible this should include demographic and service level data and evidence of residents/service-users views gathered through consultation.

9. Use of Appendices

Appendix A: Draft report of Scrutiny Review on Parks

10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985