

Report for: Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel – 11 March 2019

Title: Parks Improvement Plan

Report authorised by: David Murray, Acting Assistant Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods.

Lead Officer: David Murray, Acting Assistant Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods.

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Ward(s) affected: N/A

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

1. Describe the issue under consideration

1.1 This briefing note sets out how the Scrutiny Panel can positively contribute to the parks improvement plan currently being formulated.

2. Recommendations

2.1 To note the work being undertaken as part of a Parks Improvement Plan and to provide comments on how the Panel would like to be involved in shaping this plan.

3. Background

3.1 Keep Britain Tidy have conducted an unprecedented number of mystery shopping visits to Haringey's parks. During September, October and November all of the Council run Green Flag parks were inspected.

3.2 Following these inspections, officers of the Council have met KBT several times to clarify the situation and explore what is happening, and how to move on collaboratively.

3.3 All of the inspection reports and associated documents are on the website. <https://www.haringey.gov.uk/libraries-sport-and-leisure/parks-and-open-spaces/green-flag/green-flag-reports-2018>

3.4 Alongside this work, officers have been reviewing both the 'vision' for parks and the operational delivery of parks development and maintenance to ensure that the parks remain a valued resource, within the context of serious financial pressures affecting the Council as a whole.

4. Current issues

4.1 Following conversations with Members, Friends' Groups and Keep Britain Tidy, a suggested way forward has been agreed that will:

- Include an involvement and participation process. The aim of this is to use the inspection regime of KBT to integrate the Council's internal processes, KBT's external inspections and the comments and ideas of Friends' Groups, volunteers and Members. This will enable us to be totally transparent with everyone about what we are thinking, planning, inspection findings, and other people's ideas so we can collate those into an agreed and integrated action plan for each park
- Set this will within a refreshed vision for our parks that will also result from this work;
- Invest time now to deliver a better outcome later.

4.2 As part of this process, O&S will be able to pro-actively contribute to, and review, work as it takes place.

5. Next Steps

5.1 Officers will propose to the Cabinet Member for Environment an outline timetable and approach for this work.

5.2 A further update will be provided to the Panel at its next meeting on 8th April.