

Report for: Cabinet 18 October 2016

Item number: 9

Title: Cabinet response to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Review on Community Safety in Parks

Report authorised by: Stephen McDonnell, Assistant Director: Commercial and Operations

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Ward(s) affected: All wards

Report for Key/  
Non Key Decision: Key

1. Describe the issue under consideration
  - 1.1 The report sets out the proposed Cabinet response to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Review of Community Safety in Parks (attached as Appendix 1 to this report), which was carried out over the spring in 2016.
2. Cabinet Member introductions
  - 2.1 I welcome the recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as a positive contribution to improving community safety in parks.
  - 2.2 Haringey parks are well used. Millions of visits are made each year and on the whole park users feel safe when doing so. The borough's Open Space Strategy makes a commitment to 'enrich the quality of life for everyone in Haringey by working in partnership to provide safe, attractively designed, well used, well maintained open spaces for the benefit and enjoyment of the whole community
  - 2.3 It is encouraging to note that evidence received by the Committee reflects this and suggests that crime levels within Haringey parks are already comparatively low and that there is no evidence of any significant increase in recent years.
  - 2.4 Haringey's thriving parks are testament to the strength of relationship between the Council's Parks Service, our business partners and the ongoing commitment from our local residents and Friends Groups. While we rightly acknowledge and celebrate this, we recognise that there are always improvements to be made to enhance parks users' experience and recognise the recommendations will do this.
3. Recommendations

3.1 Members are asked:

- (a) To consider the Overview and Scrutiny Report on Community Safety in Parks (attached as Appendix 1).
- (b) To agree the responses to the Overview and Scrutiny report recommendations (attached as Appendix 2).

4. Reasons for decision

- 4.1 Haringey parks are safe places, enjoyed by many.
- 4.2 Over the spring of 2016 partners and stakeholders were invited by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to present their evidence and opinions on community safety in the borough's parks.
- 4.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has now made a number of recommendations focused on how the Council and its partners can improve the visitor experience when using the borough's parks and how these improvements can enhance community safety and highlight how safe the parks are already to use.

5. Alternative options considered

- 5.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee explored a number of views and opinions from a range of partners and 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 community safety in parks, which will ultimately improve park users perception of crime and their overall visit to the borough's parks.

6. Background information

- 6.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee review into Community Safety in Parks was established to: 'To consider and make recommendations to the Council's Cabinet for improvements that can be made by the Council and its partners on how they address both crime and fear of crime in parks.'
- 6.2 The review was set up following concerns raised with Members regarding community safety in the aftermath of two incidents that took place in parks. The review looked at how it could be addressed effectively within current resource constraints so that residents feel safer when using them.

- 6.3 It is anticipated that the cost of implementing the agreed recommendations of this review can be contained within the existing Parks revenue and capital funding allocations. The major costs will be within the areas of signage and traffic review. It is estimated that taken together this would result in approximately £50,000 worth of expenditure. However, the bulk of this cost relates to the potential signage updating and this is expenditure the council would have been making over the next three years to update the signage in line with the new Haringey branding.

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 Objective 2 of Priority 3 is: 'To make our streets, parks and estates clean, well maintained and safe.'

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

8.1 Finance and Procurement

The cost of implementing the recommendations arising from this review will be met from existing approved revenue and capital budgets.

8.2 Legal

The Assistant Director of Corporate Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report and comments as follows:

Under Section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000 ("LGA"), the 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. This report complies with Cabinet's duty under section 9FE of the LGA to respond to the report of 21<sup>st</sup> July 2016 indicating what action the Cabinet proposes to take.

There are no legal implications arising from the responses to the recommendations, save in relation to the response to recommendation 6.

It should be noted in relation to the response to recommendation 6 that in accordance with sections 59 (2) and (3) of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) can be implemented to impose restrictions on the consumption of alcohol in parks where such consumption is, or is likely to be, detrimental to the local community's quality of life. Evidence of the detrimental effect or the likelihood of such an effect, would be required before an order could be made. Evidence would also be necessary that the detrimental effect is likely

to be of a persistent or continuing nature, so as to make the activity of drinking alcohol unreasonable, thus justifying the restrictions imposed by the PSPO.

### 8.3 Equality

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.

The recommendations aim to increase the safety of all park users and the recommendation 'further work be undertaken to develop Friends of park groups where they do not currently exist' provides an opportunity to help foster good relations between people.

## 9. Use of appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – Overview and Scrutiny Report into Community Safety in Parks  
Appendix 2 - Responses to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee report recommendations

## 10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- a. Report of Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Community Safety in Parks  
<http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/documents/s86883/Comm%20Safe%20in%20Parks%20Cov%20Rep%202.pdf>