

Green Space Strategy

Director/Head of	Keith Parker Head of Leisure and Environmental
Department:	Services
Report Author:	Toni Magean Open Spaces Manager

This report advises Overview and Scrutiny members on the draft green space strategy

Recommendation:

That the overview and scrutiny review and support the draft Green Space strategy and recommend that the Executive adopted and implement the strategy.

1. BACKGROUND

Green Space Strategy

1.1 Overview and Scrutiny members will be aware that a draft green space strategy has been produced and was brought to this committee previously, since that time the planning section have been working through an open spaces audit under the PPG17 guidance.

1.2 Improving the borough Green Space's is fundamental to making a better and more attractive place leading to improving the quality of life for local residents and attracting visitors to the borough. Green spaces also provide a focal point for the wider community and for all age groups providing places to play, exercise and relax in, as well as creating and supporting valuable habitats for wild fauna and flora.

1.3 The strategy also promotes the achievement of national green flags and the overview and scrutiny members will be aware of the Councils achievement in gaining 4 Green Flag awards and 3 Green Heritage Awards for a its green spaces during 2007, these Green Awards are underpinned by strong community involvement and establishment of Friends groups.

1.4 The Green Space Strategy supports the Councils priorities for 2008/9 "Providing high quality, clean streets and open spaces".

2. ARGUMENT

Green Space Strategy Issues

2.1 To create and identify the network of spaces which meet the needs of the community, to encourage bio-diversity and multifunctional spaces. There is a need to think strategically about the links green spaces have within the environment.

2.2 Audits of parks and green spaces to include a hierarchy system for survey purposes to filter the levels of service delivery of the parks within the Borough for example principle parks, neighbourhood parks, pocket parks, community greens and open spaces.

2.3 Areas included within the strategy are:-

- Parks & public Gardens
- Natural & semi-natural spaces
- Green Corridors
- Outdoor sports facilities
- Amenity open spaces
- Provision for children & young people
- Allotments, community gardens & city farms
- Cemeteries, churchyards & other burial grounds
- Accessible countryside in urban fringe areas
- Network of cycle/pedestrian routes

Green Space Policy Framework

2.4 To achieve a successful green space strategy various policies have to be taken into account and link into the document:-

National and Regional policies

- Cleaner, Greener Safer Communities.
- Cleaner Neighbourhoods Act

Local policies

- Community Strategy
- Planning Policy
- Regeneration Policy,
- Environmental Policy and Guidance

Other local strategies

- Parks Strategies
- Play Policy
- Pesticides Strategy
- Bereavement Strategy

3. CONCLUSIONS

3.1 The development of a Green Space Strategy provides the council with a clear direction in the management of the Councils green spaces whilst promoting community value and involvement. The Strategy supports the council corporate priorities and objectives.

4. FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOURCES OF FINANCE)

4.1 The financial and human resource implications for delivery of the green space strategy will be managed within the councils approved budgets.

5. IMPACT ON CORPORATE PLAN

The green space strategy has a key role in supporting the Councils Quality of Life objectives

List of Appendices

Appendix One Green Space Strategy Draft

List of Consultees:

Councillor George Clements
Councillor Hugh Branney
Corporate Team

CHECKLIST FOR DEALING WITH KEY ISSUES

Please confirm against the issue if the key issues below have been addressed. This can be by either a short narrative or quoting the paragraph number in the report in which it has been covered.

Impact on Crime and Disorder	Promotes activities for young people
Impact on Sustainability	Promotes Green Sustainability
Impact on Rural Proofing	Supports Green Space activities in

	rural areas
Health and Safety Implications	Ensuring Green Spaces are safe to Use
Impact on Equality and Diversity Issues	Promotes Green Spaces Accessibility and Green Diversity activities
Children and Young Persons Implications	Promotes Children's and Young Peoples Environmental Activities
Human Rights Act Implications	None

Appendix One

Green Space Strategy

External document