

CABINET MEETING: 20 SEPTEMBER 2018

**CABINET RESPONSE TO THE ECONOMY & CULTURE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT ENTITLED 'FUNDING OF
PARKS'**

CULTURE & LEISURE (COUNCILLOR PETER BRADBURY)

AGENDA ITEM: 3

Reason for this Report

1. To respond to a report published by the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee in April 2018, entitled 'Funding for Parks'.

Background

2. In the Autumn of 2017 a task group comprising Members of the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee was established to conduct an Inquiry into how the Council, against the backdrop of unprecedented financial challenges can continue to provide excellent Parks and Green Spaces consistent with its Capital Ambition.
3. To consider the issues and deliver the report, a project management approach designed to enable effective scrutiny was implemented and extensive consultation with wide and diverse stakeholder groups was undertaken over time.

Issues

4. The inquiry sought to explore opportunities and options for increasing the sustainability of funding for Parks by:
 - Increasing income through commercialisation, events, sponsorship and alternative funding models
 - Achieving cost reductions / improving operational efficiencies
 - Benchmarking / comparison with core cities and others comparable, utilising lessons learnt and best practice
 - Examining funding models worldwide, testing transferability
5. Cabinet recognises the value that it's Parks and Green Spaces provide to the residents of and visitors to our City and understands the positive contribution that stakeholder groups can make on a number of levels. However, given the predicted scale of savings to be found in the medium

term the Council will be required to take some difficult decisions in respect of the types of functions delivered and the standard / level of service provided.

6. The report makes thirteen recommendations nine of which are accepted, three partially accepted and one rejected.

Reason for Recommendation

7. To enable the Cabinet to respond to the report published by the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee of April 2018 entitled "Funding of Parks".

Financial Implications

8. The Cabinet response outlined in Appendix A highlights that any growth and / or financial pressures that the Parks Service faces will be managed through the normal Council budgetary processes. With regard to Recommendation 6, any savings resulting from the ReFit funded energy efficiency measures will be after deducting loan repayments. In the case of Recommendation 13, any additional resources and / or time required will be funded from existing resources.

Legal Implications

9. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION

Cabinet is recommended to agree the response to the report of the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee entitled " Funding of Parks " as set out in Appendix A.

SENIOR RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Neil Hanratty Director Economic Development
	14 September 2018

The following appendix is attached:

Appendix A : Cabinet Response to the Report published by the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee of April 2018 entitled ' Funding of Parks'.