

ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11 OCTOBER 2018

**CABINET RESPONSE TO THE REPORT BY THE ECONOMY & CULTURE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE INQUIRY – FUNDING OF PARKS IN CARDIFF**

Purpose of report

1. To update Members on the Cabinet response to the recommendations made in the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee April 2018 inquiry report 'Funding of Parks in Cardiff'.

Background

2. As a part of the Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2017-18, the Committee agreed to consider the funding of Parks in Cardiff as a topic for in-depth scrutiny. The following terms of reference were used:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To investigate how best to increase the sustainability of funding for Parks in Cardiff by:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exploring how best to increase income generation by Parks, including considering commercialisation, events, sponsorship and alternative funding models• Exploring how best to reduce costs of managing and developing Parks by improving operational efficiencies, utilising work undertaken by the service area, informed by action planning, and service reviews undertaken as part of the Infrastructure Alternative Delivery Models work stream, i.e. consideration of statutory and non-statutory service provision, scale, volume and quality of service provision and partnership working |
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- Utilising the lessons learnt regarding funding of parks in comparable cities across the UK
 - Examining Parks funding models successfully used elsewhere across the World to test whether these are transferable to Cardiff.
2. To gather stakeholders views with regard to the above, including customers, partners, third sector organisations and relevant Cabinet Members and Cardiff Council officers.
 3. To make evidence based recommendations to improve the future security of funding for Parks in Cardiff in a time of austerity.

3. Members received evidence from a range of sources, including Cabinet Members, senior officers, officers from relevant departments, Friends of Parks Groups, Innovate Trust Green Days project manager, Cardiff Civic Society, Llandaff Fields Hub Committee and wildlife partner organisations including RSPB, Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales and Buglife Cymru.
4. The task group invited written submissions from sports pitch users and received evidence from Cardiff University Sports Development Officer, Cardiff Combination Football League (Adults) and Chairperson of Pontprennau Pumas Junior and Mini Football Club, Llandaff RFC and Rhiwbina RFC.
5. The task group also received evidence from desk-based research looking at approaches taken elsewhere in the U.K., North America and Australia with regard to reducing costs and generating income as well as alternative approaches to funding parks.
6. The evidence was used to identify suitable findings from the Inquiry, and to develop recommendations based on the evidence heard throughout the Inquiry
7. The report for this task and finish inquiry was taken to the Cabinet meeting held on 17 May 2018. The full report for this inquiry can be found at:

<http://cardiff.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=151&MId=3084&LLL=0>

Cabinet Response to Recommendations

8. The Cabinet agreed their response at their meeting on 20 September 2018. Attached at **Appendix 1** is a full copy of the Cabinet paper, outlining the recommendations made and the Cabinet response to each recommendation.
9. Overall, the Committee made 13 recommendations to the Cabinet. The Cabinet response shows that:
 - 9 of the recommendations are accepted – *R1, R3, R4, R5, R7, R8, R9, R12, R13*
 - 3 of the recommendations are partially accepted – *R2, R6, R10* :
 - *R2* – recommended ensuring that the scale and scope of required income generation and cost reduction in Parks reflects the impact of the reduction in available Commuted Sums for Parks Services and that a plan be put in place to mitigate the impact of this reduction.
 - *R6* – recommended officers to expedite the application to Welsh Government for funding for energy efficiency measures at Bute Park nursery
 - *R10* – parts a) and b) are rejected, which were for income earned from concessions in Parks to go into the Parks budget and for costs incurred from undertaking work for Highways to be reimbursed to the Parks budget
 - 1 recommendation was not accepted – *R11*:
 - *R11* - this was in relation to there being no further cuts to park keeping budgets, which is the budget that pays for urban and community park rangers.
10. Attached at **Appendix 2** is a full copy of the press release issued by the Council highlighting the response being taken to Cabinet and thanking scrutiny for its hard work and for bringing useful ideas to the table.

Way Forward

11. Councillor Peter Bradbury (Cabinet Member – Culture and), Neil Hanratty (Director – Economic Development) and Steve Morris (Parks & Sport Development Manager) have been invited to present the response to the inquiry and present any progress made in addressing the issues raised and recommendations approved.

Legal Implications

12. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

13. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with

recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

Recommendation

The Committee is recommended to receive the Cabinet response and agree the way forward for receiving progress reports on the work required to implement the agreed recommendations.

DAVINA FIORE

Director of Governance & Legal Services

5 October 2018

The following Appendices are attached:

Appendix 1: Cabinet Response to the Report by the Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee entitled “Funding of Parks in Cardiff”

Appendix 2: Press release from Cardiff Council, titled ‘Safeguarding our Parks to be discussed at Cabinet’.