

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) Cabinet	Date of Meeting:	Tuesday 3 July 2018 Thursday 26 July 2018
Subject:	Parks and Greenspaces Final Report		
Report of:	Head of Regulation and Compliance	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member – Health and Wellbeing		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No Please delete as appropriate and remove this text.
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To submit the findings of the Overview and Scrutiny Parks and Greenspaces Working Group to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) for approval and to commend to the Cabinet.

Recommendation(s):

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee commend the following report with recommendations for Cabinet approval.

(1)	That consideration and further research continues to take place on future service delivery mechanisms for the newly forming 'Green Sefton' service. These, together with other day to day innovations, to seek to reduce the reliance on the service on revenue budgets whilst still providing sites that communities value, feel safe in, and remain freely accessible;
(2)	That the Head of Communities in consultation with Corporate Communications be requested to investigate the possibility of a Sefton Parks and Greenspaces application for electronic devices to enable visually impaired individuals to safely and confidently navigate around Sefton's Parks and Greenspaces, encouraging individuals to visit parks and greenspaces;
(3)	That the Head of Communities be requested to continue exploring and developing food growing projects, such as communal allotments in parks;

(4)	That the Head of Communities be requested to continue exploring and developing the volunteer hubs, such as that at Botanic gardens old nursery site;
(5)	That the Head of Communities be requested to continue to arrange 'Volunteer Celebrations' and offer thanks formally to all volunteers who contribute so much to our Parks and Greenspaces; and
(6)	That the Head of Communities be requested to report annually or when appropriate, whichever is the sooner, to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee updating the Committee on progress

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

The Working Group has made a number of recommendations that require approval by the Cabinet.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

No alternative options were considered. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) established a Working Group to review Parks and Greenspaces in Sefton and the Working Group has performed this task.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

There are no additional costs other than investigating the possibility of an electronic application for the visually impaired in order that they may navigate safely around Sefton's Parks. It is anticipated these initial costs will be negligible and can be met from existing revenue budget. Once the work has been conducted, the findings, including potential costs of viable options, will be subject of an additional report

(A) Revenue Costs

– met from existing resources

(B) Capital Costs

– Not applicable

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):

Legal Implications:
Equality Implications: The inclusion of an electronic application would help the visually impaired in navigating safely around Sefton's Parks.

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: The inclusion of an electronic application would help the visually impaired in navigating safely around Sefton's Parks.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: As above
Commission, broker and provide core services: N/A
Place – leadership and influencer: N/A
Drivers of change and reform: N/A
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: N/A
Greater income for social investment: N/A
Cleaner Greener N/A

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Head of Corporate Resources (FD 5171/18) has been consulted and notes any initial costs can be met from existing resources. The Head of Regulation and Compliance (LD 4395/18.....) has been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the expiry of the "call-in" period for the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting

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Appendices:

The Final Report of the Parks and Greenspaces is attached to this report

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

1.1 The Final Report is attached for consideration.

1.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) is requested to commend the report and its recommendations to the Cabinet for approval.