

**REPORT FOR: OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Date of Meeting: 12th July 2016

Subject: Community Involvement in Parks

Responsible Officer: Alex Dewsnap
Divisional Director, Strategic
Commissioning

**Scrutiny Lead
Member area:** Cllr Jeff Anderson and Cllr Manjibhai
Kara

Exempt: No

Wards affected: All

Enclosures: Report from the Community Involvement in
Parks Challenge

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report accompanies the report from the Community Involvement in Parks Challenge Panel. The report outlines the review's observations and findings with regard to improving community involvement in our parks

Recommendations:

Councillors are recommended to:

- I. Consider the findings and recommendations of the Community Involvement in Parks Challenge Panel
- II. Refer the review's recommendations to Cabinet for consideration

Section 2 – Report

Introductory paragraph

The Scrutiny Leadership Group (SLG) agreed to undertake a review of 'Community Involvement in Harrow Parks' in Harrow in the form of a Challenge Panel. The Challenge Panel took place on the 7th June 2016. The membership of the Panel consisted of eight (4 Conservative and 4 Labour) councillors and was supported by a Policy Officer from the Corporate Policy Team.

The main aims of the Panel were to:

- To examine the current levels of community involvement in Harrow's parks and benchmark against parks in neighbouring boroughs.
- To develop an understanding of what residents want from their local parks.
- To explore innovative practices in the delivery of park services by other councils and other initiatives demonstrating community involvement and volunteering in parks.
- To identify ways in which Harrow Council can best deliver 21st century parks for residents.
- To inform the development of Harrow's parks and open spaces strategy 2016-19.
- To develop the park users' forum so it is inclusive and representative of all park users across Harrow.
- To inform the progress of Project Phoenix and the commercialisation strategy for parks.

The Challenge Panel invited submissions and heard evidence from the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Crime & Community Safety, Council Officers, and from representatives of several Park User Groups.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications associated with this report. However, if the report's recommendations are accepted, the services considered will provide detail of any costs likely to be incurred.

Performance Issues

There are no specific performance issues associated with this report.

Environmental Impact

There are no specific environmental impacts associated with this report.

Risk Management Implications

There are none specific to this report.

Equalities implications

An EqlA was not carried out specifically for this report as it includes no proposals for service change. Where changes result from the acceptance of these reports recommendations, these will be accompanied by an EqlA.

Council Priorities

The Council's vision:

Working Together to Make a Difference for Harrow

This review relates to all three priorities of the Harrow Ambition Plan, including:

- Build a Better Harrow
- Be More Business-like and Business Friendly
- Protect the Most Vulnerable and Support Families

Ward Councillors notified:	NO
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Section 3 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Mohammed Ilyas, Policy officer. 0208 424 1322

Background Papers: List **only non-exempt** documents (ie not Private and Confidential/Part II documents) relied on to a material extent in preparing the report (eg previous reports). Where possible also include a web link to the documents.