

# Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda  
Item No.

Report of Corporate Director for  
Department for Place

to

**Place Scrutiny**

on

13<sup>th</sup> April 2015

Report prepared by: Ian Brown, Parks Management Officer

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## Parks and Green Spaces Strategy

**Place Scrutiny Committee**  
**Executive Councillor: Councillor Graham Longley**  
**Part 1 (Public Agenda Item)**

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### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To introduce the draft Parks and Green Spaces strategy.
- 1.2 This matter is being brought to Scrutiny Committee as part of Pre-Cabinet Scrutiny prior to consideration by Cabinet and Scrutiny Members' views are sought on the contents of this strategy.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **That Members' views are sought on the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy prior to consideration by Cabinet.**

### 3. Background

- 3.1 The draft strategy is intended to update and revise the existing parks strategy document and provide an overarching document which links to other existing policies.
- 3.2 The strategy sets out to highlight the importance of good quality well maintained parks and open spaces and street scene. It describes the many benefits of green spaces in terms of the economy, physical and mental wellbeing, social cohesion, and the environment.
- 3.3 The strategy sets out five main priorities;
  - To provide and maintain good quality parks and open spaces
  - To connect these spaces with a well maintained and attractive street scene
  - To provide recreation and sports facilities to encourage active, healthy lifestyles

- To protect and promote our natural green heritage and biodiversity preserving it for future generations
  - To encourage community involvement in the development and management of green spaces
- 3.4 The strategy presents key standards for parks and green spaces in terms of their accessibility, quantity and quality;
- To ensure that all residents have easy access to a public open space of at least 0.2 hectares
  - To provide one hectare of public open space per 1000 people
  - To adopt the Green Flag quality criteria for its major destination parks and open spaces

#### **4. Other Options**

- 4.1 The strategy considers a range of options for the future delivery of the Parks Service. Alternative options may arise from the consultation process and will be taken into consideration in the final decision making process.

#### **5. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 5.1 To ensure Members' views are reflected in the final strategy document.

#### **6. Corporate Implications**

- 6.1 Contribution to Council's Vision & Corporate Priorities.

- Safe - Continue to reduce crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour
- Healthy - Support Southend to be active and alive with sport and culture
- Clean - Ensure a well-maintained and attractive street scene, parks and open spaces, Minimise our impact on the natural environment
- Prosperous - Reduce inequalities and increase the life chances of people living in Southend
- Excellent – strive to achieve national accreditation such as Green Flags

- 6.2 Financial Implications

- 6.2.1 The strategy identifies a significant number of projects to deliver the key objectives. It recognises that these will need to be met within existing revenue budgets, through capital budgets as well as S106 Planning Gain funding, CIL funding, through partnerships and greater involvement of the community.

- 6.3 Legal Implications

- 6.3.1 There are no legal implications.

- 6.4 People Implications

6.4.1 . There are no people implications.

## 6.5 Property Implications

6.5.1 The strategy identifies the proposal to encourage greater community management of some council owned buildings.

## 6.6 Consultation

6.6.1 Following agreement of this draft strategy we will enter into a 12 week period of consultation with residents, key partners and stakeholders. The consultation will be available via the Council's on-line consultation portal as well as hard copy.

6.6.2 Any amendments to the draft strategy following this period of consultation will be agreed with the Portfolio Holder and the Corporate Director for Place.

## 6.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications

6.7.1 An equality Impact assessment has not been undertaken for this exercise however the parks service as a whole has a current Equality Assessment (EA) that is regularly reviewed.

## 6.8 Risk Assessment

Risk	Impact/Likelihood High (H) Medium (M) Low (L)	Mitigation
Lack of strategic direction in service delivery and reduction in standards	H / H	Draft strategy agreed with resulting action plan implemented and monitored.

## 6.9 Value for Money

6.9.1 The strategy recognises that Value for Money is integral to service delivery.

## 6.10 Community Safety Implications

6.10.1 Community safety is recognised as central to service delivery.

## 6.11 Environmental Impact

6.11.1 The strategy recognises the significant positive impact on the environment and the importance of sustainable working practises.

## 7. Background Papers

7.1 No background papers are included within this report.



## **8. Appendixes**

### 8.1 Appendix 1 – Parks and Green Spaces Strategy 2015 – 2020 (draft)