

6 September 2011

GREENSPACES WORKING GROUP – TERMS OF REFERENCE

Ward(s) All

Portfolio: Councillor A. Harris – Leisure, Culture and Environment

Report:

At its meeting on 7 June 2010 the Community Services Scrutiny and Performance Panel appointed a working group to consider making recommendations on a new greenspaces strategy for the borough.

Since then the working group has held one meeting to draft its terms of reference. The terms of reference are attached at Appendix 1 to this report for the Panels consideration.


Recommendations:

That:

- 1. subject to any comments Members may wish to make the terms of reference for the Greenspaces Working Group be approved;**
- 2. Councillor Louise Harrison be appointed Lead Member of the working group.**

Contact Officer:

Craig Goodall – Scrutiny Officer

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Walsall Council Scrutiny and Performance Panel Work Group
Initiation Document

Work Group Name:	Greenspaces Working Group
Panel:	Community Services
Municipal Year:	2011/12
Lead Member:	TBC
Lead Officer:	Graham Hood
Support Officer:	Craig Goodall
Membership:	Councillor L. Harrison Councillor I. Azam Councillor C. Creaney Councillor I. Shires Councillor K. Sears
Co-opted Members:	2 x representatives - Friends Group Network Julie Morris – Wildlife Trust

1.	Context
	<p>The current Greenspaces Strategy comes to an end on 31 March 2012. Therefore there is an opportunity to reflect on the success or otherwise of the Strategy and look ahead to how Greenspaces could be managed after this point. It is thought desirable to develop a new strategy from 2012, however, this strategy will need to take into account the likelihood of reduced resources moving forward.</p>
2.	Objectives
	<p style="color: red;">What do you want it to achieve? It is important to have clearly defined outcomes at the start to give the working group direction and ensure it adds value.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To assess the effectiveness of the 'Greenspaces Strategy 2006-2011'. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What targets were achieved? b. What wasn't achieved? 2. To assess the effectiveness in the way Greenspaces are managed. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What are the current arrangements? Can they be improved? b. Are there any different ways Greenspaces can be managed? For example, Trusts, Outsourcing or increased use of the Third Sector. 3. How do national and regional activities and policies influence Walsall Greenspaces? What is planned for the future? 4. How do partners engage with the service and now can this be improved? 5. Are there any commercial opportunities with Greenspaces? 6. Are there any opportunities to improve the Greenspaces offer for

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	<p>leisure activities and young people?</p> <p>7. Can improvements be made to the way Greenspaces are linked?</p> <p>8. Are there any opportunities to increase employment with the development of Greenspaces?</p> <p>9. To recommend a set of priorities to Cabinet for potential inclusion in a new Greenspaces Strategy.</p>
3.	Scope
	<p>What should be included and excluded?</p> <p>Included All Greenspaces sites – including countryside sites Tree management and maintenance Resources – Financial and Workforce Grounds Maintenance Management models (i.e. Trusts/potential externalisation/further empowerment of Friends Groups) Commercial Opportunities Allotments Play areas Youth and leisure activities</p>
4.	Equalities Implications
	<p>There is a legal and moral obligation to ensure that, when undertaking a scrutiny review, the impact of policies; procedures; strategies and activities is considered within the 6 strands of equality (Age, Disability, Gender, Race, Religion or Belief, and Sexual Orientation)</p> <p>The working group will ensure that their recommendations do not unfairly disadvantage any resident.</p>
4.	Who else will you want to take part?
	<p>Think about who else, other than lead officers and members, it would be useful to include either as part of the working group or to bring information at specific points. For example- partners, stakeholders, other authorities.</p> <p>Greenspaces Officers Greenspaces Improvement Team Streetpride Officers Park Rangers Sport Development Other Local Authorities Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture Area Managers</p>

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	<p>Working Smarter findings on Grounds Maintenance Planning Policy</p> <p>Friends Group Network</p> <p>Representatives of All Friends of Parks Groups</p> <p>Community Household Survey</p> <p>Young People and Schools</p>
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5. Timescales & Reporting Schedule

Needs to be completed within the same municipal year and so should be able to report to full panel by the last meeting at the latest but consider the subject- is there anything else that it may need to tie into (e.g. academic or financial year or to coincide with national/sub-regional developments)

How often will update be provided to full panel?

Issue	Meeting
Agree Terms of Reference	6 September 2011
Final Report and Recommendations	6 December 2011 or 17 January 2012

6. Risk factors

Are there any obstacles that can be predicted? For example, is it dependent on other organisations outside your control and duty to cooperate? Identifying these factors early and how they will be mitigated should help minimise their impact.

Risk	Likelihood	Measure to Resolve
Being unable to complete all working group objectives	Medium	<p>Timetable a schedule of meetings in advance.</p> <p>Prioritisation of objectives.</p>
Difficulty in securing witnesses	Low	Timetable a schedule of meetings in advance and allow flexibility with topics on meeting dates
Reporting to Cabinet in time for recommendations to be able to influence the development of the new Greenspaces Strategy	Medium-Low	<p>Schedule working group meetings in advance.</p> <p>Co-ordinate scrutiny work to ensure synchronicity with Cabinet timetable.</p>

Date Agreed:		Date Updated:	
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Timetable:

MEETING	ACTIVITY
1. Early/Mid September	1. Review outcome of current Greenspaces Strategy; 2. Do other local authorities manage Greenspaces differently? For example: Trusts and Outsource arrangements.
2. Early October	Meeting with representatives from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Friends and User Groups Organisations b. Area Managers
3. Mid/End October	Interviews with services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planning Policy 2. Sports Development 3. NHS
4. Early/mid November	1. Review Consultation and Partner Findings and identify key issues and themes. 2. What are national and regional policies saying about the future of Greenspaces? 3. What good practice is taking place elsewhere.
4. End November/Early December	Interviews with services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Greenspaces 2. Streetpride
6.	Engagement with young people and schools. How? Will anything be picked up in the consultation?
7. Mid/late December	1. Interview Portfolio Holder 2. Draft Conclusions and Recommendations