

## **CABINET – 17TH JANUARY 2019**

### **Report of the Overview Scrutiny Group**

#### **ITEM 7      PLAYING PITCHES, OPEN SPACES AND INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES STRATEGIES**

##### **Purpose of Report**

To consider the comments and recommendations of the Overview Scrutiny Group in relation to the Playing Pitches, Open Spaces and Built Facilities Strategies and associated Action Plans.

##### **Recommendation of the Overview Scrutiny Group**

That the Cabinet be informed that the Group supports the recommendations as set out in the report of the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces.

##### **Reason**

Having considered the report and asked questions of the Lead Member for Performance of Major Contracts, the Strategic Director for Neighbourhoods and Community Wellbeing and the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces on the matter, the Group concluded that it would be appropriate for the Cabinet to approve the recommendations set out in the report.

##### **Meeting Discussion**

Following questions from the Group, the Lead Member for Performance of Major Contracts, the Strategic Director for Neighbourhoods and Community Wellbeing, the Head of Leisure and Culture and the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces provided the following responses:

- (i) Confirmation was given that in some cases the Council was not adopting new developments, rather they were being managed by not for profit organisations. The Council was happy with how the organisations were managing the spaces and there did not appear to be any issues with quality, although it was only the start of the programme.
- (ii) The Council had already committed resources to support some of the plans from the General Fund. Further funding would be secured through the SUE's and from partner organisations such as the FA (Football Association).
- (iii) A robust strategy was in place to ensure that Section 106 money was spent in time. Parish clerks were informed of the timescale and there was a planning officer in place to manage the Section 106 agreements and monitor the timescales.

- (iv) Reference was made to concerns from County Councillor Max Hunt regarding the strategies, which had been circulated to the Group prior to the meeting.
- (v) The Council was open to adopting land and open spaces if the developers were willing to pay the commuted sum required. Decisions were made on an individual basis.
- (vi) The strategy was created in line with National guidance which ensured there was a consistent approach.
- (vii) The Group was assured that there had been a very thorough public consultation with extensive communication to ensure involvement from members of the public and parish and town councils. The action plans would also continue to involve the public on an ongoing basis.

#### Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

Scrutiny Committee Procedure 11.12 sets out the procedure by which a report of a scrutiny committee should be considered by the Cabinet.

#### Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

The information on this in the Cabinet report is not affected by the recommendation of the Overview Scrutiny Group.

#### Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

#### *Financial Implications*

There are no further financial implications associated with the recommendation of the Overview Scrutiny Group.

#### *Risk Management*

There are no specific risks associated with the recommendation of the Overview Scrutiny Group.

Key Decision: Yes

Background Paper: Overview Scrutiny Group Minute 46 2018/19,  
14th January 2019

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