



Bristol Scrutiny 2017/18

Scoping of Scrutiny Topics

Title

Parks and Green Spaces

1.Reasons for Undertaking this Work

Main reasons for undertaking the piece of work (and any Background information if relevant)

Parks and Green Spaces have been set a target of becoming cost -neutral by 2020. Departmental officers are therefore required to explore a number of income-generation and cost-cutting options across the city.

This has generated a significant amount of public concern and media coverage, and this is likely to continue as options are further developed.

The Council's Draft 2017/18 Business Plan for Neighbourhoods states the following:

"We will be exploring options for alternative delivery models for parks, where we can enable maximum local ownership, and potential to fundraise external income eg. Trusts, mutual or other groups to run some parks. The level of saving will depend on the approach taken."

(Over the next year) "We will develop modes of delivery to protect investment in Parks and Green Spaces for the benefit of communities across the city."

(Over the next five years) "Develop a refreshed strategy for Parks and Green Spaces ensuring ownership and influence for local residents."

Key question that you are seeking to answer

There are potentially 2 pieces of work:

Phase 1(Immediate work)

- To scrutinise forthcoming proposals for the Parks Service - this will happen between now and autumn (exact timescale to be clarified)

Phase 2 (Longer term)

- To carry out a review of the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy

Main objectives/main areas of investigation

Phase 1 - Immediate work

- To scrutinise and challenge specific proposals for cost savings and management/development options for Parks, including looking at timescales/achievability of cost neutrality.
- To explore potential options for future development and management of parks
- To ensure all options are considered in the ongoing process to move towards cost neutral in 2020.

Phase 2 - Longer term work

- To review the Parks and Green spaces Strategy to address the question “What is our expectation from parks in the future world?”
- To review the existing quality standard for parks (set in existing Strategy)
- To look at examples of good practice and innovation from elsewhere e.g. Newcastle
- To provide early thinking/ ideas/recommendations on parks at an early stage.
- To tap into expertise available in the city to help us with this
- To consider estates separately from other parks and green spaces due to the differing issues involved with each.

Other issues (timescale to be either between Phases 1 and 2 /run parallel with Phase 2)

- Scrutiny involvement in shaping the landscape and influencing implementation of whatever proposals are finally decided on, including scrutiny input into decisions re: surplus land, buildings, asset transfer issues, use of capital
- To analyse why recent Stoke Park Heritage Lottery Fund bid for Stoke Park was unsuccessful and to learn from this in order that future bids are more “joined-up” and take account what else is happening across the city.

Draft Terms of Reference and possible outcomes

TBC

2.Member Involvement

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| Members involved | (Initial scoping exercise) Cllrs Bolton, Kirk, Negus, Wellington, English |
| Key Executive Member | Cllr Asher Craig |
| Other Executive Member Portfolios covered, if any | |

3.Officer Support

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| Lead Directorate Officer(s) | Gemma Dando/Richard Fletcher |
| Policy Advisor | Romayne de Fonseca |
| List of possible internal and external witnesses/contributors and key information required | Departmental officers Parks Forum Relevant academics Newcastle City Council (?) Any relevant user groups |

Time Frame

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|-------------------------------------|---|
| Phase 1 Sept- November | Immediate work could be carried out by task and finish group. Work would need to commence as soon as possible. Members may wish to decide whether some or all meetings should be held in public (resources permitting) due to the likely public and media interest in this issue. |
| Phase 2 | Longer term work could be carried out by a task and finish group. There is no specific time-critical issue for this piece of work. |
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Decision-making/path
for recommendations:

TBC

Costs

Specific costs identified

None at present.

Date:

