

Communities Scrutiny Commission

14 September 2023



Report of: John Smith, Interim Executive Director: Growth and Regeneration

Title: Parks and Green Spaces - Funding

Ward: All

Officer Presenting Report: Jon James, Head of Natural and Marine Environment

Recommendations:

To note how the parks and green spaces service is funded and the budget pressures it is addressing.

The significant issues in the report are:

This report has been prepared to provide the Communities Scrutiny Commission with an overview on how the Parks and Green Spaces service is funded and the budget pressures it is addressing to achieve a balanced budget now and in future years.



1. Summary

The report has been prepared to provide the Communities Scrutiny Commission with an overview on how the Parks and Green Spaces service is funded and the budget pressures it is addressing to achieve a balanced budget now and in future years.

Appendix A provides details of the current budget and budget pressures.

2. Context

Bristol covers an area of 11,000 hectares (27,000 acres), the BCC estate covers 4,747 hectares of that (12,000 acres), the parks estate covers 2,850 hectares (over 7,000 acres) of the BCC estate. This equates to 60% of the BCC estate or 25% of Bristol.

The Parks and Green Spaces service has been working to a declining budget since 2010. In 2010 the parks service received circa £7.5m support through the general fund. In 2023/24 financial year the service received £1.6m from the general fund. To mitigate the budget pressures the service has introduced a series of income streams which goes to directly support the parks and green spaces service which help to mitigate the budget pressures.

3. Policy

Not directly relevant for this report. The Parks and Green Spaces Parks and Green Spaces – Budgets and Finances has been prepared to provide Scrutiny with an overview of the parks budgets.

4. Consultation

a) Internal

Not Applicable

b) External

Not Applicable

5. Public Sector Equality Duties

- 5a) Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following “protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:
- i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
 - ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to --

- remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
 - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
 - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- iii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
- tackle prejudice; and
 - promote understanding.

5b) An Equalities Impact Assessment has not been prepared as the report and presentation has been prepared to provide Communities Scrutiny Commission with an overview on how the Parks and Green Spaces service is funded and the budget pressures it is addressing to achieve a balanced budget now and in future year's

Appendices:

Appendix A - Parks and Green Spaces - Funding Presentation

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

None