

REPORT TO	DATE OF MEETING
Cabinet	6 February 2013

Report template revised June 2008



SUBJECT	PORTFOLIO	AUTHOR	ITEM
Response to Scrutiny Review of Worden Park	Neighbourhoods and Streetscene	Mark Gaffney	9

SUMMARY AND LINK TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES

This report details the proposed response to the Scrutiny Review of Worden Park and the eight recommendations identified by the review.

The report links directly to all of the Council’s corporate priorities but especially Clean, Green and Safe.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet welcomes the review of Worden Park completed by the Scrutiny Committee and agrees to accept the recommendations identified by the review, along with the proposed responses as outlined in this report.

DETAILS AND REASONING

The Scrutiny Committee received a report on its task group’s review of Worden Park on 1 November 2012. The committee endorsed the report and presented it to the meeting of the Council on 21 November 2012.

The Scrutiny Committee has requested that the Council agree and take forward their recommendations.

The Corporate Plan includes the key action “Work to enhance Worden Park as a local asset and visitor attraction”. Cabinet has already made good progress against this key action. Due to this some of the recommendations identified by the Scrutiny Task Group have in some cases already been significantly progressed. The work of the Task Group has been helpful as the linkages between their recommendations and the progress that Cabinet has achieved against the Corporate Plan are broadly aligned. This suggests that the right things are being done to achieve one of the Council’s key priorities.

The Task Group identified a total of eight recommendations which are detailed below along with the proposed response to each recommendation. It should be noted that in some cases the proposed response does include the action already taken by Cabinet in progressing the Corporate Plan key action.

1. The Council develops and agrees a long-term vision and action plan for Worden Park with all stakeholders associated with the park.

Agreed - The plan will need to be very long term with some aspects of its delivery being subject to the availability of future funding opportunities. The Vision and Action Plan is to be completed by the end of March 2014.

2. An options study into the occupancy of Worden Arts & Craft Centre, including the Derby Wing is carried out as soon as possible.

Agreed and this is already significantly complete. Shaw Trust has now moved into the Derby Wing – the arrangements will be reviewed in 12 months. Options now need to be investigated for the management and use of the conservatory/Marsden theatre. This is to be completed by the end of March 2014 and in line with the 12 month review of the Shaw Trust lease.

There are significant links with this recommendation and the long term vision plan detailed in recommendation 1.

3. One named Cabinet Member is allocated responsibility for taking the lead on behalf of the Cabinet for Worden Park.

Agreed - Currently Worden Park cuts across three cabinet portfolios which has been the position for some time. Whilst this has worked relatively well it is recognised that to deliver the long term aspirations for the Park, it will help if one cabinet member became lead member for all matters in relation to the management, maintenance and development of the park and it's buildings.

It is proposed that the Deputy Leader, Neighbourhoods and Streetscene, adopts the role as lead cabinet member and updates and links into the other cabinet members as appropriate.

4. A senior officer is designated the lead officer in managing Worden Park.

Agreed - It is proposed that the Director of Neighbourhoods adopts this role and updates and links into other SMT members as appropriate.

5. An assessment of the capital cost in ensuring the infrastructure of Worden Park is to an appropriate standard is carried out.

Agreed and already significantly complete. A schedule of infrastructure improvements and costs has been established. Funding strategies will have to be developed moving forward with potential links to the Leyland My Neighbourhood Forum priorities and future funding opportunities.

There are significant links with this recommendation and the long term vision plan detailed in recommendation 1.

6. The budget for Worden Park is accounted for separately showing all income and expenditure to help co-ordinate and allocate resources.

Agreed - The financial management system can produce income/expenditure monitoring reports from existing service budgets.

7. A regular stakeholder meeting is created for all stakeholders associated with Worden Park to meet with the Council to improve engagement and joint work in delivering the long-term vision and action plan for the park as well as more operational matters.

Agreed - The first meeting took place on 16 January 2013.

8. A joined-up marketing plan is developed to promote the whole park, including improved communications with councillors.

Agreed - This will link into the broader corporate PR/Communications plan. This is to be completed by the end of March 2014 and linked to the long term vision plan.

WIDER IMPLICATIONS

In the preparation of this report, consideration has been given to the impact of its proposals in all the areas listed below, and the table shows any implications in respect of each of these.

FINANCIAL	There are no direct financial implications as a result of the proposals in this report. However, funding opportunities will need to be identified for the delivery of the long term vision plan and any capital infrastructure improvements.		
LEGAL	There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.		
RISK	Expectations need to be managed around the delivery of a long term vision plan for Worden Park for those elements which require funding opportunities to be identified.		
THE IMPACT ON EQUALITY	An Equality Impact Assessment is in place for the parks service. There are no adverse equality impacts as a result of the proposals in this report.		
OTHER (see below)			
<i>Asset Management</i>	<i>Corporate Plans and Policies</i>	<i>Crime and Disorder</i>	<i>Efficiency Savings/Value for Money</i>
<i>Equality, Diversity and Community Cohesion</i>	<i>Freedom of Information/ Data Protection</i>	<i>Health and Safety</i>	<i>Health Inequalities</i>
<i>Human Rights Act 1998</i>	<i>Implementing Electronic Government</i>	<i>Staffing, Training and Development</i>	<i>Sustainability</i>

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Scrutiny Review of Worden Park – Report of the Task Group (attached)