

South Lakeland District Council
Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Friday, 26 April 2019
Parks and Open Spaces Strategy

Portfolio: Councillor Dyan Jones - Environment Portfolio Holder
Report from: Simon Rowley - Director of Customer and Commercial Services
Report Author: Deborah Clarke – Principal Community Spaces Officer, Nicola Metcalfe – Green Spaces Officer
Wards: (All Wards);
Forward Plan:

1.0 Expected Outcome

1.1 The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy identifies the importance of good quality green space in the district and provides direction for the management of council owned parks and open spaces for a ten year period. Clear objectives are provided for the day to day maintenance of our spaces and how they can be improved and enhanced by working closely with our community, partners and local businesses. The strategy will contribute to the delivery of to health and wellbeing, environmental, social and economic objectives in the new Council Plan

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider the draft Parks and Open Spaces Strategy and make any comments for recommendation to Cabinet for adoption

3.0 Background and Proposals

3.1 The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy is a ten year document which has been developed to provide a direction for the management and development of the council parks and open spaces.

The District's parks and open spaces are critical elements of the District's green infrastructure network which delivers benefits in terms of meeting recreation needs, delivering health and well-being benefits for all ages, reducing pollution, encouraging social interaction, creating biodiversity networks and creating opportunities for active travel. Parks and open spaces are also fundamental to the character of our places and the quality of life we offer to existing and future residents.

3.2 Our vision for SLDC's parks and open spaces is:-

“Working together to create valued and sustainable parks and open spaces in South Lakeland”

To deliver the vision the following four key themes have been identified as follows:

- Health & Wellbeing – opportunities for healthier lifestyles, to improve mental health, reduce health inequality and supporting physical activity
- Economy – Enabling and delivering opportunities for sustainable economic growth and investment in parks and open spaces
- Community – providing high quality parks where people meet, communities thrive and volunteer
- Environment – protecting and enhancing our place

3.3 The strategy provides clear direction of the day to day maintenance activities completed by Continental Landscapes Limited, through the Grounds Maintenance Partnership. It also identifies areas to work closely with our communities, partner organisations and local businesses to improve and enhance our spaces.

3.4 The strategy also identifies the types of spaces, items it relates to which includes; trees and woodlands, cemeteries, playgrounds, sports pitches and parks.

3.5 The delivery of the strategy is supported by a number of parks and woodland management plans, the Play Audit and the action plan which forms part of the strategy document.

3.6 The strategy also identifies the continued requirement to maximise the resources available to deliver day to day maintenance, close working with communities and partners to deliver developments and to obtain best value from all resources available to the management of our parks and open spaces.

4.0 Consultation

4.1 Corporate Management Team were consulted in December 2018, Grounds Maintenance Partnership, Community and Leisure Services Team, Portfolio Holder, Planning, Culture Arts and Events, Public Health and Active Travel Group have all been individually consulted. Community groups and partners are in the process of being consulted through the Parks Management Plans.

5.0 Alternative Options

5.1 The alternative option is not to have a strategy, however, this is not a recommended, option as the strategy outlines the direction and quality levels to achieve a sustainable future for our assets.

6.0 Links to Council Priorities

6.1 Council Plan 2019

7.0 Implications

Financial, Resources and Procurement

7.1 The 2018/19 budget for Grounds maintenance was £877,427.58, this figure includes waste £24,600 and Extras £25,00. The 19/20 figure will be confirmed once the March 2019 RPI figure is available.

The Play Audit receives £65,00 capital funding as part of a five year programme to contribute to the delivery of the Play Audit, 2019/20 is the first year

Human Resources

7.2 The Customer Connect programme will change the way councils services are delivered, but the management of our parks and open spaces and maintenance contracts will continue to be delivered within the new operating model.

Legal

7.3

Health, Social, Economic and Environmental

7.4 The Health, Social, Economic and Environmental assessment established that the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy has a positive impact on items such as pollution, physical activity and education. The completed assessment is attached in appendix 2

Equality and Diversity

7.5 There were no negative affects identified by completing the assessment, the completed assessment is attached in appendix 3

Risk

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
Delivery of all elements of the strategy if the community, volunteers and stakeholders are not fully committed	Access to grants and volunteers time for improvements and delivery of events will not happen	Fully engage all identified partners and stakeholders needed to make the strategy and sustainable parks and open space development a success

Contact Officers

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Appendices Attached to this Report

(delete if no appendices attached)

Appendix No.	Name of Appendix
1	Draft Parks and Open Spaces Strategy
2	Health, Social, Economic and Environmental Impact
3	Equality Impact Analysis

Background Documents Available

Name of Background document	Where it is available
n/a	

Tracking Information

Signed off by	Date sent
Legal Services	sent 5/4/19
Section 151 Officer	Sent 5/4/19
Monitoring Officer	signed off 5/4/19

Signed off by	Date sent
SMT	27/3/19

Circulated to	Date sent
Assistant Director	5/4/19
Human Resources Manager	Sent 9/4/19
Communications Team	N/A
Leader	27/4/19
Committee Chairman	N/A
Portfolio Holder	27/4/19
Ward Councillor(s)	N/A
Committee	N/A
Executive (Cabinet)	N/A
Council	N/A