

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

15 MARCH 2018

**REPORT OF CRIME AND DISORDER
SELECT COMMITTEE**

CABINET DECISION

**Arts, Culture and Leisure – Councillor Norma Wilburn
Access, Communities and Community Safety – Councillor Steve Nelson**

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF SECURITY AT PRESTON PARK

1. Summary

The attached report presents the Crime and Disorder Select Committee findings and recommendations following the Scrutiny Review Security at Preston Park.

2. Recommendations

- (1) That the types and incidence of anti-social behaviour and key vulnerabilities within Preston Park be noted.
- (2) That the range of potential solutions to deter and reduce the incidence of anti-social behaviour within Preston Park be noted.
- (3) That enhanced CCTV, vehicle controls, improved signage and lighting are acknowledged as the main means by which the key vulnerabilities within Preston Park can be addressed.
- (4) That the Select Committee report informs the development and implementation of the Masterplan for the Park.
- (5) That a business case is developed for implementing appropriate safety and security measures from the range of measures highlighted in the Select Committee report.
- (6) That the business case sets out the actual costs taking into account the likely savings in ongoing repairs and maintenance to enable Cabinet to make appropriate financial provision and/or consider the means by which income can be generated towards the costs of the improvements.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

The report presents the findings of the scrutiny review that took place as part of the agreed work programme for 2016/17.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members) should consider whether they have a personal interest in any item, as defined in **paragraphs 9 and 11** of the Council's code of conduct and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with and/or taking account of **paragraphs 12 - 17** of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 16** of the code, in any business of the Council he/she must then, **in accordance with paragraph 18** of the code, consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest and the business:-

- affects the members financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code, or
- relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to the member or any person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code.

A Member with a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, may attend the meeting but must not take part in the consideration and voting upon the relevant item of business. However, a member with such an interest may make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to that business before the business is considered or voted on, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under a statutory right or otherwise (**paragraph 19** of the code)

Members may participate in any discussion and vote on a matter in which they have an interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, where that interest relates to functions of the Council detailed in **paragraph 20** of the code.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

It is a criminal offence for a member to participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest (and where an appropriate dispensation has not been granted) **paragraph 21** of the code.

Members are required to comply with any procedural rule adopted by the Council which requires a member to leave the meeting room whilst the meeting is discussing a matter in which that member has a disclosable pecuniary interest (**paragraph 22** of the code)

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RECOMMENDATIONS

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DETAIL

1 This report presents Cabinet with the outcomes of the Scrutiny Review of Security at Preston Park. The overall aim of the review was to identify the contributory factors of ASB within the park and possible mitigating measures to address this.

2 The Committee explored the following issues:

- Night time activity
- Inappropriate use of cars
- Vandalism to buildings and threat to collection
- Threat to safety of staff and café staff
- Damage to toilets

- Drug and alcohol misuse
- Swimming in river
- Dog control

in the context of:

- Car parking and traffic flow
- Access issues (incl. potential for secondary access, bridge across the river)
- Signage/ paths
- Under-used areas
- Café / Restaurant
- CCTV

3 The Committee took evidence from

- Council Officers (Director of Culture, Events and Leisure, Museum Staff, Enforcement, Youth Direction, Café Staff)
- Park Partners (RiverShack, Butterfly World, Small Gauge Railway)
- Preston Parish Council

The Committee also carried out site visits to Riverside Park, Chester le Street and Hardwick Park, Sedgfield to understand the effectiveness of improvements at other parks.

COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

3. Improvements to the security of the park will make it a safer environment for all park users.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4. Improvements to the security of the park will require financial investment, albeit there would be savings in on-going repairs and maintenance which can be offset against this. The actual costs will be assessed in the development of the business case and determined by implementation of the Master Plan for the Park.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5. None.

RISK ASSESSMENT

6. This review is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

COUNCIL PLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES

7. The review supports the following Council Plan Policy Priorities:

- **Protecting the vulnerable through targeted intervention**, particularly those people in our communities who are subject to, or at risk of harm, people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and those who are financially excluded or whose circumstances make them vulnerable.
- **Creating economic prosperity** across the Borough

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

8. The Committee have received evidence as set out in the final report of the Select Committee.

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Education related? No

Background Papers None

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors The proposals as a whole are not ward specific.

Property None