

Report of the Assistant Director - Legal & Governance

**Update on Implementation of Recommendations from Previously
Completed Goose Management Scrutiny Review**

Summary

1. This report provides the committee with their first formal update on the implementation of the recommendations arising from the previously completed Goose Management scrutiny review, and asks Members to sign off any recommendations now considered to be either fully implemented or no longer appropriate.

Background

2. At a meeting in September 2015, the Communities and Environment Policy & Scrutiny Committee agreed to proceed with a scrutiny review of Geese Management across the city following submission of an associated scrutiny topic by Cllr Kramm.
3. A Task Group made up of Cllrs Kramm, Gunnell and Richardson was set up and tasked with identifying a suitable review remit and carrying out the review. The Task Group met for the first time in early December 2015 and the following remit was agreed:

Aim:

To improve the experience of residents and visitors to public parks, gardens and open spaces by examining the geese (and other water fowl) related problems affecting Rowntree Park, the University and other sites.

(NB: All references thereafter to Geese, relate to both Geese and other water fowl).

Objectives:

- i. To understand previous examinations of the geese related problems in York, lessons learnt, cost to the city, associated health risks etc.
 - ii. To examine best practice nationally and elsewhere.
 - iii. To consider technical options for dropping removal, the associated costs and external funding possibilities.
 - iv. Consult all interested parties on geese population management and control practices, to understand the requirements for different species and animal protection issues.
 - v. Identify appropriate solutions and options for funding
6. The review was completed in March 2016 and the review final report containing the recommendations arising from the review (see Column 1 of Annex A) was presented to the Executive in June 2016.
 7. In April 2016, the review final report was presented to the Executive, who raised concerns regarding the resourcing and officer time required to produce and implement an integrated goose management strategy. As a result they chose not to approve the recommendations as presented. Instead they referred the review recommendations back to this Policy & Scrutiny Committee with a request that they be reconsidered in line with budget constraints, and redrafted for further consideration by the Executive Member for Culture, Leisure & Tourism.
 8. In May 2016 this Committee considered the Executive's request but agreed that the original recommendations as presented to the Executive, were the most appropriate to properly address the needs of the city in relation to goose management.
 9. In June 2016 the review final report was re-presented to the Executive Member together with some additional information to support him in his re-consideration of the review recommendations (see Column 2 of Annex A)
 10. Finally in September 2016 this Committee received an informal implementation update via email from the Operations Manager (see Column 3 of Annex A).

11. As a year has past since the review was completed, the Operations Manager has now provided the first formal update for this Committee's consideration – see Column 4 of Annex A, and will be in attendance at this meeting to answer any questions arising.

Options

12. In light of the update information provided, Members may choose to:
 - a. Sign off any recommendations which have been fully implemented.
 - b. Request a further update on any recommendations outstanding, and the attendance of the relevant officer at a future scrutiny meeting in six months time.
 - c. Agree some or all of the recommendations are unlikely to ever be implemented and therefore sign them off as no longer appropriate.

Council Plan 2011-15

13. The Goose Management Scrutiny Review supported the Council's priority to encourage 'A Prosperous City for All' where everyone who lives in the city and visitors can enjoy its unique heritage and range of activities, and to 'Protect the Environment'.

Implications & Risk Management

14. There are no known implications or risks associated with the recommendations made in this report.

Recommendations

15. Members are recommended to:
 - i. Note the implementation update information detailed in Annex A
 - ii. Sign off any recommendations that have been fully implemented.
 - iii. Sign off any recommendations deemed no longer appropriate.Reason: To raise awareness of those recommendations which are still to be fully implemented.

Contact Details

Author:

Melanie Carr
Scrutiny Officer
Scrutiny Services
(01904) 552063

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Andrew Docherty
Assistant Director, Governance & ICT
(01904) 551004

Report Approved **Date** 6 March 2017

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

Annexes:

Annex A – Update on Goose Management Review Recommendations