

Tang Hall Area Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Committee

7 March 2007

Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services

Scrutiny Review of use of Council owned land at Tang Hall

Summary

1. This report updates members on progress in the scrutiny review of the Council-owned land in the Tang Hall area, particularly in relation to activities which have taken place since the last meeting.

Background

2. At the meeting of 27 November 2006 members heard from officers from Property Services on progress with the production of an Area Asset Management Plan for the Tang Hall area.
3. Members agreed the area the review would cover for consultation purposes, subject to consultation with Ward Members, and officers provided maps with council owned land identified on them. These were used for consultation with local residents as detailed below.
4. On 2 March 2007 officers from Property Services are due to meet with Ward Members and Service Representatives to discuss the structure of the Area Asset Management Plan. The suggested structure as at the time of writing can be found at Annex B. An officer from Property Services will attend this meeting to update members on progress.

Consultation

5. Members of the Scrutiny Sub-Committee held consultations with residents at Heworth and Hull Road Ward Committees in January and February 2007. They also held a meeting with representatives of community groups at Tang Hall Community Centre on 13 February 2007. A summary of the comments raised by people attending these meetings can be found at Annex C, to follow after publication of the agenda for the meeting.
6. In addition, at the last meeting, Members wished to find out what options would be available to consult with the public in the Heworth and Hull Road ward areas. The supporting Scrutiny Officer has made enquiries and ascertained estimated costs of a postal survey, leaflet distribution, insert to or questions within a ward newsletter, online survey, leaflets in libraries or

focus groups discussions. These costs can be found at Annex A and an analysis of how these could be funded is given under paragraph 12 below.

Model for Consultation on Future Asset Management Plans

7. Members discussed establishing a template or model for consultation processes in relation to future Asset Management Plans, based on findings from the activities undertaken specifically with regard to Tang Hall.

Such a model might be developed, at this stage of the review, to include a selection of the following:

- *Area based consultation at appropriate location(s) within the community, involving residents and key stakeholders
- *Ward Committee consultation
- A questionnaire delivered to every house within the ward (postal survey)
- Questions asked via the Councils citywide consultation tool 'Talkabout' to ensure that local decisions affecting the City as whole are consulted on.
- Phone surveys aimed at contacting 1 in 6 residents to get a representative view from ward based residents.
- On street interviews conducted at geographic sites of possible change.
- Leaflet distribution (see 3 alternative methods set out in Annex A)
- On-Line Survey
- Focus Group discussions

*Members have already undertaken these consultative methods so far and might wish to consider which of any of the above they would further recommend as a model of good practice fit for this purpose and which, if any, they would be interested in undertaking as part of this review. In doing this, Members will wish to have regard to the cost implications identified in Annex A and the available budget referred to in paragraph 12 below.

Options

8. Members may decide that their efforts to consult residents so far would provide a good basis for establishing a consultation model for future Area Asset Management Plans, together any of the other proposed consultative methods listed in paragraph 7 above.
9. Members may also wish to consider whether further consultation is necessary at this stage, along the lines set out in paragraph 7 and Annex A, bearing in mind the costs involved and responses from consultees to date.

Corporate Priorities

10. This could be considered to be relevant to corporate priority 3 – improve the actual and perceived condition and appearance of the city's streets, housing estates and publicly accessible spaces.

Implications

11. There are no known HR, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, IT or other implications at this stage, other than financial implications associated with undertaking any of the consultative methods referred to above or within Annex A.

Financial Implications

12. Members are reminded that there is now approximately £3,000 remaining within the scrutiny budget to support consultative and research activities associated with scrutiny reviews generally. This needs to be borne in mind when considering undertaking further consultation methods specifically in relation to this review.

Risk Management

13. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy, there are no known risks associated with the recommendations of this report.

Recommendations

14. Members are asked to agree that the results of their consultations are used to inform the Area Asset Management Plan for Tang Hall and which consultative methods in addition to those already undertaken locally, should be used as a model for the production of future plans.

Reason: In order to meet their responsibilities as an Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Sub-Committee and carry out the responsibilities agreed by SMC.

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Report Approved**Date** 26/02/2007**Specialist Implications Officer(s)** None.**Wards Affected:****All**

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Annex A – Research options and costs

Annex B – Suggested structure of Area Asset Management Plan

Annex C – Summary of comments from consultation meetings (to follow)

Background Papers None