

Executive

16 March 2017

Report of the Learning & Culture Policy & Scrutiny Committee

Play Opportunities Scrutiny Review - Cover Report

Introduction

1. This cover report presents the final report from the Play Opportunities Scrutiny Review and asks the Executive to approve the recommendations arising from the review.

Review Recommendations

2. In January 2017, the Learning & Culture Policy & Scrutiny Committee considered the review findings as presented in the Task Group final report at Appendix 1 and agreed to endorse the draft recommendations listed below for the Executive's consideration:
 - i) A Best Practice Guide to be introduced for Members containing a range of information (including those detailed in paragraph 40ii), to be used when committing ward funds to the future development of community spaces schemes which incorporate play provision
 - ii) The Best Practice Guide to be used to support Members when new open spaces improvement schemes come forward. For example the proposed playground capital investment schemes in 2017 (see paragraph 40vi)
 - iii) An appropriate Member training package should be introduced to provide members with the necessary skills to effectively engage with children and young people in their local wards

Reason: To inform future improvements to the neighbourhood working model, and to conclude this review in line with scrutiny procedures & protocols

Implications

3. Financial – The costs associated with the recommendations are minimal and can be contained within existing service budgets. Work is ongoing to source an appropriate provider and training package.
4. HR – As 'Play' sits across a number of functions within the authority, a resource commitment from those teams will be required to produce a Best Practice Guide for Councillors (Recommendation i). However, the information needed is already held within those teams so it would be possible if a project team were formed.
5. There are no significant Legal or other implications associated with the Play Opportunities Scrutiny Review recommendations above.

Risk Management

6. There is a risk that without the appropriate support and training to councillors, it will not be possible to sufficiently increase the levels of engagement required to effectively develop local schemes (not just play schemes), in support of the council's neighbourhood working model, or increase community provision. Specifically in regard to play and the development of open spaces for community use across the city, without quality engagement of all residents there is less chance of increasing community ownership and buy-in of those spaces or allaying the concerns of non users living nearby.

Council Plan 2015-19

8. This scrutiny review supports the following council priorities:
 - All York's residents live and thrive in a city which allows them to contribute fully to their communities and neighbourhoods
 - All children and adults are listened to, and their opinions considered
 - Every child has the opportunity to get the best possible start in life
 - Residents are encouraged and supported to live healthily
 - Focus on the delivery of frontline services for residents and the protection of community facilities.
 - Focus on cost and efficiency to make the right decisions in a challenging financial environment.

Options

11. Having considered the final report at Appendix 1 and its associated annexes, the Executive may choose to amend and/or approve, or reject the recommendations arising from the review

Recommendation

12. Having considered the final report and its annexes, the Executive is recommended to approve the recommendations as set out in paragraph 2 above.

Reason: To conclude the Scrutiny Review in line with CYC Scrutiny procedures and protocols.

Contact Details

Author:

Melanie Carr
Scrutiny Officer
Scrutiny Services
Tel No.01904 552054

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Andrew Docherty
AD Governance & ICT

Report Approved **Date** 30 January 2017

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Financial:

Richard Hartle
Head of Finance
Adults, Children & Education

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

Annexes:

Appendix 1 – Play Opportunities Scrutiny Review Final Report