

Executive

28 April 2016

Report of the Communities & Environment Policy & Scrutiny Committee

Goose Management Scrutiny Review - Cover Report

Introduction

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

Review Recommendations

2. In March 2016, the Communities & Environment Policy & Scrutiny Committee considered the Task Group's review findings as presented in the final report at Appendix 1 and endorsed their draft recommendations listed below:
 - i) Officers to carry out a number of trials to test the effectiveness of various measures i.e.:
 - A licensed chemical (if sourced)
 - A droppings collection machine
 - Ultrasound audio
 - Amend the fencing at War Memorial Gardens
 - Expand and refresh signage in public parks and open spaces
 - ii) To inform the current annual egg treatment works undertaken by the council and to inform a future integrated goose management strategy for the city, Executive to consider providing funding from the additional ward funding monies allocated for environmental projects, to enable a survey to be undertaken of the city's Canada & Greylag goose population, and to map nesting sites across the whole CYC administrative area.
 - iii) Officers to draft an integrated goose management strategy for the Executive's consideration (taking account of the findings from the various trials and the survey), which identifies:

- A range of measures suitable for specific public spaces/parks
 - The costs and resource requirements associated with those measures
 - Appropriate funding options to include ward funding, capital budget etc.
 - A monitoring regime to assess the strategy's effectiveness
- iv) Permission to be sought from private land owners identified in ii) for access to treat eggs laid on their land
- v) The strategy's effectiveness to be monitored over several years, before consideration is given to whether a cull is required in support of the strategy.

Reason: To assist in the development of a suitable long term strategy for the management of geese in York and to conclude this scrutiny review in line with scrutiny procedures and protocols.

Implications & Risk Management

3. **Financial** – Some of the trials are free e.g. a trial of the droppings collection machine. The total cost for all the trial measures is approximately £6K and it will be possible to complete the trials and measures listed in recommendation (i) using existing public realm budgets; however, this would be at the expense of some core maintenance tasks.
4. There is no funding available to implement recommendation (ii). Three quotes were sourced for the proposed survey, and it has been confirmed that the survey work could be undertaken at a cost of £6k. The possibility of using 'Pride in York' ward funding has been explored but as this funding is for supporting environmental improvements for two years, it has not been deemed appropriate. An alternative funding source will therefore need to be identified if the survey is to be undertaken. Furthermore, the survey needs to be carried out during the nesting period (throughout April to mid May). As the Executive are not considering this final report until the end of April, it will not be possible to undertake the survey during the nesting period this year, and it is likely that delaying the survey work until next year will result in an increase in the cost of that work.
5. In regard to Recommendation (iii) there will be cost associated with developing a draft strategy for the Executive's consideration, and officer capacity may be an issue as the Operations Manager will be fully

committed to the neighbourhood environment work, including master planning for the parks and open spaces over the next two years. There will also be costs involved in implementing the Goose Management Strategy but these will only be identified as the suite of measures required are developed. It is suggested that those measures and costs be identified on a site by site basis so that all options for appropriate funding can be explored, including the option to apply for ward funding.

6. **HR** – It will be possible to complete the work associated with Recommendation (i) using existing resources. In regard to recommendation (iii), officer capacity will be examined as part of the consideration of the resources required to implement the measures contained within the draft Goose Management Strategy, which will be provided for the consideration of the Executive in due course.
7. There are no specific **legal** implications associated with the recommendations arising from this review which should be reported to the Executive.

Council Plan 2015-19

8. The review of this scrutiny topic supports 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.

Options

9. 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 as set out in paragraph 2 above.

Recommendations

10. Having considered the final report and its annexes, the Executive is recommended to approve the recommendations listed in paragraph 2 above.

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

Contact Details

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Report Approved

Date

21 March 2016

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

Annexes:

Appendix 1 – Goose Management Scrutiny Review Final Report