



Notice of a public meeting of

Goose Management Scrutiny Review Task Group

- To:** Councillors Kramm (Chair), Gunnell and Richardson
Mr Eastham and Ms Mortimer
- Date:** Tuesday, 26 January 2016
- Time:** 4.00 pm
- Venue:** The Giles Room - 1st Floor West Offices (F022)

AGENDA

1. Appointment of Chair

To appoint a Member to Chair the Task Group.

2. Declarations of Interest

At this point in the meeting, Members are asked to declare:

- any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests
- any prejudicial interests or
- any disclosable pecuniary interests

which they may have in respect of business on this agenda.

3. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered their wish to under the Council's Public Participation Scheme may do so. The deadline for registering is **5.00pm on Monday 25 January 2016.**

Members of the public may register to speak on:

- An item on the agenda
- An issue within the remit of the Task Group

Filming, Recording or Webcasting Meetings

Residents are welcome to photograph, film or record Councillors and Officers at all meetings open to the press and public. This includes the use of social media reporting, i.e. tweeting. Anyone wishing to film, record or take photos at any public meeting should contact the Democracy Officer (whose contact details are at the foot of this agenda) in advance of the meeting.

The Council's protocol on Webcasting, Filming & Recording of Meetings ensures that these practices are carried out in a manner both respectful to the conduct of the meeting and all those present. It can be viewed at https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/6453/protocol_for_webcasting_filming_and_recording_council_meetingspdf

4. Goose Management Scrutiny Review Report (Pages 1 - 8)

This report introduces information in support of objective (i) of the review remit for the Goose Management scrutiny review, and asks the Task Group to formally agree the remit and methodology for the review.

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For more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services Officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports and
- For receiving reports in other formats

Contact details are set out above.

This information can be provided in your own language.

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim własnym języku. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

 (01904) 551550

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Goose Management Scrutiny Review Task Group
Report of the AD Governance & ITT

26 January 2016

Goose Management Scrutiny Review Report

Summary

1. This report introduces information in support of objective (i) of the review remit for the Goose Management scrutiny review, and asks the Task Group to formally agree the remit and methodology for the review.

Background to Review

2. At a meeting in September 2015, the Communities & 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 – see Annex A.
3. A Task Group made up of Cllrs Kramm, Gunnell and Richardson was set up and tasked with drafting a suitable review remit and carrying out the review. The Task Group met for the first time in early December 2015 and the following was drawn up:

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 and the University.

(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.
4. Furthermore, the Task Group agreed to co-opt two members on to the Task Group, one a member of the 'Friends of Rowntree Park' group and one a representative from the University of York.
5. Subsequently the Task Group identified dates for a number of meetings over which to conduct their review and the following review methodology was drawn up:

Meetings	Tasks
Meeting 1 - Formal Tuesday 26 th January 4pm (West Offices)	Objective 1 – To consider information relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The geese population in York • All previous related work undertaken by the Council • The associated cost to the city • Lessons learnt • Any associated health risks
Meeting 2 – Formal Tuesday 2 nd February 5.30pm (West Offices)	Objective 2 - To examine best practice nationally and elsewhere. Objective 3 - To consider technical options for dropping removal, the associated costs and external funding possibilities.
Meeting 3 – Informal Tuesday 9 th February 5.30pm (West Offices)	Objective 4 – Consultation Meeting Invitees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friends of Rowntree Park • Other support groups for parks and gardens • Yorkshire Wildlife Trust • University of York • RSPCA • Askham Bryan College • Public Health • Other interested parties

Meeting 4 – Informal Wednesday 17 th February 5.30pm (West Offices)	To consider findings and consultation feedback, and identify appropriate review conclusions
Meeting 5 – Formal Thursday 3 rd March 5.30pm (West Offices)	To consider draft final report.

Introduction to Geese in York

6. There are two main species of geese found in York – Greylag and Canada. There are also a small number of Barnacle geese to be found at the University, and very occasionally elsewhere, and a resident population of domestic farm geese to be found, in the main, at Castle Mills.
7. These Geese can usually be found at Rowntree Park, in and along the River Ouse between Scarborough Bridge and Rowntree Park (including War Memorial Gardens, Kings Staith, Tower Gardens and Eye of York), River Foss between Yearsley Bridge and Foss Basin, Hull Road Park, Chapman’s Pond, Hogg’s Pond, Rawcliffe Lake, University of York campus, Wigginton Pond, other remote ponds and lakes in York.
8. The Law
The geese, like all wild birds in Britain, are protected under the EC Wild Birds Directive implemented in Great Britain through the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended. This Act makes it an offence to capture, kill or injure birds, or to damage or take their nests or eggs. There are exceptions, the most important of which relate to the open (hunting) season (between September 1st and January 31st) and to actions licensed under Section 16 of the Act.

Information Gathered

9. Objective (i) - To understand previous examinations of the geese related problems in York, lessons learnt, cost to the city, associated health risks etc.
In support of this objective the Task Group will receive a PowerPoint presentation from the Strategy & Contracts Operations Manager at this meeting.

Council Plan 2015-19

10. This scrutiny review addresses an ongoing issue for residents in a number of wards and will aim to identify a solution that those local communities want. The review therefore supports the 'a council that listens to residents' priority of the Council Plan.

Implications & Risk Management

11. At this early stage in the review there are no known implications or risks associated with the review. All implications and risks identified as part of the ongoing work will be detailed in the review draft final report for the consideration of the full Communities & Environment Policy & Scrutiny Committee.

Recommendations

12. The Task Group are asked to:
- Formally agree the review remit, future meetings dates and review methodology detailed in paragraphs 3 & 5 above;
 - Consider and comment on the information provide in the powerpoint presentation provided and agree any further information required in support of Objective (i);

Reason: To progress this scrutiny review in line with scrutiny procedures and protocols

Contact Details

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Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Andrew Docherty
AD ITT & Governance

Report Approved Date 18 Jan 2016

Wards Affected: Guildhall, Micklegate & Hull Rd



Background Papers: None

Annexes:

Annex A: Goose Management Scrutiny Topic Registration Form

SCRUTINY TOPIC REGISTRATION / ASSESSMENT FORM FOR COUNCILLORS

What is the broad topic area?

Conflicts with urban Geese in York

What is the specific topic area?

i.e. what should be included & excluded from the topic? what are the driver behind the topic?

Improving the experience of residents and visitors to public parks and gardens by reducing contamination by geese dropping depositions

Ambitions for the review:

i.e. what is the review trying to achieve & why e.g. financial / efficiency savings and/or performance improvements? what will be different as a result of the review?

The presence of large numbers of wild geese in the centre of York creates a number of operational and safety problems, these include large amounts of droppings in paved areas, parks and gardens making these sites unwelcoming and unusable; damage to vegetation through grazing, and intimidation of children and other animals. Geese can usually be found at Rowntree Park, in and along the River Ouse between Scarborough Bridge and Rowntree Park (including War Memorial Gardens, Kings Staith, Tower Gardens and Eye of York), River Foss between Yearsley Bridge and Foss Basin, Hull Road Park, Chapman's Pond, Hogg's Pond, Rawcliffe Lake, University of York campus, Wigginton Pond, other remote ponds and lakes in York.

We would like to reduce the level of geese dropping depositions in the currently effected parks and gardens. We will not just look into the latest geese population management and control practises but also into technical options for dropping removal and its external funding possibilities.

1. Does it have a potential impact on one or more sections of the population? Yes No
2. Is it a corporate priority or concern to the council's partners? Yes No
3. Will the review add value? and lead to effective outcomes?

Annex A

4. Is it timely, and do we have the resources?

Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Will the review duplicate other work?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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If the answer is 'Yes' to questions 1 – 4 and 'No' to question 5, then the Committee may decide to proceed with the review. To decide how best to carry out the review, please provide information on the following:

1) Who and how shall we consult?

i.e. who do we need to consult and why? is there already any feedback from customers and/or other consultation groups that we need to take account of?

- Officers and previous reports
- Friends of Rowntree Park and other support groups for parks and gardens
- Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
- University of York Geese Management officer
- Experts in urban wildlife management of Askham Bryan College
- RSPCA
- Other councils in the UK and best practises from Europe, USA & Canada
- Providers of paddock cleaning equipment
- Public Health experts

2) Do we need any experts/specialists? (internal/external)

i.e. is the review dependent on specific teams, departments or external bodies? What impact will the review have on the work of any of these?

Internal expertise it necessary to outline the previous initiatives and proposals to understand why they have not been successful to a level recognised as successful by local residents.

The task group would try to rely on external experts and specialists as much as possible. If we are able to find a manageable solution for York there will be a wider impact for other local authorities.

3) What other help do we need? E.g. training/development/resources

i.e. does this review relate to any other ongoing projects or depend on them for anything? What information do we need and who will provide it? What do we need to undertake this review e.g. specific resources, events, meetings etc?

Access to all CYC formal documentation related to Geese management over last five years.

Administrative support where necessary.

4) How long should it take?

i.e. does the timings of completion of the review need to coincide with any other ongoing or planned work

14 weeks. The aim is to conclude the work of the task group by the end of February 2016 to produce recommendations to the committee in March.

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