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**Children, Education & Communities Policy &  
Scrutiny Committee**

**19 September 2017**

Report of the Assistant Director, Legal & Governance

**Update on Implementation of Recommendations from Previously  
Completed ‘Ward Funding’ and ‘Play Opportunities’ Scrutiny Reviews**

**Summary**

1. This report provides Members with their first update on the implementation of the approved recommendations arising from two previously completed scrutiny reviews. The final reports for those reviews can be viewed at: [Scrutiny Review Final Reports](#)
2. Members are asked to sign off all recommendations now considered to be fully implemented, and, are asked to agree to receiving a further update in 6 months time on any outstanding recommendations.

**Background to Ward Funding Scrutiny Review**

3. In June 2016 the Communities & Environment Policy & Scrutiny Committee received a detailed report on the Council’s new approach to community engagement through the establishment of revised ward committees, and a progress update on the embedding of the new working practices. This highlighted some areas of operation where there were issues i.e.:
  - Process for spending ward funding;
  - Project generation by community groups;
  - Matching spend to residents’ priorities;
  - Assessing ‘value for money’ in terms of outcomes;
  - Commissioning of local schemes.
4. The Scrutiny Committee agreed to undertake a review to assess achievements to date and ambitions for the future, with the aim of increasing the allocation of ward budgets and identifying improvements to the process. The Scrutiny Committee formed a Task Group to carry out the review on its behalf, with support from the Head of Communities & Equalities.

5. In January 2017 the Communities & Environment Policy & Scrutiny Committee endorsed the recommendations arising from the Task Group's review, and the review final report was presented to the Executive in March 2017.

### **Background to Play Opportunities Scrutiny Review**

6. In July 2016 the Learning & Culture Policy & Scrutiny Committee considered undertaking a scrutiny review on developing play opportunities in community settings, having previously considered the barriers to play and the different perspectives on play that exist within communities.
7. The Committee agreed to proceed with the review, with the aim of developing improved play opportunities across the city and identifying ways of enabling communities to bring forward potential schemes. A Task Group was formed to carry out the review on the Committee's behalf based on the following review objectives:
  - i. Examine national best practice and methodology and consider examples of recent good practice locally from engagement through to delivery of a project.
  - ii. Identify future positive ways to engage with children, young people and families in order to evidence local need and inform the development of play opportunities at a neighbourhood level.
  - iii. Examine how best to allay resident's concerns and improve buy in from the whole community, thereby improving community/ward cohesion.
  - iv. Identify best ways (methodology) to bring forward/ develop potential new schemes.
  - v. Identify where lack of community capacity makes identifying need more challenging.
8. In January 2017 the Learning & Culture Policy & Scrutiny Committee endorsed the Task Group's review recommendations and the review final report was presented to the Executive in March 2017.
9. The recommendations from both reviews as approved by the Executive are listed in Annexes A & B respectively, along with update information provided by the Head of Communities & Equalities.

## **Options**

10. Members may choose to sign off any individual recommendation where implementation has now been completed, and can:
  - a. Request further updates and the attendance of the relevant officer at a future meeting to clarify any outstanding recommendations.
  - b. Agree no further updates are required.

## **Council Plan 2015-19**

11. The Ward Funding Review supported the Council's priorities to:
  - Listen to residents
  - Protect community facilities
  - Focus on cost and efficiency to make the right decisions at a ward level in a challenging financial environment.
12. The Play Opportunities Review supported 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.

## **Implications**

13. There are no known Financial, Human Resources, Equalities, Legal, ICT or other implications associated with the recommendations made in this report.

## **Risk Management**

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

## **Recommendations**

15. Members are asked to note the contents of this report and:

- i. Sign off any recommendations that have now been fully implemented.
- ii. Agree whether a further update is required in 6 months time.

Reason: To raise awareness of those recommendations which are still to be fully implemented.

### Contact Details

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**Report Approved**



**Date**

1 September 2017

**Wards Affected:**

**All**



**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers:** None

**Annexes:**

**Annex A –** Implementation Update on Ward Funding Review Recommendations

**Annex B –** Implementation Update on Play Opportunities Review Recommendations

**Report Abbreviations:** N/A