

Implementation Update of Approved Recommendations from Goose Management Scrutiny Review

Recommendations as presented to Cabinet in April 2016	Update Information presented to Executive Member for Leisure, Culture & Tourism in June 2016	Update Information provided by Operations Manager (Strategy & Contracts) in September 2016	Implementation Update as of March 2017
<p>i) Officers to carry out a number of trials to test the effectiveness of various measures i.e.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<p>The Public Realm Operations Manager (Strategy & Contracts) confirmed that it would be possible to carry out all of the proposed trials to test the effectiveness of various measures without the need of additional resources.</p>	<p><u>Rowntree Park</u> Goose dropping collection machine successfully tested in August 2016. Public Realm can buy the machine but need ward funds to pay for its day to day operation. The cost is estimated to be about £6k per year based on using it Easter through to October ½ term for about 2 hours a day. Ward funding would be required for this. The Friends want one of the garden areas fenced to keep out the birds. The cost would be £4.5k. The Friends have offered around £500 towards this and ward funding would be required for the balance. New “don’t feed the geese” stencil signs are ready to be installed on lake side paths.</p>	<p><u>Rowntree Park</u> To date, the Operations Manager has been unable to attend a Micklegate Ward team meeting but has tried on a number of occasions to arrange a meeting during office hours with ward Cllrs to discuss Rowntree Park issues and the funding of the survey (see recommendation ii), without success. Most recently, it has been agreed that the Operations manager will attend a ward team meeting scheduled for 5th April 2017. In the meantime, the officer has attended two meetings of the Friends of Rowntree Park over the last six months to keep them informed of developments.</p>

		<p><u>War Memorial Gardens</u> A gate was installed against the river side and some missing fence replaced to restrict access to the geese. Needs signs to explain this as it keeps being left open. As a temporary measure the flower beds are to be turfed over so the Gardens are tidy for November 11th. Over the winter, new beds and fencing will be installed - funded by Public Realm as it is a city wide site.</p> <p><u>Foss Islands Nature Reserve</u> The intention is to 'disrupt' this nesting/roosting site by subdividing the area into smaller parcels of land and installing visual scarer's within each parcel of land. TCV are pricing this up at the moment.</p>	<p><u>War Memorial Gardens</u> Gate installed, geese still regularly seen in the Gardens. All bedding removed and turfed over. To be replanted with decorative evergreen plants this spring</p> <p><u>Foss Islands Nature Reserve</u> New fencing fitted in February to divide the site. Site visit by pest control company to test non lethal deterrents to take place in March 2017.</p> <p><u>General measures</u></p> <p><u>Ultra sound</u> - Discounted following site visits by two providers of the equipment in November because: a) limited range</p>
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<p>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</p>	<p>The cost of carrying out a survey would have been £6k had that work been undertaken in early 2016. However that nesting period past, so it is likely there would be a slight increase in that cost should the work be undertaken during the 2017 nesting period which will fall within the 2017/18 financial year. The purpose of the survey</p>	<p>As the primary ward affected by geese, I have been trying to arrange a meeting with the Ward Councillors from Micklegate Ward in order to progress this and some of the other issues listed above.</p>	<p>As Micklegate, Guildhall, Heworth & Fishergate are the wards most affected by geese, and would benefit most from an expanded treatment programme, an email was sent on 16 Feb 2017 to those ward Cllrs asking them to confirm their interest in pursuing this course of action. A number of responses have been received but to date only</p>

<p>undertaken of the city's Canada & Greylag goose population, and to map nesting sites across the whole CYC administrative area.</p>	<p>would be to identify more nests than those currently treated, which if included in future annual egg treatment works would have a more positive impact on reducing goose numbers. The Council currently spends £900 per annum treating eggs in known nests on council land, and it would be possible to increase the programme within that existing budget. However, those wards who wish to participate in the expanded programme would need to fund the initial survey i.e. Micklegate, Heworth, Guildhall & Fishergate wards. This would be a legitimate use of their ward environmental budget. The Public Realm Operations Manager (Strategy & Contracts) would commission the work.</p>		<p>Micklegate ward Cllrs have expressed an interest in funding the survey work.</p>
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<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<p>As a result of the work undertaken on the review, a number of measures were identified that would improve the negative impact of geese on a number of specific sites across the city e.g. Rowntree Park, where a goose droppings collection machine was trialled and found to be fit for purpose. As it was accepted that it would not be possible to draft a citywide strategy without impacting on current staffing resources, it was suggested that the relevant ward Cllrs may wish to consider whether they want to implement any of the measures identified by the review within their wards and use their ward funding to enable the necessary works.</p>	<p><u>Recommendations (iii) – (v)</u> The first two recommendations will need implementing fully to enable the remainder of the recommendations to be implemented.</p>	
<p>iv) Permission to be sought from private land owners identified</p>	<p>Officers confirmed that complaints and requests on how to deal with geese</p>	<p>As above</p>	

<p>in ii) for access to treat eggs laid on their land</p>	<p>had been received from private landowners and businesses, where geese were both nesting and grazing. Therefore it is expected they would be receptive to a request from the Council to treat eggs in nests found on their land. However, the additional treatment work would only take place as a result of recommendation (ii) being implemented.</p>		
<p>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.</p>	<p>As it was agreed that wards would implement their own measures in response to specific issues in their ward, it would be up to those wards to monitor the effectiveness of those measures.</p>	<p>As above</p>	
<p>Agreed March 2017:</p>			