

Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee

28 June 2017

Report of the Assistant Director – Legal & Governance

Update Report on implementation of recommendations from previously completed Protection of Grass Verges Scrutiny Review

Summary

1. This report provides Members with the first update on the implementation of recommendations (Appendix A) arising from the previously completed Protection of Grass Verges Scrutiny Review.

Background

2. At a meeting of the Economic Development & Transport Policy & Scrutiny Committee in March 2016 Members received a scrutiny topic proposal around concerns about damage being caused by motor vehicles to grass verges across the city.
3. Members agreed that the damage to grass verges is an issue which is widespread in the city and that it would be useful to carry out a scrutiny review. The Committee appointed a Task Group to carry out this work on their behalf. The Committee subsequently agreed the following review aim and objectives:

Aim

How City of York Council can work in partnership with residents to improve and protect the condition of grass verges from damage caused by motor vehicles.

Objectives

- i. Understand the Council's current policies and procedures in relation to the management of grass verges and to what extent they are enforced.
- ii. Look at schemes that have been successfully used elsewhere and examine whether they can be introduced in York.

- iii. To better understand the reasons why people park on grass verges. (To hear from people who do park on grass verges and not just those who complain.)
 - iv. To understand what consideration is given to car parking when planning applications are agreed, to include new built, extensions and conversions.
 - v. To examine whether parking provision in the Local Plan is still effective and appropriate.
 - vi. Assess what can be legally done in the most practical and cost-effective way to protect grass verges from the damage caused by motor vehicles.
4. Over a number of meetings the Task Group evidence in support of the review and the conclusions and recommendations were endorsed by EDAT at their meeting in September 2016.
5. The final scrutiny report was subsequently considered by the Executive in November 2015 when the recommendations were endorsed so the Council can help address ongoing issues for a number of residents in various wards in the city.

Options

6. Members may decide to sign off any individual recommendations of the Protection of Grass Verges Scrutiny Review where implementation has been completed and can:
- i. Request further updates and the attendance of relevant officers at a future meeting to clarify any outstanding recommendations to the above review or;
 - ii. Agree to receive no further updates on this review.

Council Plan

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

Implications

8. There are no known financial, human resources, equalities, legal or other implications associated with the recommendation made in this report.

Risk management

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

Consultation

10. There was no consultation involved in the production of this report. However, the Scrutiny Review Task Group consulted extensively with residents in reaching their recommendations in their final report.

Recommendation

11. Members are asked to note the content of this report and its annex and sign off all the recommendations in the Protection of Grass Verges Scrutiny Review that have been fully implemented.

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

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Report Approved ☒ **Date** 27/04/2017

Wards Affected:

All ☒

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Appendix A – Implementation of recommendations from the Protection of Grass Verges Scrutiny Review.

Appendix B – Grass Verges Letter.