

**Report of: Chair of Environment & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee**

<b>Meeting of</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Ward(s)</b>
Executive	19 September 2019	All

<b>Delete as appropriate</b>		Non-exempt
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**Subject: Resident and Volunteer Engagement in Parks and Open Spaces – Findings of the Environment & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee**
**1. Synopsis**

- 1.1 This report requests that the Executive receive the recommendations of the Environment & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee following the completion of its review of Resident and Volunteer Engagement in Parks and Open Spaces. A response to the recommendations set out in the report will be considered at a future meeting of the Executive.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the report of the Environment & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee be received.
- 2.2 That the Executive Member's response be reported to a future meeting of the Executive, including having due regard to any relevant implications of the Environment & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee's recommendations.

**3. Background**

In September 2018 the Environment & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee commenced a review of Islington Parks and Open Spaces. The overall aim of the review is to increase the engagement of residents and volunteers in Islington's Parks and open spaces and to understand the current role our parks and opens spaces play in meeting the Council's core objectives and what opportunities are there for increasing this. The objectives of the review included understanding barriers to the use of parks and volunteering; understanding how parks and open spaces are used by other council teams to meet core council priorities of building resilience and tackling social isolation; understanding the extent the parks and

open spaces contribute to the health and wellbeing agenda and identifying what changes could be made to make the offer more attractive to bodies such as the public health team, NHS and other commissioning groups; understanding how the council engages with the third sector.

#### **4.1 Financial Implications**

The proposals in the report need to be costed before a response is made by the Executive.

#### **4.2 Legal Implications**

Relevant legal implications will be considered as part of the response to the review.

#### **4.3 Environmental Implications**

There are no environmental implications at this stage. Any environmental implications will be identified as part of the Executive Member response.

#### **4.4 Resident Impact Assessment**

The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

The Committee has had regard to any equalities implications and resident impacts identified by witnesses during the course of the review. Details of any such implications are set out in the appended report. A Resident Impact Assessment has not been completed as the Executive is only asked to receive the report at this stage. The impact on residents will need to be fully considered as part of the Executive Member response to the review, at which point a Resident Impact Assessment will be completed if required.

### **5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

5.1 The Committee believes that there is more scope for resident and volunteers use and activities in Islington's Parks and Open Spaces. The committee recognises the involvement of volunteers especially as they ensure that parks and open spaces remain attractive and welcoming. The recommendations in the report will support volunteer engagement and encourage others to get involved.

**Appendices:** Scrutiny Committee Recommendation report

**Background papers:** None.

Report author: Ola Adeoye, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Tel: 020 7527 3044

E-mail: [Olayiwola.adeoye@islington.gov.uk](mailto:Olayiwola.adeoye@islington.gov.uk)