

Review: Green Spaces
Committee/Task Group: Green Spaces Task Group
Final report published: 12 March 2008
Cabinet/Executive response: 9 July 2008 (at Call-in and Performance Scrutiny Committee)
Scrutiny Review: Call-in and Performance Scrutiny Committee 4 February 2010
Chair: Councillor Janet Baddeley

Recommendation	Cabinet/Executive response/decision	Scrutiny follow-up	Latest update	Further review required / completed
Target dates within the plan be revised in line with realistic expectations, a revised plan be published and kept regularly updated.	The Portfolio Holder agreed with the first recommendation. She suggested that an update could be published in the Members' Bulletin on a quarterly basis. She said she would appreciate any feedback from the Committee to see if this worked. (09/07/08)	Updated action plan presented and discussed at Call-in and Performance Scrutiny Committee. (04/02/10)	Strategy is to be reviewed in 2012 as it is now reaching the end of its lifespan. A review will be carried out of the action plan looking at what has been achieved and what is outstanding taking into account the current economic climate	

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The latest completion date be published in the plan for the various park improvements.	The second recommendation would also be covered by these comments. (09/07/08)		See above. A programme of park improvements was approved in September 2011 allocating £4.6 million of parks and play area improvements based on S106 funding. Programme is over 4 years and is now well underway.	
The Leisure & Community Services department produce a priority listing for upgrading open spaces in consultation with members and other stakeholders.	This action was already in progress and formed part of Planning Policy Guidance 17. However, PPG17 had been delayed, which the Portfolio Holder understood was due to a vacancy in the planning policy section. A priority list of actions across Watford would be produced shortly. (09/07/08)		As above and went to Cabinet in September 2011. Was based on qualitative analysis and PPG17 data as well as local population stats.	

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<p>A protocol be produced to explain the role of Friends Groups and partners and how the Council deals with them and involves them. Companies and groups that come forward should have a point of contact and procedures should state what they can expect.</p>	<p>The fourth recommendation was already available and was published on the Council's website. (09/07/08)</p>		<p>Nothing to update</p>	
<p>The Leisure & Community Services department considers whether a process can be produced which enables councillors to support bids for Section 106 money for parks in their wards.</p>	<p>The Portfolio Holder said it was not acceptable to allow Councillors to support bids for Section 106 funds to be used for specific parks in their wards. She explained that this would discourage a strategic approach across the whole of the Borough. Officers were aware of the play spaces and parks that were in need of refurbishment. The costs for the proposed work would also come from capital funding as well as Section 106 monies. (09/07/08)</p>		<p>Nothing to update</p>	

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<p>The Leisure & Community Services department considers whether a data base of potential external funds could be created to inform and assist Friends groups and council members.</p>	<p>Officers informed people to contact the Council for Voluntary Services (CVS), who had a grant finder database. If the Council created one, this would be a duplicate of a resource that was already available. (09/07/08)</p>		<p>Officers are now working with Groundwork Trust who provide access to funds elsewhere and enable development work with community groups</p>	
<p>Consider giving a higher priority to the development of the Ranger Service and the relationships with Friends Groups.</p>	<p>The role of Head Ranger had been created.</p>		<p>Nothing further to report</p>	