



Cabinet
17 August 2020

**Report from the Assistant Chief
Executive**

**Executive Response to the Recommendations of the
Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee
12 March 2020;- Brent Parks Strategy**

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Non Key Decision
Open or Part/Fully Exempt:	Open
Appendices:	Appendix 1: Executive Response to the Recommendations of the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee Made 12 March 2020.
Background Papers:	None.
Contact Officer(s):	Michael Carr - Senior Policy and Scrutiny Officer michael.carr@brent.gov.uk Tel: 020 8937 2855

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the recommendations from the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee on the Council's parks strategy made at its meeting on 12 March 2020 for an Executive Response. The proposed Executive Response to the recommendations is attached at Appendix 1.

2 Recommendation(s)

That the Executive Response to the scrutiny recommendations on the Council's parks strategy made by the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee made at its meeting on 12 March 2020 be agreed.

3 Detail

- 3.1 In accordance with Part 4 of the Brent Council Constitution (Standing Orders of Committees) Brent Council scrutiny committees may make recommendations to Full Council or the Cabinet with respect to any functions which are the responsibility of the executive or of any functions which are not the responsibility of the executive, or on matters which affect the borough or its inhabitants. The Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee may also make recommendations to the relevant NHS bodies or relevant health service providers or Full Council.

- 3.2 The Cabinet is being asked to consider its Executive Response to the recommendations and either agree, reject or agree as amended, the scrutiny recommendations made, as set out in the draft Executive Response attached at Appendix 1 to this report.
- 3.3 Scrutiny committees may not make executive decisions and scrutiny recommendations therefore require consideration and decision by the appropriate decision maker; usually the Cabinet, but also to full Council for policy and budgetary decisions and the NHS where it is the decision maker, in accordance with the terms of reference for scrutiny committees set out in the Council Constitution.
- 3.4 The minutes of the meeting of the scrutiny committee, attached at Appendix 2, provide the record of the scrutiny committee's consideration of the issue and the scrutiny recommendations made during the meeting.
- 3.5 Scrutiny recommendations may include those made in scrutiny reports agreed in committee (eg through Scrutiny Task Groups). These are usually dealt with through a separate report to the Cabinet following the same process, which requests an Executive Response to the scrutiny report and recommendations.
- 3.6 The scrutiny committee will be notified of the executive decisions made in respect to the scrutiny recommendations and may track the implementation of the Cabinet decisions. This enables the scrutiny committee to track whether their recommendations have been agreed, what actually was agreed (if different) and review any outcomes arising from the scrutiny recommendations, for example, service improvements, value for money savings and outcomes for residents.

4 Procedure for Reports and Recommendations from Scrutiny Committees

- 4.1 Where scrutiny committees make reports or recommendations to the Cabinet, as soon as this has been confirmed, these will be referred to the Cabinet requesting an Executive Response and the issue will be published on the Council's Forward Plan. This will instigate the preparation of a report to Cabinet and the necessary consideration of the response, the technical feasibility, financial implications, legal implications and equalities implications etc.
- 4.2 The Cabinet will receive notification of the committee's report or recommendations and agree the Executive Response, which may include an executive decision with respect to the scrutiny recommendations.
- 4.3 Where scrutiny committees make reports or recommendations to full Council (e.g. in the case of policy and budgetary decisions), the same process will be followed, with a report to Cabinet to agree its Executive Response, and thereafter, a report will be prepared for Council for consideration of the scrutiny report and recommendations along with the Cabinet's Response.
- 4.4 Where scrutiny committees have powers under their terms of reference to make reports or recommendations external decision makers (e.g. NHS bodies), where they do this, the relevant external decision maker shall be notified in

writing, providing them with a copy of the committee's report and recommendations, and requesting a response.

- 4.5 Once the Executive Response has been agreed, the scrutiny committee shall receive a report to receive the response and the committee may review implementation of the executive's decisions after such a period as these may reasonably be implemented (review date).

5 Brent Parks Strategy Recommendations

- 5.1. At its meeting on 12 March 2020, the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee considered Brent Council's strategies for parks, including policy, strategy, management and performance for Brent Parks and received a report and oral evidence in questions to Councillor Krupa Sheth, Lead Cabinet Member for Environment and lead officers within the Environment and Regeneration department.

- 5.2. The minutes of that meeting are published here:
<http://democracy.brent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=551&MId=5402&Ver=4> .

- 5.3. At the end of the consideration of the issue, the committee resolved to recommend to Cabinet:

1. That a new Brent Parks Strategy encompass the green and open spaces as a whole and include measurable targets, including bespoke targets for Brent, to facilitate the use of parks and open spaces by a diversity of different people in the community and to encourage sporting activities.
2. To improve the data on people using the park, which could be used to inform the strategy.
3. That provision be made within the strategy and management of parks to allow for barbeques in designated areas, perhaps with the requirement of a permit and perhaps after a trial period to test out how this might work.

6 The Executive Response

- 6.1. The proposed Executive Response to the scrutiny recommendations made, attached at Appendix 1, is to agree the recommendations.

7 Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications for the purposes of this report.

8 Legal Implications

- 8.1 Section 9F, Part 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, *overview and scrutiny committees: functions*, requires that Executive Arrangements by a local authority must ensure that its overview and scrutiny committees have the power to make reports or recommendations to the authority or the executive with respect to the discharge of any functions which are or are not the responsibility of the executive, or on matters which affect the authority's area or the inhabitants of that area.
- 8.2 Section 9Fe, *duty of authority or executive to respond to overview and scrutiny committee*, requires that the authority or executive;-
- (a) consider the report or recommendations,
 - (b) respond to the overview and scrutiny committee indicating what (if any) action the authority, or the executive, proposes to take,
 - (c) if the overview and scrutiny committee has published the report or recommendations, publish the response, within two months beginning with the date on which the authority or executive received the report or recommendations.

9 Equality Implications

- 9.1 Under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council has a duty when exercising their functions to have 'due regard' to the need:
- a) to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act;
 - b) advance equality of opportunity; and
 - c) foster good relations between those who share a "protected characteristic" and those who do not.
- 9.2 This is the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). The 'protected characteristics' are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation. {List any equalities implications to be considered arising from the agreed scrutiny recommendations}.

10 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

- 10.1 None.

11 Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)

- 11.1 None.

Related documents: Minutes of the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee
12 March 2020.

Report sign off:

Shazia Hussain
Assistant Chief Executive