



NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10 JUNE 2013

BRIEFING NOTE:

SCRUTINY PANEL 1 – IMPROVING THE TOWN’S PARKS

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned Scrutiny Panel 1 to undertake a Review regarding improving the town’s parks, the rationale being “ *to evaluate community engagement for the improvement of parks and green spaces.*”
- 1.2 Membership of the Scrutiny Panel comprises Councillor Elizabeth Gowen (Chair); Councillors Brendan Glynane, Jamie Lane, Matt Lynch and Sivaramen Subbarayan.
- 1.3 At the first meeting of the Scrutiny Panel, Councillors agreed the scope of the Review; a copy is attached at Appendix A, for the Committee’s approval.

2 UPDATE

- 2.1 The Panel agreed that the purpose of the Review should be revised: “ *To improve community engagement within the town’s parks.*”
- 2.2 The Panel agreed that the Chairs of Friends of Abington Park, Friends of Delapre Park, Friends of the Racecourse and Friends of West Hunsbury Parks be approached suggesting that they are co-opted to this Scrutiny Review.
- 2.3 In discussing the rationale for the Review, the Scrutiny Panel felt that the required outcomes should be:
 - To make recommendations for the improvement within the town’s parks that better meet the needs of the community
 - To ensure that every park and open space within the town achieves its potential
 - To inform the terms of reference and membership of the Park Management Committees

2.4 The schedule of meetings comprises:-

June 2013 to November 2013

- 6 June 2013 - Scoping meeting
- 1 July 2013 - Evidence gathering
- 5 August 2013 - Evidence gathering
- 4 September - Evidence gathering
- 2 October - Evidence gathering
- 25 November - Approval final report

2.5 Various site visits will be programmed in during this period.

2.6 Meetings of the Scrutiny Panel will commence at 6.00 pm and be held in the Jeffery Room at the Guildhall.

2.7 In accordance with the Scrutiny Panel Protocol, the Chair of this Scrutiny Panel will provide written progress reports to future meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for information.

3 RECOMMENDATION

3.1 That the purpose of the Review is updated: "*To improve community engagement within the town's parks.*"

3.2 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee approves the scope of the Scrutiny Panel 1 – Improving the town's parks, as attached at Appendix A.