



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

SCRUTINY PANEL 1 – Improving the Town's Parks

1. Purpose/Objectives of the Review

- To improve community engagement within the town's parks

2. Outcomes Required

- 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

3. Information Required

- Background data
- Background reports
- Best practice data
- Desktop research
- Evidence from expert internal witnesses
- Evidence from expert external witnesses
- Site visits

4. Format of Information

- Background reports such as:

Improving Northampton's Parks and Open Spaces Report
(Cabinet 12 June 2013)
Parks and Open Space Strategy for Northampton

- Background data to inform the terms of reference and membership of the Park Management Committees
- Evidence from the Cabinet Member for Environment
- Evidence from the Cabinet Member for Community Engagement
- Evidence from ward Councillors with key parks within their wards

- Evidence from Friends Groups/User Groups
- Evidence from the Park Rangers
- Evidence from Enterprise Management Services (EMS)
- Desktop research identifying best practice elsewhere
- Site visits to the town's three key parks:

Abington Park
Delapre Abbey
Racecourse

5. Methods Used to Gather Information

- Minutes of meetings
- Desktop research
- Site visits
- Officer reports
- Presentations
- Examples of best practice
- Witness Evidence:-

➤ Key witnesses as detailed in section 4 of this scope

6. Co-Options to the Review

- Nicola Hedges, Chair, Friends of Delapre Abbey, Brian Stevens, Chair, Friends of Abington Park, Mavis Wilmshurst, Chair, Friends of West Hunsbury Parks and Sean Silver, Chair, Friends of the Racecourse, to be approached suggesting that they are co-opted to this Review for its life.

7 Equality Impact Screening Assessment

- An Equality Impact Screening Assessment to be undertaken on the scope of the Review

8 Evidence gathering Timetable

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 |

Various site visits will be programmed during this period if required.

Meetings to commence at 6.00 pm

9. Responsible Officers

Lead Officers Julie Seddon, Director of Customers and Communities
 Steve Elsey, Head of Public Protection

Co-ordinator Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer

10. Resources and Budgets

Julie Seddon, Director of Customers and Communities, and Steve Elsey, Head of Public Protection, to provide internal advice.

11. Final report presented by:

Completed by 25 November 2013. Presented by the Chair of the Panel to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and then to Cabinet.

12. Monitoring procedure:

Review the impact of the report after six months (June/July 2014)