

Sustainable Development Select Committee		
Report Title	Budget Savings Proposal N1: Reorganise environmental services, close and cease to maintain a number of small parks	
Key Decision	No	Item No. 4
Ward	All	
Contributors	Executive Director For Customer Services	
Class	Part 1	20 January 2015

Budget Savings Proposal N1: Reorganise environmental services, close and cease to maintain a number of small parks

Reducing parks maintenance -

Following an initial consultation meeting with the chairs of our Park User Groups on the 24TH October 2014, officers are meeting the members of the Lewisham Parks Forum (LPF) on the 17th January to discuss the establishment of working groups to investigate the following opportunities to increasing community involvement to help reduce costs.

- Identifying external funding (both capital and revenue) to support volunteering activities as well as improvement projects
- Reducing direct costs by making changes to existing maintenance regimes
- Holding legacy events organised by the User Groups to help support local parks. This could include seeking sponsors
- The LPF to explore alternative management options for open spaces for example trusts and social enterprises

Once this meeting has taken place we will be in a better position to determine the deliverability of the savings for 2015/16

Reducing management and management support costs/posts -

It has already been agreed that the working hours of 2 management posts will be reduced to help deliver the savings target rather than deleting posts entirely.

Consultation on the deletion of 1 management support post has already been completed and, subject to the approval of M&C in February, the post will be deleted on 27th March 2015.