

Sustainable Development Select Committee		
Title	Parks management review evidence session	
Contributor	Scrutiny Manager	Item 4
Class	Part 1 (open)	28 October 2019

1. Purpose of this paper

1.1. At its meeting in April 2019, the Committee discussed its work programme for 2019-20 and it decided to carry out a review of parks management in Lewisham. This paper sets out the work carried out to date and introduces further information for the committee to consider.

2. Recommendations

2.1. The Select Committee is asked to:

- Note the content of this report;
- Consider the Good Parks for London report (attached at appendix 1) and prepare questions for representatives of Good Parks for London who will attend the meeting on 28 October;
- Review the write up from the Committee's visit to Lewisham parks (appendix 2) and direct questions to Members who attended;
- Note the update from Lewisham Homes' green spaces service and direct questions to officers from Lewisham Homes – who will attend the meeting on 28 October;
- Consider what additional evidence is needed to conclude its review – in reference to the evidence that it has already received and the key lines of enquiry;
- Agree an updated timetable for the completion of the review (as set out in section 5)

3. Parks management and maintenance evidence gathering

3.1. The Committee has considered two updates from officers (July 2019 and September 2019) on future options for the parks service. At its meeting on 10 October Mayor and Cabinet¹ (incorporating the views of Sustainable Development Select Committee as regards the future development of a LATco) agreed that:

- Intention in principle be given to insource all aspects of Lewisham's parks and open space services on 1 November 2021, subject to further detailed consideration.
- Officers undertake a more detailed evaluation of the option to establish a wider divisional LATCo. The outcome of which will be to be reviewed following the insourcing of the parks service.
- The current contract be extended on the existing terms and conditions with Glendale Grounds Management for 20 months from 29th February 2020 until 31st October 2021 at a maximum cost to the Council of £4,347,000.

¹ Agenda, minutes and decisions of Mayor and Cabinet 10 October 2019, [link](#)

- 3.2. Tony Leach from 'Good Parks for London' has been invited to attend the Committee's meeting on 28 October. The 'Good Parks for London' report is attached at appendix 1.
- 3.3. In the summer, several members of the Committee took part in a visit to a selection of the borough's parks. A summary of this visit is included as appendix 2 of this report.
- 3.4. A report from Lewisham Homes on the performance of its green spaces service is attached at appendix 3.

4. Key lines of enquiry (KLOE)

- 4.1. The Committee has agreed these terms of reference.

KLOE1: future options for the parks service

- (Having considered a report by officers) - Which option for the future of the parks service does the Committee believe would be best?
- What good practice should Lewisham seek to retain and which areas could be strengthened further?

KLOE2: income generation

- How much progress have officers made in delivering proposals to generate income from the borough's parks?
- Are there examples of good practice that Lewisham can learn from? How might Lewisham avoid the potential pitfalls of income generating projects?
- Are changes required to Lewisham's policy for events in parks to ensure that the Council continues to build on its best practice whilst also creating opportunities for income generation?

KLOE3: maintenance and management of other open spaces

- How well is Lewisham homes doing at maintaining and managing housing amenity space?
- How might Lewisham ensure freedom of access to open spaces in the borough?
- Are there innovative options for the maintenance of these spaces that the Council could consider?
- What progress has been made on delivering the greening fund?

5. Updated timetable

- 5.1. The Committee agreed that it would carry out a review into parks management in the 2019-20 municipal year. The Committee is asked to consider the outline timetable below:

Committee meeting: 4 July 2019

Update from officers on the development of the options for the future of the parks service (to help answer questions under KLOE1);

Lewisham's parks visit: summer 2019

Visit with officers from the parks service to examples of good practice in the borough. To help answer the questions posed under KLOE1 and KLOE2;

Committee meeting: 11 September 2019

Update from officers on the development of the options for the future of the parks service

Committee meeting: 28 October 2019

Update from Lewisham Homes (to help answer the questions posed under KLOE3); update from Tony Leach of Good Parks for London

London borough best practice visit: autumn 2019

Visit to an example of best practice in another London borough (to answer the questions posed under KLOE2 and KLOE3);

Committee meeting: 4 December 2019

Update on the delivery of the greening fund; information from officers in the Council's planning service about ensuring access to public space and options for maintaining the public realm through planning obligations (to answer the questions posed under KLOE 3)

2 March 2020

Final report and recommendations for submission to Mayor and Cabinet.

6. Further implications

- 6.1. At this stage there are no specific financial, legal, environmental or equalities implications to consider arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. However, there will be implications arising from the issues considered over the course of the year, these will need to be considered in due course.

7. Background papers

SDSC agenda and minutes, 29 October 2018: [link](#)

SDSC agenda and minutes, 30 April 2019: [link](#)

SDSC agenda and minutes, 4 July 2019: [link](#)

SDSC agenda and minutes, 11 September 2019: [link](#)

Appendix

1: Good Parks for London (2018)

2: write up from the Committee's visit to parks and green spaces in the borough

3: update from Lewisham Homes on the performance of its management of green spaces

Sources

Communities and Local Government Committee (2017) Public Parks Inquiry: [link](#)

Glendale Lewisham: <http://lewisham.glendalelocal.co.uk/services/>

Good Parks for London report (2018): [link](#)

Guardian (2018) 'London's parks accused of 'creeping privatisation' of public spaces': [link](#)

Heritage Lottery Fund 'Public parks face decline' (2016): [link](#)

Lewisham Open Spaces Assessment (2019): [link](#)

Parks for London: <https://parksforlondon.org.uk/about-us/>

For further information about this report please contact Timothy Andrew, Scrutiny Manager (timothy.andrew@lewisham.gov.uk)

How to carry out an in-depth review



