

To: City Executive Board

Date: 13th February 2013

Report of: Communities and Partnership Scrutiny Committee,

Title of Report: Green Spaces Strategy

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To present comments from the Communities and Partnership Scrutiny Committee on the Green Spaces Strategy.

Key decision? No

Executive lead member: Councillor Mark Lygo

Policy Framework:

Recommendation(s): For the City Executive Board to say if it agrees or disagrees with the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1

To achieve the excellent ambition of access and use of our green spaces by all, we need to prioritise engagement across all sectors and groups within Oxford's communities. Significant learning is required in this area, and the Committee would like to see, as a priority, a focus on this to allow the beneficial outcomes from green spaces to be enjoyed by all.

Introduction and Background

1. The Green Spaces Strategy was considered by the Communities and Partnership Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 30th January 2013.
2. Whilst welcoming the Strategy overall and acknowledging its many positive aspects, the Scrutiny Committee was especially keen to ensure that maximum access of our green spaces was achieved.

3. In particular, the Committee noted .Objective 6 of the Strategy which states:

“Identify the specific needs of underrepresented groups and implement realistic recommendations”.

- 4 The Committee felt there was a need to encourage minority groups to use our open spaces, and that the engagement process and outcomes from it should be open and transparent

Recommendation

To achieve the excellent ambition of access and use of our green spaces by all we need to prioritise engagement across all sectors and groups within Oxford’s communities. Significant learning is required in this area across the Council and the committee would like to see, as a priority, a focus on this to allow the beneficial outcomes from green spaces to be enjoyed by all.

Director and Board Member Comments

Board Member and Director, Community Services

Comments to be given at the meeting.

Name and contact details of author:-

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List of background papers:

Version number: 1