

Appendix D: Comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Comment from Committee	Reasons from the Committee	Executive Member/Officer Comment	Recommended Action
Why is there no mention within the Strategy of access for people with disabilities?	Concern that an important user group may not have been considered.	<p>The strategy focuses strongly on “Promoting equality and access for all whether its walking in our open spaces, accessible equipment in play areas or learning more about historic monuments in our parks and open spaces”.</p> <p>This inherently includes people with disabilities.</p> <p>All protected characteristics have been considered as part of the Equality Impact Assessment for this strategy including disability. The strategy was found to have neutral impact.</p> <p>The draft strategy, pending approval, now emphasises that our parks being Attractive and Accessible includes disabled visitors (Appx 1, p.13). A new core aim commits to “maintain good access for all users including visitors with disabilities”.</p>	List the suggested change
Can the Executive Member ensure that the strategy is amended to reflect the inclusion of fireworks and	Concern that the proposed policies do not address a potential problem of visitors letting off fireworks in	Open spaces are currently hired out to local community groups or with partners such as Town Councils for the purpose of holding firework displays. Our position is that these will be authorised only where the organisers are able to demonstrate sufficiently rigorous event management including risk assessments covering crowd control, the provision of appropriately trained personnel and sufficient liability insurance cover.	List the suggested change

<p>non-organised displays?</p>	<p>our open spaces.</p>	<p>Any group or person letting off fireworks in a Council owned park or open space without our authorisation would be breaking the law as explained on the government's web site; https://www.gov.uk/fireworks-the-law</p> <p>This states that "you must not set off or throw fireworks (including sparklers) in the street or other public places."</p> <p>The draft Operating Policies and Guidance, pending approval, now include a section clarifying that fireworks in open spaces are illegal unless part of an organised display which has been authorised by the Council (Appx 2, p.5).</p>	
<p>The operating guidance in the strategy does not clarify that sand in play areas is routinely raked to remove all faeces including foxes and cats as well as dogs.</p>	<p>Concern that young people may be at greater risk from coming into contact with faeces if there is not a commitment to consider all animals.</p>	<p>The current contract requires the contractor to rake sand play areas at each inspection/maintenance visit. This must include the removal of all litter, glass, debris and other deleterious matter. This will be daily, three times a week or weekly depending on the type of play area and volume of use according to a schedule. That schedule can be varied if circumstances alter.</p> <p>The draft Operating Policies and Guidance, pending approval now clarifies that raking of play sand is carried out to deal with all animal faeces (Appx 2, p.25).</p>	<p>List the suggested change</p>
<p>The strategy could go further to commit to safe use of</p>	<p>There has been some media coverage relating to the use of</p>	<p>The draft Operating Policies and Guidance, pending approval, now clarifies how herbicides are used as part of the Council's open space maintenance regime and that this usage is kept to a minimum in accordance with legally enforceable conditions of</p>	<p>List the suggested change</p>

<p>herbicide in relation to its potential environmental impact.</p>	<p>glyphosate. The Council aims for Environmental Sustainability to be at the heart of everything it does.</p>	<p>use requiring the responsible use of pesticides in amenity areas (Appx 2, p.18).</p>	
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