



## **Report to Cabinet**

**Subject: Parks & Open Spaces Development Plan**

**Date: 6<sup>th</sup> October 2005**

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### **1. Purpose of the Report**

To inform Members of work being undertaken to provide a development plan for parks and open spaces and to agree a consultation process for implementation of the plan.

### **2. Background**

The Borough Council has set out its priorities, adopted the Cultural Strategy and the Local Plan.

- The Cultural Strategy identifies both the shortfall and over-provision of open space, children's play and grass-based pitches throughout the Borough.
- The Local Plan identifies areas of development that will require new or enhancement of existing local recreation provision.
- The annual development programme for parks and open spaces ensures existing facilities are maintained and renewed as required.

A development plan covering the next ten years is being drafted, which takes into account the above information and is annually reviewed and extended by a further year.

The plan is subject to the availability of Borough resources but takes into account the receipt of Section 106 funding from developers.

### **3. Proposal**

The delivery plan will allow for public and Ward Members consultation on individual projects twelve months before targeted implementation, this will allow local views to be taken into account.

It is proposed that this consultation will take into account comments from members of the public living within 800 metres of the park or open space identified for development.

Ward Members will be invited to join the project team responsible for the consultation and project delivery.

Undertaking local project consultation twelve months prior to implementation will increase public involvement and reduce delays in implementing projects whilst still allowing 106 funding to be spent within a reasonable timescale.

### **4. Resource Implications**

Capital resources for the Council are limited and identification for funding for the development of facilities will need to be carefully examined along with the opportunities for generating capital funding through 106 agreements.

Funding for development projects will be split over two years allowing for the consultation process to be funded.

### **5. Recommendation**

1. To instruct officers to provide a copy of the ten-year delivery plan for outline approval by Cabinet.
2. To agree that, twelve months prior to project implementation, residents living within 800 metres of a development site will be consulted and if necessary the project plan amended.
3. To agree the inclusion of Members on project teams for developments within their Ward areas.

### **6. Wards Affected**

All