

ANGUS COUNCIL

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE - 19 NOVEMBER 2009

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES STRATEGY AND AUDIT PROGRAMME

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

ABSTRACT: To advise Committee on the progress and programme to complete the draft Parks and Open Space Strategy and Open Spaces Audit.

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

1.1 It is recommended that the Committee agree:-

- (i) Note the contents of the report;
- (ii) Agree the programme to prepare a draft Parks and Open Space Strategy document for review by Committee before putting out to final public consultation.
- (iii) To seek authorisation to carry out all the required steps under SEA for the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy up to the point of its adoption by the Council to ensure compliance with the requirements of the 2005 Act

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Scottish Government published **Scottish Planning Policy 11, Open Spaces and Physical Activity**. It requires all Scottish Local Authorities to undertake an audit of the Open Spaces in their area and prepare an Open Space Strategy to help guide planning, policy and open space management and maintenance and reference is made to report 499/05 of The Environmental and Leisure Services Committee.

2.2 Adhering to these policy guidelines to develop an Open Space Strategy the following broad headings require to be developed:

- (i) To develop a Green Space Audit (Full Local Authority wide)
- (ii) To develop a draft Strategy (Objectives)
- (iii) To develop a draft action plan (Delivery)

3. CURRENT POSITION

3.1 The Corporate Open Spaces audit is progressing with the audit of Open Spaces being completed by March 2010, in addition a review of children's play areas is being undertaken and should be completed in late Dec 2009 which will form part of the overall Open Space Strategy

It is proposed to complete the draft Strategy for review by committee in May 2010

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The issues dealt with in this Report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective (as required by legalisation). An [equalities impact assessment](#) has been undertaken.

7. SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT (only if required)

7.1 This report contributes to the following local outcome contained within the single Outcome Agreement for Angus

- We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations

8. STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 applies SEA to the proposed strategy. The process requires consideration of whether the strategy is likely to have no or minimal environmental effect (called "pre-screening") or is unlikely to have significant environmental effect (called "screening"). The latter requires prior consultation with the Scottish Government's "SEA Gateway" (SEPA, SNH and Historic Scotland).

9. CONSULTATION

9.1 The Chief Executive, the Director of Corporate Services, the Head of Finance and the Head of Law and Administration have been consulted in the preparation of this Report.

**RON ASHTON
DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above Report.

NS/DS/DFI/JC