



Report to Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee

Report of: Janet Sharpe and Paul Billington

Subject: LAND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN HRA

Author of Report:

Summary

This report provides an update on the project to review green space land management arrangements presented to this committee in November 2013. The report was requested by the committee.

Type of item: The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

- Note the progress made on this project to date
- Note the delay to the completion of this project.

Background Papers:

Management of HRA Land report to Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee, Thursday 28 November 2013

Category of Report: OPEN CLOSED (please specify)

Report of:

Interim Director of Council Housing Services and Neighbourhoods
Director of Culture and Environment

Land management arrangements within the HRA

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report has been requested by the committee to update on progress on the land management arrangements within the HRA.

2. Main body of report

- 2.1 An initial study identified green space land both within the HRA and General Fund managed respectively by Council Housing Services and Parks and Public Realm Service. A desktop analysis of around 500 sites has been carried out reviewing proximity to council house properties.
- 2.2 Further investigation has identified that there are potential discrepancies between ownership of the land and the management responsibility. The original study assumed that identification of future land management responsibility would be relatively straightforward once information on current responsibility and proximity to council housing data had been analysed; this has proved not to be the case and each site will require a far more in depth analysis carried out.
- 2.3 This project is also directly linked to the integration of grounds maintenance project approved by Cabinet in November 2014. The creation of a single provider of grounds maintenance on Council Housing Land will provide savings to both the Housing Revenue account. Over the past 8 months, officers have focussed their attention on carrying out the review of maintenance and work on land ownership and management has been delayed.
- 2.4 The project also has links to a number of other projects reviewing management and maintenance of council owned land and asserting land so that new housing can be provided in the city. Membership of the project group requires review in order to ensure that the objectives of other projects are also considered as part of the review.
- 2.5 The maintenance project is now approaching completion, with the integration of Estate staff and Parks and Public Realm staff due to be completed on 1st April 2015. The principle focus of Officers working on both projects can then switch back to the work on land management responsibility.
- 2.6 It is anticipated that the project will be completed by the end of 2015/16

3 What does this mean for the people of Sheffield?

- 3.1 This section should summarise how the issue/subject/proposals covered in the report are important to the people of Sheffield.
- 3.2 Will ensure that land ownership sits within the correct portfolio and provides the opportunity to assemble land to make it easier to build new homes.

4. Recommendation

4.1 The committee is asked to:

- Note the progress made on this project to date

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