



Report of the Chief Recreation Officer

North East (Inner) Area Committee

Date: 25th June 2007

Subject: Parks and Countryside Area Committee Update Presentation

Electoral Wards Affected:

All Wards

Specific Implications For:

Ethnic minorities

Women

Disabled people

Narrowing the Gap

Council
Function

Delegated Executive
Function available
for Call In

Delegated Executive
Function not available for
Call In Details set out in the
report

Executive Summary

The Parks and Countryside Service will provide a presentation to the Area Committee which provides an update on:

- 1 the work of the service generally, including updates on quality assessments, satisfaction survey, etc.
- 2 the work of the service within the area, including area specific updates on projects, quality assessments, satisfaction survey, etc., and
- 3 plans and aspirations for the area.

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

1.1 The Parks and Countryside Service will provide a presentation to the Area Committee which provides an update on:

1.1.1 the work of the service generally, including updates on quality assessments, satisfaction survey, etc.

1.1.2 the work of the service within the area, including area specific updates on projects, quality assessments, satisfaction survey, etc., and

1.1.3 plans and aspirations for the area.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 The Parks and Countryside Service now employs a number of methods to establish the levels of quality its parks and open spaces provide to the community, as well as obtaining independent assessment of the community's own perception of that provision:

2.1.1 In addition to our five Green Flag parks the service employs its cohort of 47 trained judges to assess parks internally against the Green Flag criteria, on a rolling programme of 50 parks per year, with almost 150 assessed to date. To promote the importance of these internal assessments, and to recognise the accomplishment of the staff responsible for the parks which successfully achieved the required standard, the service has introduced the *Leeds Quality Parks* scheme which sees each successful park awarded with a banner for display in the park.

2.1.2 The service undertook its third series of residents' surveys in 2006, targeting 30,000 adults and 4,500 children and young people, and has now consulted with 105,000 residents using these surveys.

3.0 Main Issues

3.1 The results from both the surveys and on site quality assessments have enabled the service to compare its own perceptions of the service with those of its users, and to identify any key issues.

3.2 Much of this work has been on a city-wide or topological basis (e.g. comparing the results of community parks with city parks) and has fed into the service planning process, including addressing workforce development issues, as well as informing the development of the Parks and Greenspace Strategy, however, little has been done to provide Area Committees with information specific to the areas for which they are responsible.

4.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance

4.1 None.

5.0 Legal And Resource Implications

5.1 The results of our survey information and quality assessments is now being used to develop performance indicators, direct service planning, and to provide evidence to

support funding bids (a requirement within many of the Lottery funding strands) to ensure that resources are targeted appropriately.

6.0 Conclusions

6.1 The service now holds a wealth of information which can be interrogated at city-wide level, area level, typology level, and site level.

7.0 Recommendations

7.1 The Area Committee is requested to note the contents of this report and the presentation.