



Report of the Head of Scrutiny Support and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Culture and Leisure)

Date: 14 January 2007

Subject: Wharfemeadows Inquiry – Draft Report

Electoral Wards Affected:

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In July 2007, the Scrutiny Board (Culture and Leisure) received a request for scrutiny from the Wharfemeadows Action Group (WAG), relating to the proposed fencing arrangements within Wharfemeadows Park. Following a full presentation by WAG the Scrutiny Board agreed to undertake an inquiry to examine the:

- Recent decisions of the Executive Board regarding Wharfemeadows;
- Grounds for those decisions; and,
- Advice submitted.

1.2 Specific terms of reference for the Inquiry were agreed at the September 2007 Scrutiny Board meeting and a working group formed.

1.3 As part of the inquiry, Members have heard and received evidence from a range of witnesses, including WAG, the Council's Legal Department, a representative from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA), the Council's Safety, Well-being and Attendance Manager and the Principal Area Manager (West). The Board has also undertaken a site visit and considered a written statement from Otley Town Council. In addition, the Chair of the Scrutiny Board had a face-to-face discussion with the Leader and Chair of Otley Town Council to discuss specific issues in more detail.

1.4 The Board has considered progress of the inquiry on a number of occasions and requested that a draft report be prepared for consideration. Based on the evidence received, a draft report was produced and considered by the working group on 19

December 2007: Discussion at this meeting resulted in a final draft report being produced.

2.0 REPORT ISSUES

- 2.1 The draft report is attached at Annex 1 for the Board's consideration.
- 2.2 The Board's inquiry has been undertaken in accordance with the Council's Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules and with specific reference to 14.3, advice on the draft recommendations has been sought from the appropriate Directors. At the time of writing this report, such advice was not available but will be supplied at the meeting. It is important that the Board considers any Director advice prior to concluding this inquiry and agreeing the final report.
- 2.3 It should be noted that in the event of any Member(s) disagreeing with the content of the Board's agreed report, there is provision for them to produce a Minority Report that sets out their findings and recommendations.
- 2.4 In line with the Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules Guidance Notes, the intention to submit a minority report should be declared at the meeting (i.e. at the time when the majority report is agreed) and subsequently submitted to the Scrutiny Support Unit within 5 working days after the Board meeting.
- 2.5 In the event of a minority report being submitted, this will be reflected in the majority report and appended thereto.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That, taking into account any Director advice received, the Board considers, amends and/or agrees the draft report attached at Annex 1.
- 3.2 That, subject to any agreed amendments, the report attached at Annex 1 be referred to the Executive for consideration at the earliest opportunity.
- 3.3 That, the Board considers the response to it's report and recommendations at an appropriate time.