



AGENDA ITEM: 4/1(a)

CABINET: 15 July 2009

Report of: Council Secretary and Solicitor

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor Fowler

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SUBJECT: LITTLE DIGMOOR PLAY AREA

Wards affected: Digmoor

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To advise of the decision of the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 2 July 2009.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That consideration be given to the resolution of the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee set out at paragraph 3.2 below in the light of the comments of the Executive Manager Community Services set out in paragraph 4.1 below.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 The report attached as an appendix to this report was considered by Cabinet on 16 June 2009 and the decision arising was called in by members of the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The relevant part of the Cabinet's decision is as follows (minute 11B refers):

"That the equipment at the multi use games area (MUGA), teenage shelter and children's play area at Abbeystead, Little Digmoor remain in situ, and the Executive Manager Community Services be asked to request further police action regarding drug and anti social behaviour at the site, involving the MAPS team as appropriate with this to be reviewed in 12 months time."

3.2 The Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the call in on 2 July 2009 and minute no. 8 of that meeting reads as follows:

“Consideration was given to the report of the Council Secretary and Solicitor advising that a decision of Cabinet in relation to the above item (minute 11 refers) had received two call in requisitions, each signed by five Members of the Committee. The report set out the two reasons given for the call in, together with the two alternative decisions put forward by the 5 Members concerned on each of the requisition notices.

Members noted the two reasons for the decision being called in, namely a) that the 12 month timeframe was too long and a more robust approach was required and b) that insufficient account taken of the urgent need to resolve the situation.

During the ensuing discussion on the item, Members referred to the following issues:

- *Possible costs/benefits of installing CCTV*
- *Implications of the removal of the “sitter”*
- *Effects of anti social behaviour on local residents and the involvement of the Police/Maps team*

RESOLVED: That Cabinet be requested to amend resolution 11 (B) of its meeting held on 16 June 2009 to confirm that the review be undertaken within three months.”

3.2 In essence, therefore, the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee has asked for the review period for the actions referred to in minute 11B to be reduced from 12 months to 3 months.

4.0 COMMENTS OF THE EXECUTIVE MANAGER COMMUNITY SERVICES

4.1 The Council has already engaged with residents, the police and Map’s team to work towards a reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour around the play area and MUGA, their will be no problem in producing an update report at a three month interval. This will provide sufficient time to measure the initial impact of intervention measures.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

There is no evidence from an initial assessment of an adverse impact on equality in relation to the equality target groups.

Appendices

Report of the Council Secretary and Solicitor.