

AGENDA ITEM: 7(b)

EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 1 December 2011

Report of: Borough Solicitor

Relevant Managing Director: Managing Directors

Contact for further information: Mrs J Denning (Extn. 5384) (E-mail: jacky.denning@westlancs.gov.uk)

SUBJECT: PROPOSED CALL IN ITEM (NOT VALIDATED) – MANAGEMENT PLANS – BEACON PARK, CORONATION PARK AND RICHMOND PARK

Wards affected: Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To advise of a Call In request received but not validated in respect of Minute No. 78 of the meeting of Cabinet held on 15 November 2011 'Management Plans – Beacon Park, Coronation Park and Richmond Park'.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the Committee scrutinise the decision of Cabinet on 15 November 2011 as set out in Minute No. 78 (see copy at paragraph 3.2 of the report) and consider if any further action is required.

3.0 DETAILS RELATING TO THE CALL IN

- 3.1 The report of the Assistant Director Community Services attached as an Appendix to this report was considered at Cabinet on 15 November 2011.
- 3.2 The following decision of Cabinet is contained at Minute No. 78:

"78. MANAGEMENT PLANS - BEACON PARK, CORONATION PARK AND RICHMOND PARK

Councillor Fowler introduced the report of the Assistant Director Community Services which presented the new management plans for Beacon Park, Coronation Park and Richmond Park for approval and adoption.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained in it.

RESOLVED: That the new management plans for Beacon Park, Coronation Park and Richmond Park, as detailed on the Council's web site, be approved, subject to resource availability."

3.3 The following reason for call in was given in the requisition:

"Skelmersdale's Tawd Valley Park has not been included despite the need for a management plan."

3.4 The requisition also provided a different decision which was:

"That new management plans for Beacon Park, Coronation Park, Richmond Park and Tawd Valley Park be approved, subject to resource availability."

3.5 The following Members of the Executive Overview & Scrutiny Committee signed the requisition for call-in in accordance with the provisions of Overview & Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rule 15:

Councillor B Nolan Councillor J Gibson Councillor I Moran Councillor N Hennessey Councillor Y Gagen

4.0 REASONS 'CALL IN' NOT VALIDATED

4.1 The different decision is unclear as it seeks to approve management plans for Beacon Park, Coronation Park, Richmond Park management plans without indicating that they are available on the council's website, together with approving a Management Plan for Tawd Valley which has not been produced at this stage.

5.0 COMMENTS OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR COMMUNITY SERVICES

5.1 The Council will continue with progress towards seeking site specific management plans for principal parks and open spaces. The production of management plans is resource intensive and requires significant input from staff and supporting agencies. The timescale and production of a management plan for the Tawd Valley area is dependent on the town centre regeneration project, the lower sections of Tawd Valley are part of the town centre development area and contained in the development plans and agreement with the town centre development partners.

6.0 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The Executive Overview & Scrutiny Committee are able to scrutinise the report of the Transformation Manager and the decision taken by Cabinet. As the call in was not valid a different decision cannot be put forward and Minute 78 can now be actioned.
- 6.2 The Committee can under 'Post Hoc Scrutiny', examine decisions after they have been made by Cabinet and may decide to either:
 - Note the Call In request, as no further action is required; or
 - Request the relevant officer to bring back a more detailed report on the issue; or
 - Refer comments directly to the relevant Portfolio Holder; or
 - Make a recommendation to Cabinet / Council as appropriate.

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

The report attached as an Appendix contains the Equality Impact Assessment.

Appendices

1. Report of the Assistant Director Community Services.