



# NORWICH City Council

**Committee name:** Cabinet

**Committee date:** 17/07/2024

**Report title:** **Scrutiny Committee Recommendations to Cabinet**

**Portfolio:** Councillor Kendrick, Cabinet member for an open and modern council

**Report from:** Interim Head of Legal and Procurement

**Wards:** All

## **OPEN PUBLIC ITEM**

### **Purpose**

This report presents the recommendations agreed by the Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting on 21 March 2024, in relation to the draft Parks and Green Spaces Strategy for Norwich and Love Norwich, to Cabinet for consideration.

### **Recommendation:**

That Cabinet considers whether to adopt all or some of the recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee in relation to the draft Parks and Green Spaces Strategy for Norwich and Love Norwich.

### **Policy framework**

The council has five corporate priorities, which are:

- A prosperous Norwich.
- A fairer Norwich.
- A climate responsive Norwich.
- A future-proof Norwich.
- An open and modern council.

The Scrutiny Committee is an important part of the democratic process, helping hold the cabinet to account and exploring how services are performing. As such, a well performing Scrutiny Committee can contribute to all corporate priorities.

## Scrutiny Committee – 21 March 2024

1. The Scrutiny Committee met on 21 March 2024. The agenda papers and the presentation on the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy are available on [the council's website](#).

### A Parks and Green Spaces Strategy for Norwich -An Update

2. Councillor Giles, Cabinet member for Communities and Social Inclusion, delivered a presentation on the development of the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy for Norwich and together with the Fringe Project Manager answered members' questions. The questions and responses are summarised in the minutes of the meeting.
3. Members' main concerns were that the provision of parks and green spaces met the needs of residents and was inclusive. Members sought assurance that the strategy would align with the council's other strategies, to reflect the demographic of the city, in terms of background, gender, race, ability etc. and the council's commitment to mitigate climate change.
4. The committee was interested in the methodology used for the audits and noted that a specific Inclusivity Audit had been commissioned and was due to report back in August, which would inform expenditure on the capital programme for play area provision.
5. The committee has requested another opportunity to review the strategy before it is approved by Cabinet. It is intended to invite representatives of Inclusive Norwich, and/or other consultees as required, to the Scrutiny Committee where the strategy is considered to obtain their views.
6. The committee resolved to ask that Cabinet considers the following recommendations:
  - (1) Acknowledging the role of parks and open spaces in the mitigation of carbon emissions, lowering temperatures and flood prevention, to recommend that a metric is added to measure the cooling effect of parks and open spaces.
  - (2) That consideration of the ratio of pavements to green spaces within parks and open spaces is made and prioritisation is given to address areas where the ratio is high.
  - (3) As mitigation for climate change, explore the use of rain gardens, flood areas and fire breaks.
  - (4) Ensure that Inclusive Norwich, SEND Friendly Norwich and DRAGONS, are included as consultees, and invited to comment on the draft strategy at an early stage and as part of the wider consultation.
  - (5) That prior to approval at Cabinet, the strategy is reported back to the Scrutiny Committee and to note that the committee would like to invite representatives of Inclusive Norwich, and/or other consultees as required, to that meeting.

- (6) That the strategy identifies the small open spaces used for amenity within housing estates.
- (7) Ensure that the wider population of the city is engaged in the consultation, beyond current users.
- (8) Subject to the agreement of the appropriate Friends' groups, explore the expansion of the Parks of Sanctuary to all parks.
- (9) That the council works with Norfolk County Council to reduce barriers to residents wishing to place trees in planters on the highway.
- (10) Investigate the cost of providing Changing Places toilets in the council's main parks.
- (11) As part of the consultation, allow some eco-literacy to ensure rewilding can be considered as an option and not just discarded.
- (12) That the strategy reflects the populations of each ward, any fluctuations in population, and the ratio of green space to population on a ward-by-ward basis, to assist with the identification of potential new green spaces.
- (13) That commercial sponsorship should be investigated to provide funding for specific features, such as the repair of the fountain at Eaton Park.
- (14) That consideration be given to the potential to grow food as part of the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy.

### **Love Norwich Review**

7. Councillor Hampton, Cabinet member for Climate Change, introduced the report which provided an update and included the Cabinet's responses to the committee's recommendations following its review of Love Norwich (Scrutiny Committee, 14 July 2022). The Clean Streets Delivery Manager also attended the meeting and together with Councillors Giles and Hampton, answered members' questions. Members were advised that any Love Norwich funding remaining at the end of the financial year would be carried over. The questions and responses are summarised in the minutes of the meeting.
8. Members commented on the trial waste amnesty days and the use of CCTV cameras to combat fly tipping. The consensus was that it was beneficial to involve ward councillors in the location of cameras. Walkabouts with officers and ward councillors were useful to identify fly tipping hotspots. Members considered that the waste amnesty days required more notice, should not be based on a single day, and that ward councillors should also be consulted on the arrangements. The committee considered that that housing and other council officers should be responsible for reporting fly tipping if they come across it, rather than rely on residents to report it.

9. The committee resolved to ask that Cabinet considers the following recommendations:

- (1) That ward councillors are consulted in future on the locations of CCTV cameras used to combat fly tipping in their wards.
- (2) Ask that ward councillors are permitted to access LAMS, subject to appropriate training on the system.
- (3) Consult with residents on the provision of the new tamper proof bins to avoid bins being left open, which are both smelly and attract vermin, and work with communities to ensure that bins are tested and used properly to avoid the costly removal of bins that are not used correctly and need replacing.
- (4) That officers explore ways to combat litter by working with local businesses to provide litter picking in areas where litter is generated by that business.
- (5) That officers explore best practice for waste management and recycling in the UK and abroad.
- (6) Investigate whether an annual “spring clean” waste amnesty would be widely used by residents if advertised in advance.
- (7) Provide the Scrutiny Committee with evidence of how the target locations for the trials to reduce fly tipping were selected.
- (8) Provide the Scrutiny Committee with a breakdown of how the £100,000 Love Norwich Scheme funding had been spent.
- (9) Provide information on how well the council has performed against its targets.
- (10) Ensure that in future consultations, or information about a service, that the council communicates with residents by text rather than relying on QR codes or emails.
- (11) Liaise with the Community Pay Back Scheme to arrange clean ups in areas that require it regularly but are more difficult to reach.

## **Consultation**

10. These proposals were considered and agreed by members of the Scrutiny Committee. There has been no specific consultation on these proposals.

## Implications

### Financial and resources

11. Any decision to reduce or increase resources or alternatively increase income must be made within the context of the council's stated priorities, as set out in its Corporate Plan 2022-26 and budget.
12. Any additional financial requirements where activities cannot be undertaken within existing resources will need to be subject to further consideration, and approval through a business case. This will need to include an appropriate funding source being identified and/ or being built into future years' budget processes.

### Legal

13. The proposals largely request that Cabinet consider exploring specific matters further. If these result in formal business cases, the legal implications will require due consideration at that time.

### Statutory considerations

<b>Consideration</b>	<b>Details of any implications and proposed measures to address:</b>
Equality and diversity	Members recommendations seek to ensure all relevant communities are represented.
Health, social and economic impact	No specific implications arising from this report.
Crime and disorder	No specific implications arising from this report.
Children and adults safeguarding	No specific implications arising from this report.
Environmental impact	No specific implications arising from this report.

### Risk management

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Consequence</b>	<b>Controls required</b>
None at this stage.		

### Other options considered

14. There have been no other options considered for this report, as it is a factual report based on the outcome of committee meetings that have already taken place.

## Reasons for the decision/recommendation

15. This report will allow cabinet to make a decision on whether or not to take forward all or some of the Scrutiny Committee's recommendations in relation to the draft Parks and Open Spaces Strategy and Love Norwich.

### Background papers:

None

**Appendices:** None

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