

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

13th February 2019

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Swann (Chairman), Councillor Mrs Wyatt (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Murray and Mrs Patten

Labour Group

Councillors Bambrick and Mrs Stuart

OS/49 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Atkin (Conservative Group) and Dr Pearson (Labour Group).

OS/50 **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th October 2018 was taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

OS/51 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM ITEMS ON AGENDA**

The Committee was informed that no declarations had been received.

OS/52 **QUESTIONS RECEIVED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 10**

The Committee was informed that no questions from members of the Public had been received.

OS/53 **QUESTIONS RECEIVED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 11**

The Committee was informed that no questions from Members of the Council had been received.

OS/54 **RURAL PLAY PROVISION**

The Cultural Services Manager presented the report, detailing the audit included visits to 82 sites. Each site was assessed based on quality and value, with each score detailed within the report. Overall, the quality of the sites were measured to be generally good, though specific sites had recorded issues of poor signage and appearance. Compared to other local authorities, the play

stock is above average and there has been an increase in sites since the initial audit. An action plan will bring together matters requiring improvement and recommendations, such as an electronic data system to improve efficiency. The audit further highlights the value of play areas to the wellbeing of local communities.

The Chairman stressed the importance of a suitable electronic system to accommodate a real time audit to ensure improved accuracy and recording of any identified issue.

Councillor Mrs Patten raised a query regarding the ownership of the play facilities at Scropton as she was concerned the Parish Council would not be able to invest funding to improve the equipment, which was not previously maintained by the Council and the equipment is now in a poor state. The Cultural Services Manager acknowledged ownership of the play equipment does fall to the Parish Council and highlighted part of the action plan following the audit would be to identify key sites where the Council may be able to make improvements.

A discussion ensued regarding what constituted as appropriate signage and it was established a rolling programme would be devised following the audit to ensure signs remain updated and worse areas would be highlighted to be addressed as a matter of priority.

The Cultural Services Manager brought to the Committee's attention questions had been raised regarding separating the scoring for certain play sites as certain sites, such as skate parks, would receive a lower score as such sites are not suitable for under 5s, however were intended for older children.

Councillor Bambrick raised a query as to why littering had been identified as a trip hazard through the risk assessment. The Cultural Services Manager acknowledged certain sites have had significant items dumped, which may pose a hazard.

RESOLVED:-

The Committee noted progress to date on finalising a District-wide play audit and considered the implications for rural play provision.

OS/55 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

RESOLVED:-

Members considered and approved the updated work programme.

OS/56 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

RESOLVED:-

That, in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting as it would be likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in brackets after each item.

EXEMPT QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 11

The Committee was informed that no exempt questions from Members of the Council had been received.

The Meeting terminated at 6.25PM.

COUNCILLOR S SWANN

CHAIRMAN