

BRIEFING NOTE

FOR THE ATTENTION OF: Environment Forum

Subject / Title: Parks Maintenance

For information

Wards:

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Background information

Parks' maintenance is delivered via an inhouse service delivery model, and encompasses all the boroughs green areas. Since 2018 two services (cemetery and highways / housing grounds maintenance) bolted to the parks operations department, again based on an inhouse delivery model.

Parks' maintenance continued to be delivered throughout the pandemic, with fundamental tasks completed, providing a clean and green space for our users, equally gaining an understanding of importance and reliance of parks and open spaces through this process.

While Parks operations continued during the pandemic, certain tasks were not completed as normal circumstance, predominantly our sport renovations. Government guidelines on sport impacted on season and created extended durations of play leading to our inability to perform renovation works of benefit, which impacted on the following season.

Projects within the parks, including sustainable drainage systems, the post Covid Parks environment and change in seasonal characteristics, are driving a review of service delivery methods.

Update

Parks maintenance

Conservation grass areas

- **Outside of our heritage parks, we have thirteen parks that have dedicated conservation grass areas.**

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Responsibility for safe and appropriate management of the event and attendee's lays with the event organiser, though as corporate landlord, the council retains overall responsibility. The council hold Safety Advisor Group (SAG) meetings monthly with blue light service's contribution and involvement. Furthermore tabletop scenario exercises are undertaken as the event date becomes closer.

Considerations

Albeit the events are permitted and considered safe, the general key components considered during SAG meetings will require further focus than pre-covid-19. They include:

- Public Health guidance
- Management of access and egress, pre- and post-event.
- Support from blue light and transport services
- Event organiser's staff levels, including security and marshalling provision.
- Response to MEQ's

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Council continues with the outlined event schedule for 2021, in line with the government roadmap and associated permissions. To achieve successful event provision, the following is recommended:

- SAG meetings continue at the agreed frequency and with contribution from Public Health. The meetings cover in detail the proposed access and egress of event, capacity of public transport and other means to provide a safe environment.
Full table-top scenario exercises completed by event organiser and SAG team.
- Clear and thorough scrutiny of event organiser's resource and agreements with their suppliers, ensuring adequate and agreed levels of resource are achieved during event programme.
- Collaborated response to MEQ's received regarding event programme, provided by Public Health, Environmental Health and Parks Business Unit, allowing for an informed and consistent response.

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