

At Community Scrutiny Committee on 17th June Members requested more details on specific issues in relation to the attached report.

Firstly, there are many badger setts throughout the city, some in very urban areas. There are multiple setts in a number of the valley parks as our Countryside Officer estimates below:-

Duryard Valley Park	6 setts
Mincinglake Valley Park	2 setts
Riverside Valley Park	6 setts
Ludwell Valley Park	2 setts
Alphington / Whitestone Valley Park	3 setts

Each sett could have as few as two or three individuals whereas a large sett may have as many as a dozen badgers in the breeding season. A conservative estimate on the total number of badgers on Council land would be in the region of 100.

All of the grazed areas of the valley parks have badger setts either directly in the grazed area or the setts are very close to the fields which the badgers will undoubtedly use as feeding areas.

Each badger bovine TB vaccine costs £20, however, there are additional costs such as £110 for a trap and £375 for the training/qualification to undertake this work. Staff time to carry out the baiting of traps and injections is also a significant cost.

Defra estimate that a vaccination programme is likely to cost £2,250 per square kilometre per year. This has proved to be an under-estimate for recent vaccination programmes run by the Welsh Assembly Government (£3,912 per square kilometre per year) and the National Trust at nearby Killerton (approx £4,000 per square kilometre per year).

The combined size of Exeter's Valley Parks is around 4 kilometres square meaning potential costs of between £9,000 and £16,000 per annum.