

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

Date of Meeting: 9 July 2019

Report of: The City Surveyor

Title: Bull Meadow Recreation Ground

Is this a Key Decision?

No

* One that affects finances over £1m or significantly affects two or more wards. If this is a key decision then the item must be on the appropriate forward plan of key decisions.

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Executive

1. What is the report about?

This report looks to revisit the decision of Executive of 12 February 2019 to dispose of land at Bull Meadow Recreation Ground. The intention now is to retain the land as part of the park.

2. Recommendations:

That Executive resolve not to dispose of any area of Bull Meadow Park at the end of Temple Road.

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

Subsequent to the resolution of the Executive in February 2019, there has been continued representations regarding the disposal of this area of land. In the circumstances, further consideration has been given to the principle of the disposal of the land to facilitate development and, in this instance, it is now felt that this would be inappropriate. It is recognised that this park provides a valuable resource to the local community and that, as such, it should be preserved as far as possible. This principle, on this occasion, should be considered to over-ride the facilitation of the redevelopment of the existing scheme of 12 almshouses that the disposal would have assisted.

4. What are the equality and diversity impacts of this decision?

Not applicable.

5. What are the resource implications including non financial resources:

There are no resource implications consequent upon this decision.

6. Section 151 Officer comments:

Any potential capital receipt due had not been built into the Council's financial plans, therefore there are no further financial implications to consider.

7. What are the legal aspects?

This matter was considered by Executive on 12 February 2019. S.123 of the Local Government Act 1972 sets out the statutory obligations for disposal of land by local authorities. The provisions of s.123 of the Local Government Act 1972 were considered by

Executive on 12 February 2019 and Executive resolved that delegated authority be given to the City Surveyor to sell the parcel of land necessary to create an extension to the highway only if planning consent was granted for a scheme that required it.

This report recommends that Executive resolve not to dispose of any area of Bull Meadow Park, thereby overriding the decision of Executive in February 2019.

8. Monitoring Officer Comments:

See Legal Comments above. The Monitoring Officer has no additional comments.

9. Report details:

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10. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

Members must weigh up the relative merits of retention of public open space against the alms-houses redevelopment and associated receipt.

11. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

None

12. What is the impact of the decision on health and wellbeing; safeguarding children, young people and adults with care and support needs, economy, safety and the environment?

It is considered that retention of the area of parkland will assist in preserving the integrity of the park as a whole to the benefit of the local community.

13. What other options are there, and why have they been dismissed?

None

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City Surveyor

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:-

None

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