

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**COMMUNITIES and HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD**

**13 November 2017**

**Report of the Director of Street Scene, Leisure & Technical Services**

**Part 1- Public**

**Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken by the Cabinet Member)**

**1 LEYBOURNE LAKES COUNTRY PARK – MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**Summary**

**This report brings forward comments received as part of the public consultation exercise on the draft Leybourne Lakes Country Park Management Plan and recommends final approval of the Plan.**

**1.1 Background**

1.1.1 It is the Council's aim to maintain all of its principal public open spaces in line with the criteria of the Green Flag Award – a national standard for parks and open spaces. Key elements of the award criteria include a welcoming park, cleanliness, health and safety, environmental management, maintenance, community involvement, and marketing, all of which need to be incorporated into a Management Plan that is an essential requirement for all Green Flag Award applications.

1.1.2 At the meeting of this Board on 28 February 2017, Members approved (Decision CH17/8) the approach to the production and consultation of a new Management Plan for Leybourne Lakes Country Park (LLCP). Members recognised to need to reflect the Council's current financial position in the future management and development of the Country Park, to secure this valued public asset for future years. The long-term ambition would be for the Park to be operationally cost neutral and to achieve this, the Council will need to look at new opportunities for additional income generation. This issue is addressed in a separate report to this Board.

**1.2 Consultation**

1.2.1 The draft Management Plan was circulated/made available for comment between 13 June and 21 July 2017 and can be found at **[Annex 1]**. A letter was circulated to key stakeholders, as listed at **[Annex 2]**, advising that copies of the Plan were available on the Council's website and hard copies were available to view at the

following locations; Tonbridge Castle Gateway, Council Offices, Kings Hill, and at Larkfield, Snodland and West Malling Libraries.

1.2.2 In addition, posters were displayed on site at the Park advising visitors on the consultation process and where/how to make comment.

1.2.3 In response to the consultation a number of comments were returned and these have been carefully considered and a number of subsequent amendments to the Management Plan have been proposed. A summary of the comments received and proposed amendments can be found at **[Annex 3]**. In overview, the consultation highlighted a number of helpful issues, and generally the Plan was accepted without comment. Any grammatical errors identified through the consultation will be addressed.

### **1.3 Legal Implications**

1.3.1 Legal responsibilities and issues have been considered within the draft Management Plan.

### **1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations**

1.4.1 The Management Plan reflects existing Capital and Revenue budgets associated with the site and highlights the need to maximise income generating opportunities.

### **1.5 Risk Assessment**

1.5.1 A copy of the draft Management Plan has been circulated to the Council's Health and Safety Officer and no adverse comments have been received. In consultation with the Health and Safety Officer, a package of site specific risk assessments has already been developed for the Park and these are referenced in the Management Plan. The Management Plan is essential to help guide any future developments at the Park, and to ensure the needs of all users are catered for.

### **1.6 Equality Impact Assessment**

1.6.1 Appendix 4 in the Management Plan is an access audit for the Park, covering the existing provision. A number of changes have been suggested and will be prioritised and actioned as funding allows. The impacts of any changes or new projects will be assessed as part of the work plan/ feasibility study for that project.

### **1.7 Policy Considerations**

1.7.1 Asset Management, Biodiversity & Sustainability, Business Continuity/Resilience, Communications, Community, Equalities/Diversity, Health and Safety, Healthy Lifestyles, Young People

## 1.8 Recommendations

- 1.8.1 It is **RECOMMENDED TO CABINET** that the proposed amendments be made to the draft Management Plan be made, and the Management Plan for Leybourne Lakes Country Park be approved.

The Director of Street Scene, Leisure & Technical Services confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers:

contact: Chris Fox

Nil

Robert Styles

Director of Street Scene, Leisure & Technical Services