

## PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

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**Date:** Monday, 22 May 2023

**Title:** Open Spaces Strategy & Major/Strategic Project Update

**Contact Officer:** Town Clerk - Sharon Groth

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### Background

The purpose of this report is to review the Open Spaces Strategy Action Plan for areas under the responsibility of this Committee.

### Current Situation

The attached appendix details the actions under this Committees area of responsibility.

A significant action last year was bringing the grounds maintenance in house after it being contracted out for c.25 years. This does have a bearing on several of the actions – not just under this Committee’s responsibility but in other areas of the Council’s business.

Members should have regard to previous agenda item Committee Objectives/Work Programme for the municipal year.

In case the Committee needs to go consider any confidential information a later agenda items is provided at item 13. It would be suggested that those confidential discussion if necessary are postponed to the later agenda item if needed.

### Major/Strategic Projects

Without duplicating the last agenda item – the other major projects which fall under the management of this committee include:

**Windrush Place Pavilion and football pitches** – this is provided as part of a section 106 developer contribution. The Council has expressed its desire to WODC to take this facility on – but this is yet to be confirmed. The Town Clerk attends a regular monthly meeting relating to sports in Witney with the officers of WODC and Publica. She has been advised at this stage that within the legal agreement the facility will either be transferred to a management company or WODC. In April, a presentation was received from the developers on the layout of the facility ready for submitting the planning application to WODC. However, it is now unlikely that the pavilion will be ready in time for the new season. If the pavilion is to come to the Town Council’s ownership, it will need to establish how this facility will be managed and run. Whether that will be on a lease to a football club or committee or if the Council

should in fact run it themselves as a hall and bar facility. A further report will come to a future meeting.

**Windrush Place - Adventure/Destination Play** – provision within the section 106 funding has been made for a significant play area. However, the Town Clerk understands that WODC were surveying the land to establish where the utilities are so that the extent of the play area can then be mapped out. There was also the desire to bury the overhead cables underground.

### **Environmental impact**

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

### **Risk**

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

When considering its priorities, the Committee should be mindful of all resources – financial as well as human resources and work capacity.

The Town Clerk will be working with the leadership team and Chairs of the Committees in order to establish a strategic plan for this term of office of 4 years.

### **Financial implications**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report

### **Recommendations**

Members are invited to note the report and review the Open Spaces Strategy Action Plan for this Committees areas of responsibility as well as considering the major projects and any other further projects for the term of this administration.