

# Communities Cabinet Advisory Board

16 January 2019

Is the final decision on the recommendations in this report to be made at this meeting?

Yes

## Calverley Grounds Strategic Management Plan

<b>Final Decision-Maker</b>	Cabinet
<b>Portfolio Holder(s)</b>	Councillor Jane March
<b>Lead Director</b>	Paul Taylor
<b>Head of Service</b>	Gary Stevenson
<b>Lead Officer/Author</b>	Peter Every Parks and Sports Team Leader
<b>Classification</b>	Non-exempt
<b>Wards affected</b>	Park

### This report makes the following recommendations to the final decision-maker:

1. To approve the draft Strategic Management Plan for Calverley Grounds for the period 2019 – 2029 set out in Appendix A.
2. Develop a management and maintenance plan plus a conservation management plan

### Explain how this report relates to the Corporate Priorities in the Five Year Plan:

- Explore the delivery of a new civic centre and office space for Tunbridge Wells.
- Enhancing the public realm in the borough.

### Timetable

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Management Board	5 December 2018
Discussion with Portfolio Holder and Leadership Board	10 December 2018
Cabinet Advisory Board	17 January 2019
Cabinet	7 February 2019

# Calverley Grounds Strategic Management Plan

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks approval and adoption of the draft Strategic Management Plan for Calverley Grounds set out in Appendix A for the period 2019 – 2029.
  - 1.2 The current management plan, based on Green Flag criteria, expires at the end of 2018. The strategic management plan will provide members, officers and key stakeholders with a framework for decision making connected to the park.
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## 2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The draft Strategic Management Plan considers the park as it is set out today and looks to the future, taking account of the Calverley Square project during and after the development works are completed.
- 2.2 Currently the Grounds are maintained under the Ground Maintenance contract held by Sodexo which expires in 2021. The park has one permanent operative to carry out horticultural operations and provide a visible presence in the park. Additional support is provided by mobile units to deliver the specification attached to the contract.
- 2.3 Calverley Grounds was awarded Green Flag status in 2015 and has successfully retained this award with positive feedback from successive judges. The Grounds have also entered the South and South East Bloom competition with the support of the Friends with the park being awarded a Silver Gilt this year.
- 2.4 The park also benefits from a small group of volunteers from the Friends of Calverley Grounds who help and support the maintenance work carried out by the Sodexo staff. The group also carry out planting projects to enhance the floral displays in the park.
- 2.5 As part of the planning consent for the Calverley Square project condition 29 requires a park Management Plan that relates to the whole of Calverley Grounds to be submitted and approved by the Local Planning Authority.
- 2.6 The Strategic Management Plan has been prepared in close engagement with key stakeholders, Council officers, Historic England and the Friends of Calverley Grounds.
- 2.7 The engagement process started with one to one meetings with a specific workshop being held for the Friends Group and a questionnaire asking specific questions about the Grounds put in the café and on the TWBC website. Feedback from the consultation exercise has been collated and incorporated into the final report.

2.8 The plan is structured around seven parts as follows:

- Context and current management arrangements
- The Grounds today
- Significance and character areas.
- Vision, management objectives and policies
- Short term management strategy
- Long term management strategy
- Implementation of the plan

2.9 The plan outlines changes and opportunities to enhance the park subject to funding becoming available. As part of the Calverley Square project there is a requirement to move the Dowding memorial to a new location in the park. This will be funded as part of the Calverley Square project with the landscaping being funded from the Parks revenue budget. It has been suggested to move the memorial to the corner of the picnic area subject to agreement from the Dowding Estate and the planning authority.

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### **3. AVAILABLE OPTIONS**

- 3.1 Do nothing – this will result in planning condition 29 of the consent for the Calverley Square project not being met.
- 3.2 Adopt and start the implementation of proposed actions of the Strategic Management Plan, including the development of a Management and Maintenance plan and a Conservation Management Plan.

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### **4. PREFERRED OPTION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 Adopt and implement the Strategic Management Plan 2019 – 2029. The plan will enable Council members, officers and key stakeholders to make strategic decisions about the future of Calverley Grounds.
- 4.2 The strategic plan recommends the development of a Management and Maintenance plan and a Conservation Management Plan.

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### **5. CONSULTATION RESULTS AND PREVIOUS COMMITTEE FEEDBACK**

- 5.1 The engagement process started with specific one to one meetings with all key stakeholders. This included Council ward members, officers, and representatives of the Friends group, Calverley Park residents, Historic England, and Kent Gardens Trust.
- 5.2 A questionnaire asking specific questions about the grounds was put in the café and on the Council website from 18<sup>th</sup> June until 13<sup>th</sup> July 2018 which attracted 50 responses. The findings can be found in the report attached to this report.

## RECOMMENDATION FROM CABINET ADVISORY BOARD

### 6. NEXT STEPS: COMMUNICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

- 6.1 The Calverley Strategic Management Plan will be circulated to all interested parties and published on the Council website.

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### 7. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
<b>Legal</b> including Human Rights Act	<p>The Council holds Calverley Grounds on trust for the purpose of public recreation under the Open Spaces Act 1906, section 10.</p> <p>Section 70(1)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 enables the local planning authority in granting planning permission to impose “such conditions as they think fit”. The Calverley Grounds Strategic Management Plan has been prepared by the Council as part of its control and management functions for the Park to discharge the condition imposed on the grant of planning permission.</p> <p>The recommendations to approve the draft Strategic Management Plan for the period 2019 – 2029 and to develop a management and maintenance plan plus a conservation management falls within the remit of Cabinet on behalf of the Council.</p> <p>Subject to Cabinet approval, the Strategic Management Plan can be submitted to the Local Planning Authority for consideration in discharge of the planning condition.</p>	<p>Patricia Narebor Head of Mid Kent Legal Partnership 3.1.19</p>
<b>Finance</b> and other resources	<p>The Strategic Management Plan is partially funded at present. This report does not seek approval for any additional funding at the stage. The unfunded elements of the plan will be developed and brought to Cabinet for consideration and approval.</p>	<p>Jane Fineman Head of Finance and Procurement 08.01.19</p>

<b>Staffing establishment</b>	Work on the Strategic Management Plan can commence within existing staff resources. Any additional requirements will be considered as part of future funding.	Peter Every Parks and Sports Team Leader 8.01.19
<b>Risk management</b>	Some items listed in the action plan will be subject to funding being available. The existing Grounds Maintenance contract expires in 2021 there will be a need to ensure the new specification reflects the changes in the park after the completion of the development. Objections to proposals from key stakeholders – regular consultation with local community/officers and ward members. Conflict with members of the public – detrimental press coverage/comments via social media – include communications team about changes to the park; engage with Friends group.	Peter Every Parks and Sports Team Leader 8.01.19
<b>Data Protection</b>	Any data collated in connection with the strategic Management Plan will be recorded in accordance with the Councils Data Protection Policy.	Peter Every Parks and Sports Team Leader 8.01.19
<b>Environment and sustainability</b>	No further comments to add to the report.	Karin Grey Sustainability Manager. 17.12.18
<b>Community safety</b>	There are no consequences of concern to community safety arising from this report	Terry Hughes Community Safety Unit Manager 14.12.18
<b>Health and Safety</b>	A strategy on the movement of vehicles coming in and out of the park should always be seen to be a priority in the short and long term as this may pose the greatest risk to the public, staff and contractors. This should also take into consideration any current events that take place as well as planned larger events in the future.'	Mike Catling Corporate Health and Safety Advisor 18.12.18
<b>Health and wellbeing</b>	Providing good quality, accessible green spaces contributes to improving the mental and physical health of our residents. Offering free opportunities to exercise helps	Stuart Smith Health Team Leader

	to meet our corporate priority of reducing health inequalities across the borough and gives frontline health staff a resource to signpost to.	20/12/18
<b>Equalities</b>	I would advise that this decision requires an equality impact assessment to consider the needs of the range of people who use the park. It also has links with the Calverley Square project and so it is important that the implications are fully considered. It is not possible for me to comment on the report without an EqlA – As we consider individual elements of the plan the impact on Equalities will be reviewed and an assessment will be undertaken.	Sarah Lavallie Corporate Governance Officer 18.12.18

**8. REPORT APPENDICES**

The following documents are to be published with and form part of the report:

- Appendix A: Calverley Grounds :Strategic Management Plan.

**9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**