

	Environment Committee 11th September 2017
Title	Barnet Public Realm Management Forum
Report of	Strategic Director Environment
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	Appendix A: Draft Terms of Reference for the forum
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Summary

The report sets out the establishment of a Public Realm Management Forum. The aim of the forum is to understand best practice in the context of finite resources for the public realm and to understand the cost benefit of a pallet of materials for conservation areas.

The forum will contribute to the delivery of the Environment Committee's Commissioning Plan 2015 to 2020.

Following approval of the establishment of a Public Realm Management Forum, officers will develop a programme of meetings for the forum.

Recommendations

- (1) That the Environment Committee approve the establishment of a Barnet Public Realm Management Forum for all conservation areas within the Borough.**

- (2) That the Environment Committee note the draft terms of reference for the Barnet Public Realm Management Forum set out at Appendix A and recommend to the forum that the terms of reference be adopted.
- (3) That the Environment Committee nominate the two elected members of the Committee who will form part of the Barnet Public Realm Management Forum.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 At Environment Committee on 15 March 2017, a motion on 'A Public Realm Management Forum for Barnet' was reported and carried (the motion had been referred from Full Council on 31 January 2017). It was resolved that officers should bring a report to Environment Committee detailing the how a Public Realm Management Forum for Barnet could be implemented.
- 1.2 The establishment of a Public Realm Management Forum would support the development of best practice across the borough, ensure that there is a consistent approach and help to deliver improvements in the visual appearance of its streets and public spaces within the context of finite resources.
- 1.3 The establishment of a Public Realm Management Forum will support the Environment Committee's Commissioning Plan 2015 – 2020 which includes;
- Highways are maintained to a high standard and areas of high growth and strategic importance being progressively upgraded and improved.
- 1.4 The forum would be used to understand best practice in the context of finite resources for the public realm and understand the cost benefit of a pallet of materials for all conservation areas in the borough.
- 1.5 There are 22 areas which combine town centres (TC) and conservation areas (CA) in the borough.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Environment Committee is being asked to approve the establishment of a Barnet Public Realm Management Forum

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 Consideration was not given to not establishing a Public Realm Management Forum.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 If the recommendations are agreed then the first meeting of the Public Realm Forum would be scheduled and at this meeting the Terms of Reference for the forum would be finalised.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 The Corporate Plan 2015-2020 is based on the core principles of fairness, responsibility and opportunity to make sure Barnet is a place:
- Of opportunity, where people can further their quality of life
 - Where people are helped to help themselves, recognising that prevention is better than cure
 - Where responsibility is shared, fairly
 - Where services are delivered efficiently to get value for money for the taxpayer

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.2.1 As and when required, the authorisation for spend and reporting of spend will be undertaken in line with the council budget monitoring and reporting process and will be contained within existing resources. In addition, current contracts will be used and at this stage no additional procurements are required.

- 5.2.2 At this stage there are no implications on finance, staffing, property or IT.

5.3 Social Value

- 5.3.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. This report does not relate to the procurement of services contracts. Our current contracts have considered social value.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.4.1 There is no statutory duty for the council to have a Public Realm Management Forum. However, the motion to set 'A Public Realm Management Forum for Barnet' was reported to Full Council on 31

January 2017 and was referred to the Environment Committee for consideration under Council Procedure Rule 23.5.

5.4.2 At its meeting on 15th March 2017, the Environment Committee voted in favour of the option to set up a Public Realm Management Forum.

5.4.3 The proposed Public Realm Management Forum will be an informal advisory body. As such, the forum falls outside the scope of the Council's Constitution and will not have any delegated powers from the Environment Committee.

5.5 Risk Management

5.5.1 All risks are managed using the risk management procedure, as set out by the Corporate Risk Management Framework.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 The 2010 Equality Act outlines the provisions of the Public Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups.
- Foster good relations between people from different groups.

5.6.2 The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day business and keep them under review in decision making, the design of policies, and the delivery of services. The nine protected characteristics are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Ethnicity
- Religion or belief
- Gender
- Sexual orientation
- Marriage or civil partnership

5.6.3 The Corporate Plan 2015-2020 sets the Strategic Equalities Objective, which is: that citizens will be treated equally, with understanding and respect, and will have equal access to quality services which provide value to the tax payer. Changes to policies and services are analysed in order to assess the potential equalities impacts and risks and identify any mitigating action possible before final decisions are made.

5.6.4 At this time no specific equalities impacts have been identified. The Council will aim to ensure that the forum reflects the diversity of Barnet residents. The forum will pay due regard to equalities when required.

5.7 Consultation and Engagement

- 5.7.1 There is no intention to undertake a formal consultation. Engagement with key stakeholders within the council and partner organisations will be undertaken as and when required and to support best practice.

5.8 Insight

- 5.8.1 Advice has been sought to date with regards to establishing the Public Real Forum. Further research will be undertaken to inform the development of the forum and support best practice.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Environment Committee, 15th March 2017, Item 7

<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=695&MId=8593&Ver=4>

Motion to Full Council, 31 January 2017:

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=162&MId=8818&Ver=4>