

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD **1st March 2011**

Silverdale Play Area Petition

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor M. Webb – Portfolio Holder for Community Services
Relevant Head of Service	John Godwin – Head of Leisure and Cultural Services
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 To consider a petition entitled “Potential Closure of Silverdale Play Area” submitted on 21st February 2011.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board are asked to consider the petition and to either:
- a) take no further action;
 - b) request further information from a relevant source and re-consider once that information is available; or
 - c) agree the topic is included in the work programme of the Overview and Scrutiny Board and that an investigation is carried out in due course.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A petition entitled “Potential Closure of Silverdale Play Area” and containing 118 signatures was submitted by Councillor E. Murray and received on behalf of the Monitoring Officer on 21st February 2011.
- 3.2 The Council’s Petition Scheme provides the Monitoring Officer with the discretion to decide how petitions of less than 1,250 signatures are dealt with. On this occasion the Monitoring Officer has determined that the petition be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Board for consideration.
- 3.3 The petition states *“It appears that Bromsgrove Council is investigating the possibility of closing down the children’s play area located in Silverdale and sell off the land to developers. They seem to be saying that the park is rarely used and in a ‘run down’ condition. It is a small park in a safe location away from traffic and has been enjoyed by many of the local children for a number of years. Especially by the younger children who don’t have to compete with older children for equipment. The park is an asset to the community and can not be a big drain on council expenses. For probably a*

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small investment the park could be improved to give enjoyment to even more children”.

- 3.4 The Overview and Scrutiny Board cannot make executive decisions, but can make recommendations to the Cabinet and other decision makers. In accordance with the designated role of the Overview and Scrutiny Board, Members of the Board are asked to consider the petition and decide what further action, if any, it wishes to take.
- 3.5 Under the Council's Petition Scheme there are no automatic public speaking rights for petitions with less than 1,250 signatures. However, at the discretion of the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Board, the Lead Petitioner may be given an opportunity to speak, for no longer than 5 minutes, in order to introduce the petition, before the Board consider what action, if any, to take in respect of the petition.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 As referred to in the background details of this report.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Local Government Act 2000 requires Councils operating Executive Arrangements to include one or more Overview and Scrutiny Committees within their Constitution, which may be composed of any councillors who are not on the Executive Committee of the Council.
- 6.2 Executive arrangements by a local authority must ensure that their overview and scrutiny committee has power (or their overview and scrutiny committees have power between them) to:
- a) to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the executive,
 - b) to make reports or recommendations to the authority or the executive with respect to the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the executive,
 - c) to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any functions which are not the responsibility of the executive,

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- d) to make reports or recommendations to the authority or the executive with respect to the discharge of any functions which are not the responsibility of the executive,
- e) to make reports or recommendations to the authority or the executive on matters which affect the authority's area or the inhabitants of that area.

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None for the purpose of this report.

8. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

- 8.1 Overview and Scrutiny links to Council Objective Three: Sense of Community.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 There are no direct risks associated with this report.

10. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Overview and Scrutiny aids transparency and accountability of local services to service users, council tax payers and other local residents through elected councillors.

11. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no implications for the Council's Equalities and Diversity policies arising from this report.

12. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS, PROCUREMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT

- 12.1 There are no value for money implications arising from this report.

13. CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON IMPLICATIONS AND BIODIVERSITY

- 13.1 None for the purpose of this report.

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14. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

14.1 None for the purpose of this report.

15. GOVERNANCE/PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

15.1 None

16. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING SECTION 17 OF CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998

16.1 None

17. HEALTH INEQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

17.1 None

18. LESSONS LEARNT

18.1 None

19. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

19.1 None

20. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	No
Chief Executive	No
Executive Director (S151 Officer)	No
Executive Director – Leisure, Cultural, Environmental and Community Services	No
Executive Director – Planning & Regeneration, Regulatory and Housing Services	No
Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships	No
Head of Service	Yes

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Head of Resources	No
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	Yes
Corporate Procurement Team	No

21. WARDS AFFECTED

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22. APPENDICES

None

23. BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

24. KEY

None

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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