

Title of meeting:	Leader of the Council with responsibilities for Planning, Regeneration and Economic Development (PRED)
Date of meeting:	13 th July 2016
Subject:	Victoria Park Action Plan
Report by:	Assistant Director for Culture and City Development
Wards affected:	Charles Dickens
Key decision:	No
Full Council decision:	No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the Victoria Park Action Plan.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Leader of the Council with responsibilities for Planning, Regeneration and Economic Development approves the Victoria Park Action Plan.

3. Background

- 3.1 The City Development Team (in conjunction with other council services) is producing a draft Public Realm Strategy for the city. The purpose of the Strategy is to establish a coordinated, consistent and high quality approach to all work in the public realm¹ and in particular to:
- articulate a vision for the city to encourage investment;
 - set out the background and context for public realm proposals;
 - provide a framework of guidance within which to assess proposals for development (including being a material consideration in the determination of planning applications) and other improvements, and prioritise council spending and investment.
- 3.2 During the course of producing the draft public realm strategy, the City Development Team recognised that due to the importance of Victoria Park, not only as a highly valued place / space within the city (and being one of only three listed Park's in the city) but also with its many complimentary and competing functions (cutting across many different council services), it needed specific guidance to help inform the range of decisions which may arise in relation to maintenance and other matters, as well as

¹ The definition of 'Public Realm' can include roads, streets, pedestrian routes, cycleways, publicly accessible open spaces such as parks and squares, and spaces between and around buildings.

decisions on its future use and possible development opportunities in and around the Park.

- 3.3 The purpose of the Victoria Park Action Plan (copy attached at Appendix 1) is to provide a clear set of management and development principles against which any future proposals or maintenance / budget / investment / property decisions can be tested to ensure a consistent approach.
- 3.4 The Victoria Park Action Plan also proposes five (5) projects to prioritise the enhancements works. These projects can be delivered over a number of years, as and when funding becomes available.
- 3.5 Project two (on page 12 of the document) refers to enhancement works to the 'Lodge' to improve its offer and its wider contribution to the use of the Park, regardless of who the specific operator of the 'Lodge' may be. Property management decisions the council has made regarding the current leaseholder of the building are not a matter that are being considered as part of this report.
- 3.6 It is intended that the Victoria Park Action Plan will be incorporated into the draft public realm strategy. The draft public realm strategy, once adopted, will become a supplementary planning document (SPD). This draft strategy will be reported to Cabinet at a later date.

4. Reasons for recommendations

- 4.1 To provide a clear set of management and development principles against which any future proposals, maintenance or other council decisions can be tested to ensure a consistent approach.

5. Equality impact assessment and Public Sector Equality Duty

- 5.1 The Equality Act 2010 requires that the public sector equality duty (the PSED) is noted in this decision.
- 5.2 The PSED is to have due regard to the need to
 - (a) eliminate unlawful discrimination;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity,
 - (c) foster good relations, between people with protected characteristics and those without it.

The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

- 5.3 The PSED is not a duty to achieve any of those things, or to take certain steps, nor is it a duty to avoid taking steps which might be retrograde, as far as those aims are concerned.
- 5.4 In this instance the proposals have been considered for potential impact on those with protected characteristics, and it is noted that while the action plan will be considered in the context of future decisions around Victoria Park, it provides a

framework for those decisions rather than a governing plan or strategy. There is at present no anticipated impact requiring an Equalities Impact Assessment: it will be those future decisions (such as the public realm strategy document) which each should be the subject of Equalities Impact Assessments in appropriate cases, and consideration should be given to the need for them in each instance.

- 5.5 The advice in this instance is that provided the decision-maker is mindful of the test, and notes the comments at 5.4, it will be satisfied.

6. Legal implications

- 6.1 The Action Plan, if adopted, will provide a framework for future decisions (of whatever nature and in relation to the full range of council functions), and if incorporated into the public realm strategy will be material to, and have weight in the context of the decisions of the council as local planning authority.
- 6.2 In making the decision, the decision-maker is required to have regard to the public sector equality duty, which is referred to at paragraph 5, above.

7. Director of Finance's comments

- 7.1 The Victoria Park Action Plan sets out the proposed management and development principles for the future of the Park. It also sets out five proposed projects that prioritise enhancement works to the Park and its infrastructure. Whilst there is a budget for the ongoing maintenance of the Park, there is no funding for these projects at this stage. These projects can only be delivered if additional funding becomes available both for initial capital costs, but also any ongoing revenue implications.

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Signed by:

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Victoria Park Action Plan

Appendix 2: Preliminary Equalities Impact Assessment

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/
rejected by on

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Signed by: