

<b>Title of meeting:</b>	Leader of the Council with responsibilities for Planning, Regeneration and Economic Development (PRED)
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> September 2016
<b>Subject:</b>	Victoria Park Action Plan
<b>Report by:</b>	Assistant Director for Culture and City Development
<b>Wards affected:</b>	Charles Dickens
<b>Key decision:</b>	No
<b>Full Council decision:</b>	No

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## **1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the Victoria Park Action Plan for six-week public consultation.

## **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 for six-week public consultation starting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016.**

## **3. Background**

- 3.1 On 13<sup>th</sup> July 2016, the Leader of the Council with responsibilities for Planning, Regeneration and Economic Development approved the Victoria Park Action Plan, and agreed that this plan would be incorporated into the draft Public Realm Strategy (currently being produced), with public consultation then taking place on the draft Public Realm Strategy (incorporating the Victoria Park Action Plan).
- 3.2 Due to ongoing work with the draft Public Realm Strategy, this document will not come forward to Cabinet to seek approval to carry out public consultation as quickly as anticipated and given the level of public interest in the Victoria Park Action Plan, it is now considered appropriate to bring this forward for public consultation in advance of the draft Public Realm Strategy.
- 3.3 Following approval, public consultation on the Victoria Park Action Plan will take place for a six-week period starting on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016 and ending on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

- 3.4 Any interested parties will be able to comment on the document. A copy will be made available on the council's website (on the 'planning pages') together with a questionnaire. Comments can also be submitted in writing or via e-mail (contact details will be provided on council's website and other publications). All consultation responses will be reported in a further report to the Cabinet.
- 3.5 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 made by the council (in its various functions) can be tested to ensure a consistent approach.
- 3.6 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.
- 3.7 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. Decisions the council has made regarding the current leaseholder of the building is not a matter that is being considered as part of this report nor a matter for the public consultation on this Plan. There is no proposal to knock the building down.
- 3.8 It is still 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 (EIA)**

- 5.1 At this stage the Council is unclear about any impact once the consultation has been carried out then the impact on protected characteristics will become clear.

#### **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.

#### **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

**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 .....

.....  
Signed by: