

To: Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board

On: 4 November 2019

Report by: Lead Officer

Heading: Conversion of Grassed Areas to Parking

1. Summary

- 1.1 At its meeting on 27 August 2018, members of the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board agreed the above topic be added to the 2018/19 programme.
- 1.2 This activity will review the potential to relieve parking pressures within residential areas through the repurposing of Council maintained open spaces.
-

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Board is asked to:
- Approve the purpose and scope of the review;
 - Approve the provisional timescale as outlined in Appendix 1;
 - Authorise the Lead Officer to contact any organisations recommended by the Board who may have information useful to the Board and who may be potential witnesses;
 - Delegate powers to the Lead Officer, in consultation with the Convener, and grant the Convener of the Board permission to alter the timetable having regard to the availability of evidence and witnesses through the course of the review; and

- Authorise the Lead Officer to make the necessary arrangements to progress the review within the agreed timescales.

3. **Background**

- 3.1 At its meeting on 27 August 2018 the Board agreed that this review be added to the 2018/19 programme.
- 3.2 There are many small areas of grassed and / or planted areas within our residential estates. The majority of which are maintained by Council.
- 3.4 There are also increasing pressures around available parking spaces within our residential estates.
- 3.5 This review will consider whether it would be possible to repurpose some, or all, of these maintained small areas to create additional parking space and thereby relieve some of the parking pressures.

4. **Purpose of the Review**

- 4.1 The key purpose of the review will be to:
- (1) Set out the Council's current arrangements for maintaining and / or repurposing open spaces across Renfrewshire;
 - (2) Review available evidence to measure and identify the scale of the parking problem, linked to open spaces, within specific areas and across Renfrewshire;
 - (3) Identify benefits or challenges regards the repurposing of open spaces within residential areas; and
 - (4) Provide recommendations for consideration of the Board.

5. **Scope of the Review**

- 5.1 In relation to 4,1(1) above, the focus will be on meeting with internal colleagues to review current arrangements for open space maintenance, outline the number of requests received to repurpose open spaces and understand the process involved.
- 5.2 In relation to 4.1(2) above the Lead Officer will liaise with elected members, Council officers, community groups and local representatives to ascertain the numbers and types of open spaces involved, to understand the regularity, scale and type of problems being raised and by whom.

- 5.3 The Lead Officer will look to identify through discussions with the various groups individuals and groups noted at 5.2., what the expected benefits would be in repurposing open spaces within residential areas, as well as identifying any challenges in doing so.

6. **Timetable and witnesses**

- 6.1 It is proposed that the review commences following the meeting of the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board and is progressed through subsequent Board meetings, with a final draft report being submitted for approval in August 2020 and a final report thereafter to Council in September 2020. (Timetable appended).
- 6.2 From an initial review of stakeholders involved in the maintenance and repurposing of open spaces it is suggested that witnesses / representatives of the Council's Community, Housing and Planning Service and Environmental and Infrastructure Service, as well as community representatives be invited to future meetings to provide information to the Board. Witnesses will be asked to provide written evidence prior to any meetings with the Board to allow members sufficient time for preparation ahead of the meeting.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** - None
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – Not applicable
3. **Community/Council Planning** – None
4. **Legal-** None
5. **Property/Assets** - None
6. **Information Technology** – None
7. **Equality & Human Rights** –
- a) The recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual

impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

8. **Health & Safety** – None
9. **Procurement** – None
10. **Risk** – None
11. **Privacy Impact** – None
12. **Cosla Implications** – None
13. **Climate Implications** – None apparent as this stage, however this may require to be explored in more detail during the review.

List of Background Papers

- (a) Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board Approval 27/08/18

The foregoing background papers will be retained within Finance and Resources for inspection by the public for the prescribed period of four years from the date of the meeting. The contact officer within the service is Michael Moran, Assistant Economic Development Manager, 0141 618 7269

Author: Michael Moran
Assistant Economic Development Manager
0141 618 7296
michael.moran@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Appendix 1 Timetable for Conversion of Grassed Areas to Parking Review

| Date of Board Meeting | Stage of Review |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 4 November 2019 | Commencement of Review |
| 20 January 2020 | Continuation of Review |
| 16 March 2020 | Continuation of Review |
| 26 May 2020 | Continuation of Review |
| 24 August 2020 | Draft Report to Board |
| 21 September 2020 | Final Report to Council |