

Decision No: CMM70 – 24/09/09

Forward Plan No: N/A

This record relates to Agenda Item 49 on the agenda for the Decision-Making

RECORD OF CABINET MEMBER DECISION

DECISION-MAKER: COUNCILLOR GEOFFREY THEOBALD

PORTFOLIO AREA: ENVIRONMENT

SUBJECT: CITYPARKS DOWNLAND
MANAGEMENT

AUTHOR: HUGO BLOMFIELD

THE DECISION

- (1) That the Cabinet Member for Environment approves the grazing plans for each site subject to full consultation with ward councillors and residents.
- (2) That the Cabinet Member for Environment approves the implementation of the grazing plans for key chalk downland sites where feasible, subject to the above consultation being completed successfully.

REASON FOR THE DECISION

To implement a more sustainable method of managing Cityparks chalk grassland sites.

DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

Mowing is inferior to grazing:

- it can cause severe disruption to grassland invertebrates and ground nesting birds;
- it cannot be used on the steeper slopes (where much of the remaining chalk grassland is found);
- it is uniform in its application and therefore prevents the establishment of swards of varying height, which are favoured by some chalk grassland species; and
- it damages chalk grassland features such as ant hills and some archaeology.

The cost comparisons of continuing to mow our chalk grassland sites vary due to soil type and from year to year due to the weather. In total in 2007 it cost £16,000 to cut, clear and compost. In 2008 it is estimated this would have increased to between £28,000 and £48,000 - depending on the weather - due to increased fuel and

composting costs (as a result sites were cut but not cleared or composted).

OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS CONCERNING THE DECISION

None

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE RECORD:

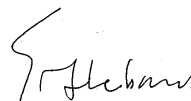
We certify that the decision this document records was made in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 and is a true and accurate record of that decision

Date:

24 September 2009

Decision Maker:

Councillor Geoffrey Theobald
Cabinet Member for Environment
Signed:



Proper Officer:

24 September 2009

Mark Wall, Head of Democratic Services
Signed:



SCRUTINY

Note: This decision will come in to force at the expiry of 5 working days from the date of publication subject to any review under the Council's Scrutiny 'Call-In' provisions.

Call-In Period

25 September-1 October 2009

Date of Call-in *(if applicable) (this suspends implementation)*

25 September 2009

Call-in Procedure completed *(if applicable)*

Call-in heard by *(if applicable)*

Results of Call-in *(if applicable)*