

15th September 2015

Policy, Finance and Resources Committee

Unauthorised Incursions

Report of: Ashley Culverwell, Head of Borough, Health, Safety and Localism

Wards Affected: All

This report is: Public

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 A significant increase in the number of unauthorised incursions has occurred across the Borough over the past year.
- 1.2 In order to minimise the number and impact of these incursions approval is being sought for additional funding to secure key sites.

2. Recommendation

That Members agree to:

- 2.1 Expenditure of up to £150K be added to the capital programme for security improvements to sites across the Borough, funded from capital receipts.**

3. Introduction and Background

- 3.1 There has been a recent increase in unauthorised incursions in the Borough. A significant number of these have been on Council owned land. Since 2013 there have been twenty five unauthorised incursions in the Borough. Fifteen of these however have been since May this year.
- 3.2 There is considerable expense involved in respect of legal proceedings, officer time, clean up costs and repairs to damage to Council property as a result of these incursions in addition to disruption to our local residents. It is therefore timely that the Council considers how it can reduce such incursions and respond more effectively when they do occur.
- 3.1 In 2012/2013 the Council spent approximately £123,655.00 in securing its own sites. This prevented incursions taking place on specific sites and

increased the difficulty of penetrating other sites. Additional resources are required to further improve the security of sites.

- 3.2 If approved the related expenditure will be added to the capital programme and funded by capital receipts so the works can commence as soon as possible.

4. Key Sites

- 4.1 To maximise the impact of the works for residence the expenditure will focus on the following key sites:

- King George's Playing Field
- Hutton Recreation Ground
- Brentwood Centre Field
- Larkins Playing Field
- Entrance to Brentwood Centre
- Warley Playing fields

- 4.2 However security improvements on other sites will be considered where appropriate.

5 Reasons for Recommendation

- 5.1 To reduce the number of unauthorised incursions across the Borough.

6 References to the Corporate Plan

- 6.1 Improving security is linked to the Council's priority of a safe Borough.

7 Implications

Financial Implications

Name & Title: Chris Leslie, Finance Director

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- 7.1 The capital expenditure required for the works will be funded from capital receipts.

Legal Implications

Name & Title: Chris Potter, Monitoring Officer

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- 7.2 The Council has a duty to maintain their land for the benefit, improvement or development of the Borough so taking proactive steps to safeguard land against unauthorised incursions is in accordance with this duty.

Other Implications (where significant) – i.e. Health and Safety, Asset Management, Equality and Diversity, Risk Management, Section 17 – Crime & Disorder, Sustainability, ICT.

- 8.1 Risk assessments will be carried out in planning security solutions to strike a balance between unauthorised and authorised access.

Background Papers (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright)

- 9.1 Not relevant

10. Appendices to this report

- 10.1 None

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