

**COMMENTS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (ECONOMY AND GROWTH) –  
9th February 2016**

**EVENTS POLICY FOR PARKS AND OPEN SPACES**

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economy and Growth) was presented a report regarding the Events Policy for Parks and Open Spaces. The Panel was informed that the policy had been developed because currently there is no Events Policy for Parks and Open Spaces.

Members discussed the Town and Parish Council events and that those events are not always commercial. The Panel was advised that Town and Parish Councils have the ability to raise a precept to cover the cost of funding an event or charging an admission fee. Following the discussion Members expressed their preference for the Executive Councillor for Operations and the Environment to be given discretion, within the guidelines of the policy, in regards to charging an event fee.

The Panel emphasised that the policy needs to treat national and local businesses differently as well as national and local charities differently this is because a national business/charity has greater resources and wealth than a local business/charity. As such Members thought the event fees could reflect such as difference with the national business/charity having to pay the larger fee.

The Panel thought that having a set of criteria to measure groups against was preferable to an exhaustive prohibited groups list as groups could be banned from hosting events due to the criteria laid out within the policy.

The Panel recommends that,

- 1) There needs to be clarity on the wording of Town and Parish Council events within the Policy.
- 2) Although there is a presumption to charge, the Executive Councillor for Operations and the Environment should be given discretion to consider every event on its merit within the guidelines of the policy.
- 3) There needs to be a clear distinction between large businesses and local businesses in respect to charging.
- 4) There needs to be a clear distinction between large charities and local charities in respect to charging.
- 5) Once adopted the Events Policy should be well publicised.

*(N.B. since the meeting the policy has been updated to incorporate the comments of the Panel).*