Overview and Scrutiny Committee 19 November 2026

Report of the Director of Environment and Leisure

Update: Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in Council Parks

1. Purpose of Report

To provide the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on progress against the ten recommendations from its review of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) within the Borough's parks, including achievements to date and the status of each recommendation since the previous update presented on 25 September 2025.

2. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to NOTE the report.

3. Detail

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed ten recommendations following its review of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) within the Borough's parks on 28 November 2024. A progress update was subsequently presented to the Committee on 25 September 2025.

This report provides a further update on progress made against each of the ten recommendations, which is is summarised in **Appendix 1**, including actions completed, ongoing work and the status of delivery. An updated accessibility audit of the Borough's parks and play areas is provided in **Appendix 2**.

The review has delivered benefits beyond the implementation of the individual recommendations. The learning arising from the review has directly informed the development of the new Parks and Play Strategy, where accessibility and inclusivity are now a fundamental strategic pillar, ensuring these principles continue to shape future investment and improvements across the Borough's parks and play spaces.

4. Financial Implications

The comments from the Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer were as follows:

The actions arising from this Equality, Diversity and Inclusion review continue to inform the Council's approach to future parks investment. Any capital expenditure associated with the recommendations will be considered and prioritised through the development of the Capital Programme for 2027/28 and beyond, with schemes subject to the normal budget-setting and approval processes.

5. Legal Implications

The comments from the Head of Legal Services were as follows:

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. The actions being undertaken in response to the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) review support the Council's ongoing obligations under the Equality Act 2010, including the Public Sector Equality Duty, which requires public authorities to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. Any future projects or proposals arising from the recommendations will be progressed in accordance with the Council's statutory duties and governance processes.

6. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

7. Union Comments

Not applicable.

8. Climate Change Implications

Not applicable.

9. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

10. Equality Impact Assessment

Not applicable.

11. Background Papers

Nil.