

## **CABINET**

**DATE OF MEETING: 6 July 2023**

### **PARKRUN TRIAL UPDATE**

**Report of: Executive Director - Communities**

**Cabinet Portfolio: Strategic Direction and Partnerships**

**Key Decision: No**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. This report provides Cabinet with an update addressing two areas of initial concern originally raised at Cabinet in August 2021; notably issues related to participant numbers and parking in residential areas.
2. The report also seeks permission to continue the lease establishing Edenbrook's Parkrun for a further 5 years.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

3. That Cabinet agrees to grant a 5-year extension to the current lease to operate Parkrun at Edenbrook Country Park.

### **BACKGROUND**

4. In August 2021 Cabinet agreed a 12-month Parkrun trial at Edenbrook Country Park/ The trial was to assess the impact of participant numbers and also parking in the locality.
5. Over the past 12 months, 50 Parkrun events have taken place on Saturday mornings at Edenbrook Country Park. There have been no complaints, but 5 general enquiries have been received. The full monitoring sheet can be seen in the background paper (Monitoring Summary), this summarises the enquiries made, and the actions taken to address them.

### **MAIN ISSUES**

6. **Participant Numbers** – Initially concerns were raised about the popularity of the event and the numbers of people it might attract. It was predicted that numbers would be high due to the attraction of a new event and route to run. Participant numbers started at around 350 and one unprecedented weekend reached nearly 500 participants as both local events at Rushmoor and Sandhurst Parkrun's were cancelled. Now the event has settled down and the average number of participants has settled at around 300. This number is manageable and raises no operational concerns.
7. **Parking** - Concerns were raised around the capacity for car parking. Parkrun organisers have actively encouraged attendees to use alternative forms of transport and to walk and cycle to site where possible. The use of the Leisure Centre car park is effective, and the parking system operates comfortably without and overspill. There have been no reports of attendees parking on residential roads and neither have complaints been received.

## **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

8. Not to continue lease – This is a well-attended event by the local community and if it were to discontinue there would be a reduction in local health and wellbeing provision.
9. To continue with a further 6-month review – Because there are minimal incidents and no issues with parking, a further review is necessary.

## **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS**

### **Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or The Hart Vision 2040**

The continuation of the Parkrun will support the delivery of the following themes within the Hart 2040 Vision

- Theme 1: Be the place to live, work and enjoy.  
Specifically, by providing accessible opportunities for healthy activity.
- Theme 2: Design the community to live in, work with and enjoy.  
Specifically continuing to build a great sense of community, reducing social isolation
- Theme 3: Enhance the environment to live in, work and enjoy.  
Specifically enhancing our leisure provision e.g., new country parks delivering improved facilities, and through promotion of culture and heritage in the districts e.g. through events. Working with existing public sector sports facilities providers in the district to create an improved/coordinated health offer for our residents.

It will also support the delivery of the following goals within the Corporate Plan 2023–2027.

- Tackle social and health inequalities – Parkrun is free and everyone is made to feel welcome.
- Support a vibrant local voluntary sector – Parkrun is entirely run by volunteers.

### **Service Plan**

- Is the proposal identified in the Service Plan? NO
- Is the proposal being funded from current budgets? Yes
- Have staffing resources already been identified and set aside for this proposal? Yes

### **Legal and Constitutional Issues**

There are no legal or Constitutional issue. However, there is provision of a break clause in the contract with Parkrun should it be required.

### **Financial and Resource Implications**

Park maintenance and liaison with organisers are covered through the Countryside Services annual revenue budget. However, these are so minimal that they do not affect the general budget.

### **Risk Management**

It is proposed that there be a further 5-year lease, and this could be restrictive if there were incidents that became unmanageable.

### **EQUALITIES**

10. The event is inclusive with over 200 volunteers from across the community giving their time to support this initiative.

### **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

11. Participants are actively encouraged to use public transport or to walk/cycle to the event.
12. Volunteers litter pick the site after the event has taken place.

### **ACTION**

13. A new extended 5-year lease will be prepared.

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### **Appendices**

None

### **Background Papers:**

[Monitoring Summary .xlsx](#)