

BARTHOLOMEW WAY PARK, SWANLEY

Finance and Investment Advisory Committee - 8 September 2020

Report of Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer - Finance and Trading

Status For Decision

Also considered by Cabinet - 17 September 2020

Key Decision Yes

Portfolio Holder Cllr. Matthew Dickins

Contact Officer(s) Adrian Rowbotham, Ext. 7153
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Recommendation to Finance and Investment Advisory Committee

Advise Cabinet with views on the recommendation below.

Recommendation to Cabinet:

The proposal by Swanley Town Council to transfer Bartholomew Way Park from Sevenoaks District Council to Swanley Town Council be rejected.

Introduction and Background

- 1 In May 2019 a Portfolio Holder Executive Decision Statement (24 - 2018/19) was issued regarding the transfer of the freehold of certain Sevenoaks District Council owned amenity land sites at nil cost to Swanley Town Council. One of these sites was Bartholomew Way Park.
- 2 Swanley Town Council had sought agreement from Sevenoaks District Council to transfer these sites at nil cost to the Town Council. Ongoing maintenance and financial responsibilities for these sites would transfer to Swanley Town Council with the freehold. While committed to preservice access to Council-owned amenity land Sevenoaks District Council's preference is for such amenity lands to be locally owned and maintained to support neighbourhood priorities.
- 3 Discussions continued between the two councils but eventually the transfer was aborted

Swanley Town Council Proposal

- 4 Swanley Town Council have recently approached this council with a proposal to transfer Bartholomew Way Park to Swanley Town Council at nil cost with the view to Swanley Town Council developing the site for a new Swanley Health Hub.
- 5 If this proposal proceeded, a Sevenoaks District Council owned green space in the district would be lost which was not the intention of the original Portfolio Holder Executive Decision Statement therefore it is recommended to refuse the request from Swanley Town Council to transfer the land.
- 6 It should also be noted that there are a number of other development sites in Swanley that may be suitable for a Swanley Health Hub.

Other Options Considered and/or Rejected

Transferring the land would result in a Sevenoaks District Council owned green space being lost to development.

Key Implications

Financial

There are no financial implications if the land is not transferred.

If the land is transferred, legal costs would be incurred and there would be an ongoing reduction in maintenance costs.

Bartholmew Way Park is valued at £94,997 in the 2019/20 accounts.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

There are no legal implications if the land is not transferred.

Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Conclusions

It is recommended that Bartholomew Way Park is not transferred to Swanley Town Council.

Appendices

Appendix A - Plan of Bartholmew Park

Background Papers

[Portfolio Holder Executive Decision Statement 24 \(2018/19\).](#)

Adrian Rowbotham

Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer - Finance and Trading