



<b>Policy, Finance and Development Committee</b>	<b>Tuesday, 07 February 2023</b>	<b>Matter for Information and Decision</b>
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**Report Title:** **Proposed Disposal of Land at London Road, Oadby  
(Consultation Outcome)**

**Report Author(s):** **Samuel Ball (Legal & Democratic Services  
Manager / Deputy Monitoring Officer)**

<b>Purpose of Report:</b>	To provided Members with an update in relation the outcome of the non-statutory four-week public consultation on the potential disposal of a part of public open space situated off London Road in Oadby.
<b>Report Summary:</b>	The outcome of the non-statutory public consultation indicated that the overwhelming majority of responders objected to the potential disposal of the part of public open space situated off London Road in Oadby. With the consultation outcome now known, Members are now asked to resolve whether or not to approve any disposal in principle.
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	<b>A. That the contents of the report and appendix be noted; and B. That Members resolve whether or not to approve any disposal of the part of public open space situated off London Road in Oadby (as edged blue in the Plan at Appendix 1).</b>
<b>Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):</b>	David Gill (Head of Law & Democracy / Monitoring Officer) (0116) 257 2626 <a href="mailto:david.gill@oadby-wigston.gov.uk">david.gill@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</a>  Samuel Ball (Legal & Democratic Services Manager / Deputy Monitoring Officer) (0116) 257 2643 <a href="mailto:samuel.ball@oadby-wigston.gov.uk">samuel.ball@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</a>
<b>Corporate Objectives:</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Vision and Values:</b>	Accountability (V1) Customer Focus (V5)
<b>Report Implications:-</b>	
Legal:	There are no implications directly arising from this report. However, Members should be mindful of the implications as previously set out in the exempt report(s) as noted in the 'Background Papers' below.
Financial:	Any proposed disposal could generate a substantial capital receipt for the Council as a result of an above market value offer and reduce an ongoing and costly maintenance liability associated with the land.
Corporate Risk Management:	Reputation Damage (CR4)
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications arising from this report. EA not applicable.

Human Rights:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
<b>Statutory Officers' Comments:-</b>	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
<b>Consultees:</b>	General Public
<b>Background Papers:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exempt report entitled 'Proposed Disposal of Council-Owned Land in Oadby (Exempt Report)' to the Policy, Finance and Development Committee on 7 December 2021</li> <li>• Exempt Report entitled 'Proposed Public Consultation on Disposal of Council-Owned Land in Oadby (Exempt)' to the Policy, Finance and Development Committee on 26 September 2022</li> </ul>
<b>Appendices:</b>	<b>1.</b> Public Consultation Information Document (2022)

## **1. Background**

- 1.1. At a meeting of the Policy, Finance and Development Committee on 7 December 2021, Members considered an exempt report recommending the potential disposal of a part of public open space land off London Road in Oadby. The Committee resolved not to approve the recommendation on the basis that the land was public open space of significant public amenity value which outweighed the benefit of a disposal to a private individual.
- 1.2. At a subsequent meeting of the Committee on 13 September 2022, Members re-considered a further exempt report recommending a non-statutory four-week public consultation on the potential disposal of a comparatively smaller part of the same public open space following a receipt of a revised offer from the same private individual in February 2022.
- 1.3. The Committee approved such a consultation in order to allow local residents and interested parties to make any objections or representations to inform any future Members' decisions. The consultation was undertaken between 14 November and 12 December 2022 (inclusive). A copy of the public consultation information document is provided at **Appendix 1**.

## **2. Consultation Outcome**

- 2.1. The consultation yielded a total of 606 responses which were received via a combination of online petitions, paper petitions and letters, responses on the Council's social media posts, and e-mails. A breakdown of those responses in relation to the proposed disposal is below.
  - 2.1.1. Petitions, Letters and Social Media (501)
    - 455 online petition signatures objecting
    - 37 paper petition signatures or letters objecting
    - 9 social media post responses objecting
  - 2.1.2. E-mail (105)
    - 103 e-mails objecting

- 1 e-mail supporting
- 1 e-mail neutral

2.2. The common themes raised by those objecting to the proposed disposal related to:

- (i) The Reflective Garden being a well-used community asset in its current state;
- (ii) All green spaces have an important environmental benefit; and
- (iii) The proposed access driveway would impact on highway and pedestrian safety.

2.3. The comments raised by those who supported/neutral on the proposed disposal related to:

- (i) The benefit of having any sale proceeds ringfencing for improvements; and
- (ii) Uncertainty about how any sale proceeds was to be applied for maintenance.

### **3. Available Options**

3.1. With the consultation outcome now known, Members are now asked to either resolve:

- 3.1.1. To not approve the disposal of the part of public open space situated off London Road in Oadby (as edged blue in the Plan at Appendix 1), in which case, no further action will be taken, and the private individual's revised offer, and any future offers made in relation to the same public open space, will be rejected accordingly; or
- 3.1.2. To approve, in principle, the disposal of the part of public open space situated off London Road in Oadby (as edged blue in the Plan at Appendix 1), in which case, a further report will be presented to a subsequent meeting of the Committee to consider the terms and conditions upon which the disposal should proceed.