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6th December 2011

Dear Sir/ Madam

Statements to Full Council PS09 to PS30

At Full Council on 22nd November it was agreed that the decision on all land sales arising from the Area Green Space Plan process in 2010 be taken by Neighbourhood Committees.

Officers will support Neighbourhood Committees to make this decision by providing relevant information as requested. There is not yet any timetable set for Committees' to make decisions and information on this will be released in due course.

In reporting to Full Council the cross-party working group re-affirmed support for the Council's Parks and Green Space Strategy but accepted that the investment levels originally envisaged will not be met.

The work carried out in recent months by Neighbourhood Partnerships to generate long-term plans for investing and improving local parks will continue to ensure that whatever income is raised for parks, it is spent appropriately on locally supported schemes.

I also enclose a copy of the statement from the Bristol Parks forum who are the representative body for parks and open spaces community groups in Bristol.

They have campaigned long and hard to get improvements to our parks and do not want the success over the last few years to be jeopardised. This administration has made investing in our parks a key issue and we will be making every effort to find the extra funding now required to acquire and improve more open space as is in the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy.

As the Forum point out our parks and open spaces were severely neglected for many years before this administration took over and we will be doing our best to try to prevent a return to the dark ages for Bristol's parks and open spaces.

Please read the report produced by the working group attached and you may also find useful the record of a couple of the many meetings which help to illustrate the issues at stake.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Gary Hopkins
Executive Member for Targeted Improvements

Cabinet