

Report To:	CABINET	Date:	13th OCTOBER 2020
Heading:	GREEN SPACES CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME		
Portfolio Holder:	CLLR D. MARTIN, PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR STREETS, PARKS & TOWN CENTRES		
Ward/s:	ALL WARDS		
Key Decision:	YES		
Subject to Call-In:	YES		

Purpose of Report

To outline the additional investment required for green space improvement projects this financial year.

Recommendation(s)

- 1. To allocate £193k General Fund Capital Receipts and £173k Section 106 Public Open Space monies for a number of green space improvement projects.**
- 2. To delegate authority to the Director Place and Communities to allocate the funding to specific projects.**
- 3. To note that the proposed improvement projects will be available for Council at its next meeting when approval of these Schemes to be added to the Capital Programme will be sought.**

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

There a number of sites in the District which require additional investment in order to increase the quality of provision.

Alternative Options Considered

Not to allocate additional investment – **not recommended**, a number of sites require intervention this financial year to ensure that the quality the District's green space provision remains high.

Detailed Information

There are a number of sites that have been identified via public and Members' feedback which would benefit from investment this financial year.

The sites are all neighbourhood sites which have not received investment for several years and require improvement. Improvements will include additional pieces of play equipment, bins and signage, footpath works and tree planting.

These sites are a valuable community resource, particularly during the pandemic when people have been making greater use of their local green spaces. These improvements will provide significant investment into green spaces this financial year, complementing the existing commitment of over £1.2 m spend by the end of March next year.

The cost of the proposed investments will be met entirely from Capital Receipts (£193k) and Section 106 Public Open Space monies (£173k). There are no borrowing requirements associated with these proposed investments.

Implications

Corporate Plan: Cleaner and Greener - Parks and Open Spaces:

1. Review the standard of all parks, play areas and sports facilities, rationalising to ensure there are better quality sites that are fit for purpose
2. Continue to improve parks and green spaces with a rolling programme of investment.

Legal:

There are no legal implications contained within this report.

Finance:

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	No implications
General Fund – Capital Programme	A financial envelope of £366k (£193k Capital Receipts and £173k S106 funding) is available to meet the cost of these investments.
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	No implications
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	No implications

Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
Overspend of the additional budget	All projects will be managed through the Council's project management system to ensure that they remain within budget.

Human Resources:

No HR issues identified.

Environmental/Sustainability:

Additional tree planting will support the Council's commitment to carbon reduction. Any timber products specified will be from sustainable sources, all redundant metal play equipment is sent for recycling.

Equalities:

No issues have been identified.

Other Implications:

Not applicable.

Reason(s) for Urgency

Not applicable.

Reason(s) for Exemption

Not applicable.

Background Papers

Not applicable.

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