

REPORT TO	DATE OF MEETING
Cabinet	6 April 2016



SUBJECT	PORTFOLIO	AUTHOR	ITEM
Authorisation of Expenditure for Capital Projects and Schemes	Neighbourhoods and Streetscene.	Mark Gaffney	4

SUMMARY AND LINK TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES

The Council approved the budget for 2016/17 at its meeting on 2nd March which included significant investment of over £1,000,000 in to the borough’s parks and open spaces through an extensive capital programme. This includes major schemes to bring Withy Grove Park to a Green Flag standard, extended car parking facilities and new toilets at Worden Park and many smaller schemes across the borough.

This report requests the necessary approvals to enable the programme to be delivered within timescales.

The report links to all of the Council’s Corporate Priorities but especially Clean, Green and Safe.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet agrees:

1. To grant authority under Section 3.4 of the Financial Regulations to incur capital expenditure of £610,000 to carry out a programme of capital works for Parks and Open Spaces as detailed in the report (the procurement for each scheme shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Council’s Contract Procedure Rules).
2. To delegate authority to the Director of Neighbourhoods, Environmental Health and Assets in consultation with the portfolio holder for Neighbourhoods and Street Scene to accept the most economically advantageous tenders for the works outlined in the report (for the sake of clarity this constitutes a waiver of para 26.4 of the Council’s Contract Procedure Rules)[CPR]

DETAILS AND REASONING

The Council approved the budget for 2016/17 at its meeting on 2nd March which included significant investment in to the borough’s parks and open spaces through an extensive capital programme. This includes major schemes to bring Withy Grove Park to a Green Flag standard, extended car parking facilities and new toilets at Worden Park and many smaller schemes across the borough.

In accordance with the Council’s Financial Regulation No. 3.4, permission is now sought to incur capital expenditure for a number of major schemes listed in the capital programme that exceed a value of over £75,000, and which require Cabinet approval.

The works identified in the report are to be tendered over the coming months. However, in order for the works to be carried out within timescales and during the most advantageous weather conditions, the tenders will need to be awarded outside the dates currently set for meetings of the Cabinet. It is for this reason that authority is sought to waive the relevant provision of the Council’s CPR (para 26.4) to enable the Director of Neighbourhoods, Environmental Health and Assets in

consultation with the portfolio holder for Neighbourhoods and Street Scene to award the contracts for the schemes detailed in the report.

Neighbourhoods and Streetscene Portfolio Schemes

Improving parks and open spaces in the borough is a key action in the Corporate Plan, as is work to enhance Worden Park as a local asset and visitor attraction. Cabinet approved a budget of over £1,000,000 for delivery of capital improvement schemes in 2016/17.

The major schemes with a value of over £75,000 are set out below.

Scheme Name	Funding		
	Budget	S106	Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Worden Park overflow car park	130		130
Worden Park Vine House	80		80
Worden Park toilet facilities	150		150
Withy Grove Park	250	116	134
Total	610	116	494

Worden Park – Overflow Car Park Extension

All Weather Overflow Car Park - The overflow car park was created during 2014 and opened in spring 2015 creating additional car parking which could be utilised in all weathers. However the popularity of the park and its facilities mean that on many weekends and holiday periods, capacity is insufficient to meet demands. The existing overflow car park will be extended to accommodate an additional 128 parking spaces and will be constructed with materials which are sympathetic to the aesthetical qualities of the park.

Worden Park –Vine House

The vine house situated within the Walled Garden was erected in approximately the 1880's and houses the historic Black Hamburg Grape Vine which is approximately 100 years old. It has been subject to a number of partial repairs in the intervening years and has now reached the stage where it requires replacement.

Withy Grove Park - Improvements

The Council is working to improve Withy Grove Park with the intention of achieving a Green Flag. A plan has been drawn up for improvements to be carried out to the southern side of the park including the creation of a new footpath network, the creation of a central feature and landscaping of the area to create a semi-natural area for relaxation.

Worden Park Toilet Facilities Improvements

The toilet blocks on Worden Park are located in the playground and at the crossroad junction. They were built in the early 1960's and have been refurbished on a number of occasions. Their construction means they are dark and unwelcoming and subject to vandalism on a regular basis. It is proposed to replace and re-site the existing toilets with modular units which require a fee to enable use, this will reduce the amount of vandalism and anti-social behaviour currently experienced resulting in a much more usable facility.

WIDER IMPLICATIONS

In the preparation of this report, consideration has been given to the impact of its proposals in all the areas listed below, and the table shows any implications in respect of each of these.

FINANCIAL	The approved capital programme for 2016/17 includes the budgets totalling £1,075,000 for works on Parks and Open Spaces. The major schemes above £75,000 in value for which authorisation to spend is requested are detailed in the table and described in the report.		
LEGAL	<p>The Council will be bound by the terms and conditions of any contractual documentation entered into with any contractors appointed to supply services or goods in relation to these capital schemes.</p> <p>A waiver of CPR 26.4 is required as normally all awards of high value contracts is a decision for Cabinet.</p> <p>In this instance the proposal is for the decisions to be delegated to the Director of Neighbourhoods, Environmental Health and Assets in consultation with the portfolio holder for Neighbourhoods and Street Scene.</p> <p>Para 44 of CPR allows for a waiver in exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>In this particular instance it is considered that exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated here. Timing is a crucial issue together with being able to take advantage of favourable weather conditions.</p> <p>It is considered that the following paragraph is relevant here – “there are other circumstances which are genuinely exceptional and not of the Council’s own making”</p> <p>It must be emphasised that all other requirements of CPR will be fully complied with.</p>		
RISK	As the project plans are developed for the individual projects and schemes, consideration will be given to any risks identified from the project risk assessments.		
THE IMPACT ON EQUALITY	As the project plans are developed for the individual projects and schemes, consideration will be given to any equality issues arising from the schemes.		
OTHER (see below)	Health and Safety With regard to construction works the Council will, and successful tenderers be required to, conform to the requirements of the Construction (Design & Management) Regulations 2007.		
<i>Asset Management</i>	<i>Corporate Plans and Policies</i>	<i>Crime and Disorder</i>	<i>Efficiency Savings / Value for Money</i>
<i>Equality, Diversity and Community Cohesion</i>	<i>Freedom of Information / Data Protection</i>	<i>Health and Safety</i>	<i>Health Inequalities</i>
<i>Human Rights Act 1998</i>	<i>Implementing Electronic Government</i>	<i>Staffing, Training and Development</i>	<i>Sustainability</i>

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Cabinet report Financial Strategy, Budget and Council Tax 2016/17