

REPORT TO	ON
CABINET	27 th JULY 2017

Jan 2017



TITLE	PORTFOLIO	AUTHOR	Agenda item No.
IMPROVEMENT OF WEST SIDE OF WITHY GROVE PARK, BAMBER BRIDGE – PART 1 (OPEN REPORT)	NEIGHBOURHOODS & STREETSCENE	ANDREW RICHARDSON	7

Is this report a KEY DECISION (i.e. more than £75,000 or impacting on more than 2 Borough wards?)	Yes
Is this report on the Cabinet Forward Plan ?	Yes
Is the request outside the policy and budgetary framework and therefore subject to confirmation at full Council?	No

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report requests approval to commit capital expenditure and accept the most economically advantageous tender for the proposed improvement of the western side of Withy Grove Park, Bamber Bridge. This will significantly enhance the facility for the benefit of residents and raise the standard of the park to Green Flag Award level - the national standard for parks and green spaces.

2. MEMBER RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet agree:

1. That Tender 4 in Table A, Part 2 of this report at a cost of £183,897 is accepted for the improvement of Withy Grove Park.
2. That the remaining budget of £66,103 is utilised for the remainder of the works as detailed in the financial implications of this report.
3. To grant authority under section 3.4 of the Financial Regulations to incur capital expenditure of up to £250,000 for the above works.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

The report relates to the following corporate priorities

Clean, green and safe	X	Strong and healthy communities	X
Strong South Ribble in the heart of prosperous Lancashire	X	Efficient, effective and exceptional council	

4. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

Withy Grove Park is the borough's second largest park and the largest park within Bamber Bridge with an area of 15.5 hectares. Previous improvements to the site have seen the construction of a landmark play area, new tree lined avenue and upgraded car park in the eastern side of the park.

The proposals in this report represent further significant investment into the boroughs parks and open spaces and investment into another phase of improvements at Withy Grove Park. The scheme will improve the path network and landscape within the western side of the park in order to raise the standard to obtain a Green Flag Award.

5. PROPOSALS

5.1 Details of Proposals

The works have been scoped within the overall capital budget of £250,000 to include the major works within the tendered specification. It is proposed that other minor tranches of works will be carried out through a combination of using the in-house teams and sub-contractors.

The proposed major works included in the tender specification include works to replace the existing path network, many areas of which are narrow and prone to flooding, with new 3 metre wide bitmac surfaced footpath/cycleways. New ditch crossings will be installed and existing ditch crossings replaced with new headwalls and timber parapets. The level of the paths will be raised where areas of standing water are common. The landscape and wildlife value of the site is proposed to be improved with the lining of an existing depression to create a permanent pond with a new pond excavated next to it.

The minor tranches of works not included in the tendered specification include landscape improvements, shrub planting, tree planting across the western side of the park including creating a small arboretum and installation of park furniture including benches, bins, signage and flagpoles. The principal path junctions provide focal points where it is proposed public art features will be located. It is proposed that consultation with regard to these features will be undertaken at the Eastern My Neighbourhood Forum.

The minor works will also include the creation of boardwalks and dipping platforms that have proved popular at other local sites allowing safer access for the public to the water's edge.

The site will be improved with the new signage which will include the installation of additional entrance and interpretation signage throughout the site providing information to park visitors about the park, its layout, wildlife and events/activities.

5.2 Tendering Process

Open tenders have been invited in line with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules via the Chest - the regional e-procurement portal that enables tenders and quotations to be advertised, invited and received electronically. In addition, as an openly advertised opportunity, tenders were also advertised on Contracts Finder, the national e-procurement portal.

The invitation to tender documentation included details of the evaluation criteria to be used to determine the most economically advantageous tender (MEAT). This was 70% cost and 30% quality, taking account of methodology and previous work of the bidders.

The tendering process and specification has been robust to ensure the Council obtains value for money and that the works will be carried out in accordance with the specifications and to the required standard.

5.3 Tender Results

Tender submissions received via the Chest/Contracts Finder have been evaluated in accordance with the MEAT evaluation criteria and are listed in Table A in Part 2 (exempt item) of this report (provided separately). Tender 4 is the overall highest scoring compliant tender at a cost of £183,897 and is recommended for acceptance.

6. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT AND OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION

Public Consultation has been carried out at the local My Neighbourhood Forum in March 2016 and with the park's Friends Group. The feedback received was in support of the western side of the park undergoing improvements, especially the existing aging path network and a desire was expressed for additional seating throughout this area of the park.

7. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

In the planning stages of this project the following alternative options were considered:

Minimal intervention – at present the western side of the site has a tired appearance and some areas are difficult to access due to the condition of the paths, especially in wet weather. It is unlikely a Green Flag Award would be achieved by the site without improvement to the accessibility of the park's western side.

Path Network – a number of designs have been drafted for the new path network within the western side of the park. The original designs were amended following notification from Network Rail that they intended to replace the pedestrian level crossing from the park to Asland Close to the south with a footbridge located further east along the park's southern boundary.

After 18 months and having postponed tendering on the basis of the planned Network Rail works, Network Rail suggested their footbridge project was no longer live and therefore the path network was again redesigned to accommodate this position.

8. IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Financial implications	X	People and Cultural implications	X
ICT implications		Property and Asset Management Implications	X
Risk Management implications	X	Equality and Diversity implications	X

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The approved capital programme for 2017/18 includes a capital budget allocation of £250,000 for the improvement of the western side of Wither Grove Park. The works have been scoped within this overall capital budget to include the major works within the tendered specification and other smaller tranches of minor works to be carried out through a combination of using the in-house teams and sub-contractors.

The initial tendered sum is £183,897 which leave a remaining amount of £66,103.

Additional capital expenditure over the initial tendered sum above is as follows:-

	£
Installation of public art features at junctions within the new footpath network.	30,000
Tree planting to enhance the landscape across the western side of the park.	10,000
Landscape improvements including creation of shrub beds and shrub planting.	9,000
Installation of parks furniture including benches, litterbins, signage, flagpoles and pond dipping platforms/board walks.	12,000
Total	61,000

The remaining £5,103 will support any contingencies in relation to the project.

Future and ongoing maintenance costs will be contained within the existing revenue budgets.

10. PEOPLE AND CULTURAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposals will impact positively on residents who will have access to an enhanced and improved facility which will support their health and wellbeing.

11. ICT IMPLICATIONS

There are no ICT implications as a result of this report.

12. PROPERTY AND ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The park and its associated infrastructure will be improved as a result of the proposed works.

13. RISK MANAGEMENT

The proposed improvement works will improve the standard of the park, its landscape and hard surfaces and paths. These improvements will reduce risks to park users.

Network Rail in recent weeks has suggested that the footbridge project may now become live again. However, considering the delays already incurred due to the Network Rail position, it is proposed that the improvement scheme is now delivered. Any future installation of a footbridge will be done under licence and Network Rail would be contractually required to make good any potential damage caused through their operations.

14. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPACT

Equality issues have been fully considered and incorporated into the design proposals.

15. RELEVANT DIRECTORS RECOMMENDATIONS

The delivery of this scheme will provide an improved park for the benefit of South Ribble residents and especially those to the east of the borough. The scheme will also move the site

forward so that an application for Green Flag status can be made which if achieved will be a measure of the quality of the facility. The proposals in this report are recommended for acceptance as follows:

1. That Tender 4 in Table A, Part 2 of this report at a cost of £183,897 is accepted for the improvement of Withy Grove Park.
2. That the remaining budget of £66,103 is utilised for the remainder of the works as detailed in the financial implications of this report.
3. To grant authority under section 3.4 of the Financial Regulations to incur capital expenditure of up to £250,000 for the above works.

16. COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

The Council's Contract Procedure Rules have been followed so value for money has been demonstrated and evidenced. A budget of £250,000 was approved by Council on 1st March 2017 to carry out these works therefore the financial implication have already been included in the 2017/18 base budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy.

17. COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

The tender process has been carried out in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. A formal contract will subsequently be entered into which will protect the Council's position.

18. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Drawing showing tendered work at Withy Grove Park.

Planning Application by Network Rail for replacement of Asland Close/Withy Grove Park level crossing with pedestrian footbridge to east.

SMT Member's Name - Mark Gaffney

Job Title - Director of Neighbourhoods, Environmental Health and Assets

Report Author:	Telephone:	Date:
Andrew Richardson	5674	11/07/2017