

REPORT TO	ON
<b>CABINET COUNCIL</b>	<b>Wednesday, 18 March 2020</b>



TITLE	PORTFOLIO	REPORT OF
<b>Capital Programme - Green Links and Parks</b>	<b>Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member (Health, Wellbeing and Leisure)</b>	<b>Assistant Director of Projects and Development</b>

Is this report a <b>KEY DECISION</b> (i.e. more than £100,000 or impacting on more than 2 Borough wards?)	<b>Yes</b>
Is this report on the <b>Statutory Cabinet Forward Plan</b> ?	<b>Yes</b>
Is the request outside the policy and budgetary framework and therefore subject to confirmation at full Council? This should only be in exceptional circumstances.	<b>No</b>
Is this report confidential? If <b>Yes</b> , insert details of the relevant exclusion paragraph(s). These are listed in the Constitution Part 4, page 25 (Access to Information Procedure Rules)	<b>No</b>

## PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for a proposed set of capital projects to be delivered or started during the financial year 2020/2021.
2. The capital projects put forward relate to themes and programmes identified and adopted as part of the Council Corporate Plan 2019/24 notably under the umbrella of Health and Well-being and improving the Environment. The capital projects put forward are identified in the Council's capital programme agreed by Council on the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020. The capital projects cover several areas including:

- Green link schemes
  - Environmental projects
  - Parks projects including parks buildings
  - Play Area projects
3. The report and Appendix 1 set out the scope of each capital project, the time scale on which it will be delivered and the predicted cost.

#### **PORTFOLIO RECOMMENDATIONS**

4. Cabinet approve the expenditure in relation to the proposed list of capital projects to be delivered during the financial year as set out in Appendix 1 to this report and identified within the approved Capital programme.
5. Cabinet delegate to the Director of Neighbourhoods and Development in liaison with the relevant Portfolio holder and the Leader of the Council to award the contracts within the agreed budget on the approved Capital projects identified in this report.

#### **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

6. Council approved the current Corporate Plan in September 2019. The Corporate Plan identifies a series of key programmes under several headings including Health and Well-being and the Environment.
7. The report will request financial delegated powers for officers in partnership with relevant portfolio holders to award contracts for the schemes highlighted in the Capital programme so that the ambitious programme of projects can be delivered in-line with the timetable identified.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

8. This report sets out a proposed set of Capital projects to be completed or started during the financial year 2020/21. The projects will link to Green links, improving the local environment, improving play areas and improving parks buildings. The individual projects are set out in Appendix 1 with a cost, a timescale and how they will be funded.

## CORPORATE OUTCOMES

9. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

Excellence, Investment and Financial Sustainability	x
Health, Wellbeing and Safety	x
Place, Homes and Environment	x

Projects relating to People in the Corporate Plan:

Our People and Communities	x
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## BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

10. Health and Wellbeing and promoting the Environment are key priorities for the Council. A key contribution we can make to improve the health of our residents is to increase opportunities available for people to embark on active lifestyles. From refurbishing existing play areas, developing new pedestrian and cycle routes, to improving our parks and connecting our open spaces with each other, we want our parks and green links to be a unique selling point for the Borough.
11. Developing green links has already led to investment taking place on our green infrastructure in many parts of the borough. A further 7km of new Green link corridors has been completed this financial year 19/20.
12. The background information outlined above has led to this report which is seeking approval to deliver a further range of capital projects in the financial year 20/21. If adopted this will represent continued capital investment in our green infrastructure across the borough at a scale not seen for several years.
13. Delivery of these capital projects will involve significant work at several locations across the borough on projects as diverse as refurbishing existing play areas, improving park buildings and creating new pedestrian and cycle

links. The Council has put in place, the necessary staff resources with the skills and expertise required to deliver the programme.

#### **PROPOSALS (e.g. RATIONALE, DETAIL, FINANCIAL, PROCUREMENT)**

**14.** The proposals represent a list of capital projects planned to be delivered or started during this financial year 2020/21. The proposed list of individual projects is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

**15.** Each project identified has a direct link to a programme of work identified in the Corporate Plan

**16.** Each project listed also shows how it could potentially be funded e.g. through section 106 monies, the Community infrastructure levy (CIL) and other sources of external funding or from the Council's own funding.

**17.** The Category of projects include the following:

- Green link projects

These are projects that will create new green links in the shape of new cycle or pedestrian routes that connect into existing routes or connect existing parks or open spaces together. They will be developed alongside existing or new road Infrastructure or on off road sites.

- Environmental Projects

A key priority for the new Cabinet at South Ribble Council is the promoting and enhancing of the Environment. Over future years this will be reflected in the type of Capital projects brought forward including the proposed planting of 110,000 new trees across the Borough and projects that will deliver the River Ribble master plan.

- Refurbished Play Areas

The proposed capital projects involve the commissioning of 4 refurbished Play Areas in this financial year 2020/21. This will build on the 3 play areas which are currently been refurbished with a finish date before Easter this year

- Parks projects

These are identified projects located within the main Parks across the Borough. They include the improvement footpaths, horticulture and work to improve several parks buildings notably in Worden and Hurst Grange Parks.

18. Appendix 1 sets out a list of capital projects planned to be delivered or started during this financial year 2020/21 along with the budget

## **CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT AND OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION**

19. A major consultation took place between February and April 2019, which engaged with local communities and stakeholders to gather feedback, suggestions and ideas around the Green Links concept and outline proposals.
20. The consultation approach was predominantly face to face, via a series of roadshow and planning for real workshop events. These events were delivered at each of the Borough's current leisure facilities as well as individual events in each 'my neighbourhood area'. The events were informal, and attendance varied from area to area. It is estimated that overall attendance at the events was approximately 900 people.
21. An online survey (paper copies were available on request) was undertaken between 3rd March 2019 and 30th April 2019 and received 247 responses, providing deeper detail around individual parks and use of local green spaces.
22. A stakeholder workshop which included key partners and community-based groups identified collaborative opportunities for the Council, where partners can offer advice and support services, together with links to communities and training offers.
23. The overwhelming feedback across the consultation has been positive about the Council's ambitions to develop our green infrastructure and support local parks and play areas. This feedback along with the corporate plan has helped shaped the capital projects identified in this report.
24. An online consultation was also undertaken in relation to the budget prior to approval by Council in February 2020.

## **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

25. This report defines the priorities for spending on capital projects in 20/21. An alternative option of do nothing could be adopted but this would go against the ambitions of the Administration of the Council or priorities set in the approved corporate plan.

## **AIR QUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

26. The completion of these capital projects should have a positive effect on Air Quality in the borough as the creation of new green links for pedestrians and cyclists should encourage people to use their cars less.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

27. Risks Registers will be pulled together for each capital project identified.

## **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPACT**

28. All relevant Equality implications need to be identified.

## **COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER**

29. These projects are included in the Capital programme approved by Council in February 2020. Seeking approval in advance of the financial year helps to ensure delivery during the financial year 2020/21.

## **COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**

30. The principal purpose of this report is to enable the effective delivery of our Capital programme. Extensive consultation has already been carried out in this regard. The programme was included as part of the budget papers that were approved by the Council on the 26nd of February. To enable the effective delivery of the programme delated powers are sought to award contracts as and when required.

## **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

There are no background papers to this report

## **APPENDICES (or There are no appendices to this report)**

Appendix 1 - Details of Capital projects for 2020/2021

LT Member's Name  
Assistant Director of Projects and Development

Report Author:	Telephone:	Date:
Neil Anderson (Assistant Director of Projects and Development)	01772 625540	18.03.2020