

REPORT TO	ON
CABINET	19 June 2019



TITLE	PORTFOLIO	REPORT OF
Green Links Capital programme 2019/20	Deputy Leader (Health, Wellbeing and Leisure)	Assistant Director Projects and Development

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?	<b>No</b>
Is this report confidential?	<b>No</b>

## PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to put forward a proposed set of capital projects to be delivered or started during the financial year 2019/2020.
2. The capital projects put forward will relate to themes and programmes identified and adopted as part of the Council corporate plan 2018/2023 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 - they also relate to the findings and feedback gained through an extensive borough wide consultation that took place between February and April this year. The capital projects cover a number of areas including:

- Green link schemes
  - Environmental projects
  - Parks projects including parks buildings
  - Play Area projects
  - Leisure projects
3. The report and the appendices set out the scope of each capital project, the time scale on which it will be delivered and how it will be funded including the use of historic and current section 106 and Community infrastructure (CIL) monies, other external sources of funding as well as the use of allocated Council funding. A list of the proposed capital projects are attached to the report as Appendix A.

## **PORTFOLIO RECOMMENDATIONS**

4. Cabinet approve the proposed list of capital projects to be delivered during the financial year 2019/2020 as set out in Appendix A 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 to spend the agreed budget on the approved Capital projects identified in this report.

## **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

6. Council approved the current corporate plan 2018/2023 in February 2019. The Corporate plan identifies a series of key programmes under a number of headings including Health and Well-being. In addition the new Cabinet are keen to take forward projects that not only promote Health and Well-being but also improves the environment across the Borough.
7. The report will also request financial delegated powers for officers in partnership with relevant portfolio holders to spend money 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 during this financial year 2019/20 or in 2020/21. The projects will link to Green links, improving the local environment, improving play areas, improving parks and parks buildings and a football pitch project. The individual projects are set out in Appendix A with a cost, a timescale and how they will be funded. The report provides a background to the projects and why they are been brought forward which links to the corporate strategy, the priorities of the new administration and the extensive consultation carried out with communities across South Ribble which was undertaken between February and May.

## CORPORATE PRIORITIES

9. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

Excellence and Financial Sustainability	X
Health and Wellbeing	X
Place	X

Projects relating to People in the Corporate Plan:

People	x
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## **BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT**

- 10.** Health and Wellbeing and promoting the environment are key priorities for the new Administration. 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 developing new play areas, pedestrian and cycle routes, to improving our parks and connecting our open spaces with each other, we want our green infrastructure to be a unique selling point for the Borough. Over the past 18 months a concept of developing new green corridors has been developed as a unique and borough wide ambition of developing South Ribble's green infrastructure that is connected and accessible to all residents and communities. A strategy 'Our green links' has been developed linked to an initial programme of works which formed part of a business plan approved by Cabinet on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017. As a Council we have now developed a green links logo and brand which we have used to promote green links and also to underpin the consultation that was carried out recently, highlighted below.
- 11.** Our borough wide green links approach is beginning to attract some national interest notably from Sport England who are keen to lend their support where possible.
- 12.** Developing the concept of green links has already led to investment taking place on our green infrastructure in many parts of the borough. This has included work on establishing new pedestrian and cycle routes as early Green links and developing master plans for our central parks.
- 13.** The background information outlined above has led to this report which is seeking approval to deliver a range of capital projects during this to be started and completed in this current financial year or started in the financial year but completed in 20/21. If adopted this will represent a significant capital investment in our green infrastructure across the borough at a scale not seen for a number of years.
- 14.** Delivery of the these capital projects will involve significant work at a number locations across the borough on projects as diverse as developing new play areas , improving park buildings, developing new playing pitches and creating new pedestrian and cycle links. The Council has put in place, the necessary staff resources in place with the skills and expertise required to deliver this ambitious programme.
- 15.** Many of the projects proposed for delivery will involve working in partnerships with a number of partner organisations as diverse as Sport England to local friends groups of local parks.

## **PROPOSALS**

- 16.** The proposals represents a list of capital projects planned to be delivered during this financial year 2019/20 or to start in this financial year but finished in the next

financial year 20/21. The proposed list of individual projects is attached to this report as Appendix A.

17. Each project identified has a direct link to a programme of work identified in the corporate plan or has fallen out of direct consultation with our local residents or is put forward in the new Administration's Manifesto.

18. Some of the larger projects listed are shown as been proposed to be delivered over more than one financial year.

19. 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.

20. 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 identified in the attached spread sheet of projects planned for this financial year.

- Refurbished Play Areas

The proposed capital projects involve the commissioning of 3 refurbished Play Areas in this financial year 2019/20 with completion during 2020/21.

- Parks projects

These are identified projects located within the main Parks across the Borough. They include the improvement of the Green infrastructure within the Park including footpaths, horticulture and also work to improve a number of parks buildings notably in Worden and Hurst Grange Parks.

- Leisure Projects

South Ribble Council now has a new Playing field and open space strategy soon to be adopted as a planning document to support the local plan. In the future a number of projects will be developed as part of the strategy including the development of a new football pitch at St Gerrard's linked to section 106 monies.

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

- 21.** 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.
- 22.** 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 600 people.
- 23.** The majority of respondents and engagements were within the Leyland area and this was partly due to concern over Balcarres Green and Bent Lane. In the other areas attendance/engagement was lower with the Western Parishes least represented.
- 24.** 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, leisure centres and use of local green spaces.
- 25.** A stakeholder workshop which included key partners and community based groups identified collaborative opportunities for the Council, where partners are able to offer advice and support services, together with links to communities and training offers.
- 26.** The overwhelming feedback across the consultation has been positive about the Council's ambitions to develop our green and leisure infrastructure and this feedback along with the corporate strategy and views from the new Administration of the Council has helped the Council shape the capital projects identified in this report.
- 27.** The full consultation report is attached to the cabinet report as Appendix B.
- 28.** Other consultations that have taken place independently have also been considered. This includes South Ribble Partnership's Community Survey, which took place in September 2018. There were 1,657 responses and independent analysis was undertaken and provided a 95% confidence rating. The survey was very positive in its responses and provided insight into the things that are important to those who live and work in the borough. Highlights of the survey showed us that people most value amongst other things our parks and open spaces.
- 29.** In addition the Central Park programme was developed in consultation with key stakeholders and the design of the green links reflects the views of key stakeholders.

## **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

30. This report defines the priorities for spending on capital projects in 2019/20. An alternative option of do nothing could be adopted but this would go against the ambitions of the new Administration of the Council or priorities set out set out in the corporate plan.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

31. Appendix A sets out a list of capital projects planned to be delivered during this financial year 2019/20 or to start in this financial year but finished in the next financial year 20/21. It shows indicative funding which has been identified at this stage. Some of the projects listed will have revenue implications in relation to ongoing maintenance costs. S106 monies can be used for both capital and revenue purposes and therefore sums can be set aside from available s106 to support ongoing revenue costs, where these cannot be met from existing budgets.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

32. All capital expenditure will be carried out in line with the Council procedures and protocols including the correct commitment of 106 monies. Proper procurement rules will be followed at all times in taking individual capital projects forward.
33. A recommendation of this report is to maximise in accordance with existing standing orders delegated powers to the relevant officers in consultation with portfolio holders to sign off expenditure against the capital projects proposed to go forward.

## **AIR QUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

34. The concept of green links is about improving access for all green spaces, parks and leisure opportunities. This in turn is about increasing opportunities for our residents and visitors to become physically active reducing a reliance on use of cars and therefore having a positive impact on Air quality across the Borough. There will also be capital projects taken forward which will have a direct priority of improving Air Quality notably the proposed project of planting 110,000 new trees across the Borough

## **HUMAN RESOURCES AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS**

35. At this stage there is no direct human resources issues. The schemes identified will be managed under the Council's project management processes and will help develop and integrate the new ways of working.

## **ICT/TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS**

36. There are no direct ICT implications at this stage. Support on the utilisation of new technologies within the new facility may be required further down the design route.

## **PROPERTY AND ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

37. Investment in the green and parks infrastructure will create some additional maintenance issues within the Council ownership. This will be taken into account with each individual project going forward.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

38. Individual projects will develop their own risk registers ensuring that the Council is compliant with all Health and Safety considerations when delivering a capital project.
39. A key risk overall will be the deliverability of the projects in line with the agreed timetable as set out in the report. This will be affected if there are not clear delegated powers given to officers in consultation with portfolio holders in signing off the expenditure agreed to complete the agreed projects. An over complicated signing off process for each project could significantly increase the risk of projects not been delivered on time.

## **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPACT**

40. The concept of green links is about improving access for all green spaces, parks and leisure opportunities. The design of the green links will meet the highest accessibility standards. An equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken throughout the project.

## **RELEVANT DIRECTORS RECOMMENDATIONS**

41. Cabinet welcome and approve the proposed list of capital projects to be delivered during the financial year 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 as set out in the Appendix A and identified within the approved Capital programme and grant authority to spend on those schemes.
42. Cabinet in accordance with the Council's financial standing orders delegate to the relevant Officers in liaison with the portfolio holder to spend the agreed budget on the approved Capital projects identified in this report.

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

43. At the beginning of 2019/20, the Council's available funding for parks, open spaces and infrastructure works included £2.1m of s106 and £1.2m of CIL receipts. The proposed list of capital projects in Appendix A totals £2.875m. Potential funding has been identified for each project, however detailed work is underway to ensure that, as stated in the Monitoring Officer comments below, where s106 funding has been proposed, that there are no constraints on its use for that purpose. The proposed criteria to be applied in allocating funding to the



programme of work is to apply any external funding, such as City Deal contributions and then to maximise the use of existing s106 and CIL monies.

## **COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**

**44.** The council's Legal services team will ensure that any section 106 monies utilised for any of the Green Links capital programme are used in accordance with the respective terms of the particular section 106 agreement. Also we will ensure that Contract Procedure rules are fully complied with. Appropriate contracts will be drawn up and entered into for any schemes that go ahead.

## **APPENDICES**

**45.** Appendix A - A spread sheet of the proposed projects which will either be started and completed in the financial year 19/20 or started in 19/20 and finished in 20/21.

**46.** Appendix B - A full report of the findings on the Consultation carried on Green Links between February and May 2019 across the South Ribble Borough.

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