

**Record Of Decision Taken Under Scheme Of  
Delegation By Member Of Senior Management  
Team In Consultation With Portfolio Holder and  
Chair of My Neighbourhood Forum**



<b>SMT Member:</b>	Jennifer Mullin
<b>Service Group:</b>	Neighbourhoods and Development
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Cllr Bylinski Gelder
<b>Portfolio/Committee:</b>	Community Engagement, Social Justice and Wealth Building
<b>My Neighbourhood Chair:</b>	Cllr Jane Bell
<b>My Neighbourhood Forum:</b>	Leyland
<b>Subject:</b>	Reducing Social Isolation – Civic Centre Garden
<b>Decision:</b>	Permission for Leyland Neighbourhood Forum to allocate and spend core funds of up to £1600 to support the Reducing Social Isolation project (Civic Centre Garden)
<b>Details and Reasoning:</b>	<p><b>Introduction</b> Leyland Neighbourhood Plan includes the following project: <b>Reducing Social Isolation</b></p> <p><b>Background</b> Some years ago, members of staff received permission to create a garden at the rear of the Civic Centre to use for breaks. The area had previously been just laid to grass, and a design was drawn up to build a path and install benches and a raised pond. South Ribble UNISON contributed funding for materials, and some items (such as the stone feed trough converted into a pond) were donated by third parties. All the work was undertaken by volunteers from across the staff in their own time. The garden is well used by members of staff for breaks, and sometimes even for work purposes such as informal meetings during the warmer months.</p> <p>The garden has always been available to any users of the Civic Centre (including weddings when the function suite was in use for such purposes) and so the general maintenance has been taken on by neighbourhood services.</p> <p><b>Details</b> It is proposed that the garden area to the rear of the Civic Centre is refurbished to make it welcoming and accessible to people living with a range of conditions such as dementia. Clients of Worden Medical Centre use the Civic Centre car park, and it seems a logical step to provide somewhere to sit en route to and from the surgery.</p> <p>The garden refurbishment will be designed by one of our engineering apprentices and implemented by neighbourhood services, with support from volunteers (e.g. members of staff, Leyland in Bloom committee, uniformed organisations) to do the planting. Some elements could be carried out by Community Payback.</p> <p>The basic layout of the garden (semi-enclosed site, continuous path, seating) needs only minor changes to make it accessible. The existing path will need to be widened and improved to ensure it is suitable for wheelchair users. The picnic bench is in a poor state of repair and it is recommended that it be removed. The other benches can be cleaned and renovated. In terms of soft landscaping, emphasis will be on sensory plants that are of therapeutic benefit. Two new features – a pergola and willow arch will add</p>

interest and make the area more attractive. Once improved, the garden could be a model for similar areas in other parts of the borough.

The garden ties in with several corporate, partnership and neighbourhood plan projects and initiatives:

- Green links
- Reducing Social Isolation (including a pilot social prescribing project in partnership with Worden Medical Centre)
- Dementia Charter pledge number 4 (*our place of business/work is friendly and welcoming and we consider the way it is designed/looks to help people with Dementia have a positive experience*)
- Encouraging volunteering

#### **Cost estimate**

##### Soft landscaping

Sensory plants £115

Red oak tree - £70-80

Removal of vegetation and disposal off site - £44

##### Features

Pergola - £600 including installation

Willow arch - £50

##### Path

Excavation of material – £27

Disposal of material – £8

Self binding gravel - £365

Removal of existing timber edgings - £44

Timber edgings – £160

Crushed concrete fill base – £78

##### Extras

Improving benches – Requires power wash? - £0

Remove existing round bench – can be broken up & taken to depot - £0

#### **Current total**

**£1571**

South Ribble Unison have indicated that they may contribute some funding towards the project, which would enable additional features to be incorporated.

#### **Proposal**

It is proposed that the Leyland Forum request core funds of up to £1600 to contribute towards the garden refurbishment to support the Reducing Social Isolation project.

**Wider Implications  
(Financial, Legal, Equality  
& Risk):**

None

Report attached?

Please refer to [www.southribble.gov.uk](http://www.southribble.gov.uk) website for further details of My Neighbourhood Forum decisions.

Exempt from publication?  
If exempt, give reason(s):

Signed:

Financial Management <i>J Blundell</i>	Legal Services <i>[Signature]</i>	
Date <i>29/7/19</i>	Date <i>31/7/19</i>	
SMT Member <i>J Mullin</i>	Portfolio Holder <i>Anita Byrnie-Cook</i>	My Neighbourhood Chair <i>Jane Bell</i>
Date <i>01/08/19</i>	Date <i>01/08/19</i>	Date <i>02/08/19</i>

Publication Date  
(DST use):

Decision template revised June 2013

**THIS DECISION WILL COME INTO FORCE AND MAY BE IMPLEMENTED FIVE WORKING DAYS AFTER ITS PUBLICATION DATE, SUBJECT TO BEING CALLED IN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION**

