

Report title	Parks and Open Spaces Strategy – Capital Programme	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Steve Evans City Environment	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	No	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	Ross Cook, Director of City Environment	
Originating service	City Environment	
Accountable employee	Steve Woodward Tel Email	Head of Environmental Services 01902 554260 Steve.Woodward@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	City Environment Leadership Team	23 March 2020

Recommendations for decision:

The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is recommended to:

1. Approve the capital budgets as detailed in the body of the report totalling £581,188.24 to allow identified works for the projects to be carried out and developer capital grants and contributions to be spent.
2. Delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for City Environment, in consultation with the Director of Finance to approve the capital projects for the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy capital programme in accordance with the specific development orders, conditions and agreements through an Individual Executive Decision Notice (IEDN), with all supporting evidence and documentation.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To seek approval to create capital budgets in accordance with Local Development Orders and Section 106 Agreements as part the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy Capital Programme.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Council is committed to ensuring that both existing and new public open spaces meet the needs of the City and its communities. Wherever possible, we seek from new major developments either on-site open space provision or off-site specific contributions to improve nearby open spaces.
- 2.2 These contributions can be secured through either Section 106 Agreements, Local Development Orders and Condition 21 Planning obligations. and the Council is responsible not only to ensure that it receives the contribution, but to ensure it is used appropriately.

3.0 Progress, options, discussion, etc.

- 3.1 The Open Space Strategy and Action Plan (OSSAP) sets out priorities for spending on public open space. Every two years the OSSAP is reviewed and following consultation with all Councillors and Neighbourhood Plan groups is subject to Cabinet approval. The OSSAP is used as a guide in deciding whether an open space contribution is required and what such a contribution would be spent on. The OSSAP was reviewed in Spring 2018 and approved by Cabinet in July 2018.
- 3.2 Projects seeking approval for the Parks and Open Space strategy capital programme include;

Refurbishment of existing play area at Kingsclere Walk

- 3.3. The capital grant of £55,000 is being offered under a Local Development Order from the development of Reedham Gardens.

Open space improvements at Bushbury Recreation Ground

- 3.4 The capital grant of £80,000 is being offered under a Local Development Order from the development of the former Tapworks site, Showell Road, Broome Road and Fifth Avenue.

Refurbishment of existing play area at Merridale street open space

- 3.5 The capital grant of £80,000 is being offered under a Condition 21 planning obligation from the development of the former Tower and Fort Works, Pelham Street / Ashland Street.

Refurbishment of existing play area at Northwood Park

- 3.6 The capital grant of £115,820 is being offered under a section 106 Agreement for the development of the former King Charles Public House, Cromwell Road.

Public open space improvements at Ashmore Park, Wednesfield

- 3.7 The capital grant of £100,000 is being offered under a section 106 Agreement from the development of the former Danesmore School, Russell Close, Wednesfield.

Ward Street railway cutting gas main diversion works

- 3.8 The Council is in receipt of a part s106 contribution from the developer. A sum of £150,368 is to be used to facilitate the gas main diversion works that are essential to create an all-inclusive and fully accessible linear open space.
- 3.9 An exemption from normal competition requirements under contracts procedure rules has been granted as the apparatus and equipment is owned by Cadent. Employing Cadent directly will achieve a local authority discount of £33,000.

4.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 4.1 If we do not proceed with the proposed projects this would result in the capital sums having to be paid back to the developers and reduction in high quality accessible open space within the City.

5.0 Reasons for decision(s)

- 5.1 Approval of these projects will increase the amount of high quality accessible public open space within the city, improve the environment, provide all-inclusive play facilities and deliver on the OSSAP.
- 5.2 The risk of not delivering these projects would result in capital sums being paid back to developers and a reduction in the number of high quality accessible public open space.

6.0 Financial implications

- 6.1 This report is to request that capital budgets totalling £581,188.24 are approved to deliver projects as part of the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy capital programme. The budget as requested for each project will cover the full cost of it being delivered. It should be noted that the figures are not rounded in this report as the capital contributions are for the specific amounts as detailed.
- 6.2 This budget will be funded through capital contributions of £581,188.24 secured from Section 106 Agreements, Local Development Orders and Condition 21 Planning obligations, as described above, therefore there is no additional borrowing for the Council. The costs of the projects to be delivered are listed in the table below.

Projects	Cost (£)
Kingsclere Walk – refurbishment of existing play area	55,000.00
Bushbury Recreation Ground – open space improvements	80,000.00
Merridale Street – refurbishment of existing play area	80,000.00
Northwood Park – refurbishment of existing play area	115,820.16
Ashmore Park, Wednesfield – open space improvements	100,000.00
Ward Street railway cutting – gas main diversion works for new open space	150,368.08
Total for all projects	581,188.24

- 6.3 This budget will enable the service to deliver the requirements of the Open Space Strategy and Action Plan (OSSAP).
[HM/23032020/W]

7.0 Legal implications

- 7.1 There are obligations to spend the capital funds in accordance with the Local Development Agreements, Condition 21 Planning obligations and section 106 Agreements.
[TS/03032020/W]

8.0 Equalities implications

- 8.1 The proposals contained in this report will ensure the sites and facilities are more inclusive.

9.0 Climate change and environmental implications

- 9.1 These projects will further improve the amount of quality open spaces and inclusive play facilities in the City of Wolverhampton and improve the local environment and newly constructed green space will further support improving the climate.

10.0 Human resources implications

- 10.1 There are no human resources implication resulting from these proposed projects.

11.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 11.1 There are no Corporate landlord implications resulting from these proposed projects.

12.0 Health and Wellbeing Implications

12.1 Access to good quality parks and green spaces improve the health and wellbeing of the users.

13.0 Schedule of background papers

13.1 Cabinet (Resources) Panel 5 February 2019 – [Land at Reedham Gardens, Housing Revenue Account Site Development](#)

13.2 Cabinet (Resource) Panel 10 November 2015 – [Local Development Order, Land at Showell Road \(Tapworks\), Fifth Avenue and Broome Road.](#)

13.3 Cabinet (Resources) Panel 28 February 2017 – [Update on the procurement of residential development of the former Tower and Fort works, Pelham Street / Ashland Street.](#)