

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Executive
Date: 19 March 2018
Report for: Decision
Report of: Executive Member for Highways, Parks and Environmental Services

Greenspace Capital Programme 2018-19

Summary

This report sets out the detailed list of schemes proposed under the capital greenspace programme for 2018/19. These schemes have been identified as being of priority in the next financial year.

Recommendations

That the Executive:

1. Approve the allocation of the approved Greenspace Capital programme as set out in this report;
2. Authorise the Corporate Director for Economic Growth, Environment and Infrastructure to make minor changes to the programme;
3. Delegate authority to the Corporate Director, Transformation and Resources in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer to authorise the final agreed expenditure on Turn Moss following the tendering process and subject to securing planning permission.
4. Delegate authority to the Director of Legal and Democratic Services in consultation with the Corporate Director, EGEI and where appropriate, the Chief Finance Officer to finalise and enter into all legal agreements required to implement the above decisions.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Melissa Wise
Telephone No: 07966440625
Background Papers: None

Implications:

Relationship to Policy Framework/Corporate Priorities	This report relates to the corporate priority for economic growth and development
Financial	All capital expenditure outlined in this report is contained in the Council's approved Capital programme for 2018/19 which was approved by Council in February 2018.
Legal Implications	No immediate implications as a result of the report. There will however be the need to ensure that all schemes are progressed with due regard to all relevant statutory requirements
Equality/Diversity Implications	No direct implications
Resource Implications e.g. Staffing / ICT / Assets	No direct implications
Risk Management Implications	No direct implications
Health & Wellbeing Implications	Maintaining and enhancing a varied range of good quality play equipment and sports facilities ensures continued free access to active play for the residents of Trafford, thereby contributing to the health and well-being of our population.
Health and Safety Implications	The improvements proposed will improve safety for users of play equipment and sports facilities. Replacing worn play equipment and play/sports surfacing in a timely manner prevents injury to park users, in particularly children.

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 A total of £435,582 has been allocated for Greenspace projects for 2018/19 with Council funding of £200k being supplemented through the opportunity to allocate Developer contributions (S106 and Red Rose Forest monies) for a range of outdoor sports, biodiversity and parks infrastructure projects.
- 1.2 An additional amount, up to £2.5m, has been allocated to the Leisure programme for investment in Turn Moss. This investment is subject to the Council securing planning permission for the proposed improvements and additional facilities.

2.0 GREENSPACE CAPITAL PROGRAMME

- 2.1 Trafford Council and the One Trafford Partnership are responsible for the strategic management and maintenance of a greenspace resource comprising 37 public parks, 50 amenity green spaces, 21 recreation/sports grounds, five cemeteries/crematoria, 41 woodlands, 86 children's playgrounds and 36 allotment sites.
- 2.2 Continued investment in Trafford's greenspace resource is required in order to meet the objectives of Trafford's Greenspace Strategy and hierarchy, as well as the strategic objectives of the Trafford Vision 2031 and Trafford's Core Strategy as the spatial representation of The Trafford Partnership's Community Strategy.
- 2.3 The list of greenspace sites and associated provisional budget allocations have been developed in the context of available conditions surveys and inspection results in the form of:
- Parks infrastructure audit
 - Trafford Countryside Management Partnership infrastructure audit
 - Play Areas annual safety inspection and infrastructure audit
 - Allotments annual conditions survey

3.0 Scheme selection considerations

- 3.1 Each year schemes are proposed that support the achievement of the aims of Trafford's Greenspace Strategy (currently under review) which are as follows:
- Raise the quality of parks and green spaces;
 - Increase the use of Trafford's greenspace by all sectors of the community;
 - Provide a prioritised investment framework for green spaces;
 - Increase the multi-functional role of greenspace to support biodiversity and sustainability;
 - Embed community involvement in the design and management of green spaces;
 - Improve community safety through good design and partnership working.

We have also considered proposed S106 funding for each area, match funding available, as well as historical detail of proposed schemes and councillor and resident and parks groups feedback and concerns relating to specific parks and greenspace areas. The budget allocation has been used strategically to allow for the most diverse and comprehensive scheme list available to align with Trafford's Greenspace Strategy.

- 3.2 The proposed Greenspace capital programme for 2018/19 is set out as follows:

Category	Value (£)	Purpose / Match Funding	Rationale for selection /prioritisation
Parks Infrastructure	100,000	To enhance or refurbish existing infrastructure within Trafford Parks, and providing good value. Many schemes help secure match funding. £87,000 additional S106 Contributions have been matched against these projects	1. Planned refurbishment as a result of entire facility reaching end of life; 2. Scheme based on public interest/demand and match funding raised from community groups; 3. Availability of other sources of match funding to provide added value to the Council. 4. Consideration is also given to geographical spread of the projects, including previous investment; 5. The classification of the park is also taken into consideration when prioritising new schemes. (For a list of proposed schemes see appendix A)
Play Area refurbishment	100,000	Many pieces of play equipment and play surfaces have reached the end of their life and require replacement in order to maintain the high standard of exiting play provision in Trafford and ensure play areas can remain open to the public. S106 developer contributions of £23,582	The following rationale has been used to determine what features in the 18/19 programme (in order of priority): 1. Replacing kit and surfaces where play areas have been closed, to enable reopening; 2. Where Section 106 monies are available to carry out a comprehensive refurbishment capital monies will be allocated as match funding; 3. Replacing equipment that has already been removed; 4. Replacing surfacing where further deterioration will result in closure/ partial closure in the near future and where patching is no longer viable. (For a list of proposed schemes see appendix B)
Wilding Trafford	75,000	Optimising biodiversity along green corridors across the borough is even more essential with the progress of new developments. Protection and enhancement of wildlife is a key focus of the scheme, as well as ensuring that people living in the most developed parts of our borough have easy access to quality and diverse greenspace. Red Rose Forest Monies for the Wilding Trafford Project will create: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orchards • Wild Flower Meadows/ verges • Hedge Planting • Native tree planting • Transformation of alleyways or vacant land within a street to green recreational space. Hullard Park, Seymour Park and Gorse Hill Park will be the main sites of focus, along with the A56 gateway and selected alleyways in Old Trafford and Gorse Hill	
Signage - Parks	50,000	New ROSPA guidance requires signage to include a range of additional instructions in order to protect park users and the Council from potential litigation. This includes signage to be erected at all sites with the following infrastructure: BMX tracks, Skate board sites, Tennis Courts and MUGA's.	
Total	325,000	Total plus S 106 (£110,582) = £435,582	

3.3 The 2018/19 programme includes the delivery of a number of key projects, highlights include

- Lostock Park (Woodland and Habitat creation)
- Urmston Meadows (Footbridge and Boardwalk repair)
- Urmston Meadows (Habitat and Infrastructure)
- Hullard Park Pond Restoration
- Gorse Hill Park Stretford – Phase 2
- Navigation Recreation Ground Timperley

4.0 Turn Moss

4.1 The Council has recently submitted a planning application to improve the infrastructure and provide new community facilities and a training base for Salford City Football Club.

4.2 The proposals include reinstating 3 pitches to the east of the site to be developed as 3 professional standard grass pitches and goalkeeper training area and a new facility comprising physiotherapy area, changing and office accommodation solely for the use of Salford City (Academy) on the existing hard-standing area in the central zone. The overall offer will be further enhanced with the introduction of a 60 seater café plus external seating area, a small play area, a trim trail, a 3G all-weather football pitch with floodlighting, upgraded community changing facilities and improvements to the car parking and landscaping and access, all of which will be fully available to the local community and Turn Moss users. There will be associated improvements to the pitches on the rest of Turn Moss to improve the pitch quality and maintenance for the benefit of all users.

4.3 The recently adopted Plying Pitch Strategy, approved by Sport England, identifies that there is a level of latent demand not currently met, particularly for junior football teams. Turn Moss is ideally situated to meet this demand alongside the opportunity to anchor the investment with a commercial partner. Salford City Football Club's decision to commit their long term requirements for a training base in this facility would provide a level of guaranteed income to the Council for at least a 10 year period through a lease arrangement. The lease with Salford City FC will also bring additional community benefits, which will be co-designed with the local community and Turn Moss users.

4.4 The investment in Turn Moss will be up to a maximum of £2.5m, which is subject to further value engineering and a tendering process. It is proposed that this investment be financed from a range of resources, including borrowing which will be serviced from the new income generated from leasing the training facilities to Salford City Football Club as an anchor tenant, through a concession to operate the proposed community café and from surpluses generated from the commercial hire of the proposed 3G football pitch.

4.5 The proposals for Turn Moss are subject to securing planning permission and agreeing appropriate terms for the lease of three pitches and ancillary facilities to Salford City FC. The lease terms are set out in the Strategic Land Review Programme Report (Part II), to be considered on the same agenda.

5.0 Programme Delivery

5.1 The schemes identified that form the capital programme will be managed through the One Trafford partnership with Amey. Delivery and expenditure are reported through a monthly Board report to Amey senior managers and senior managers from the Council including Finance representatives. This group reviews individual schemes against the programme and addresses issues by exception.

5.2 Further to this, the capital programme is an agenda item at the Operations and Partnership Boards held monthly between Trafford Council and Amey.

6.0 Other Options

6.1 Schemes included within the programme are based on a prioritisation of potential projects in accordance with Council strategies and policies.

7.0 Consultation

7.1 Consultation will take place with those affected as necessary depending on the nature of the proposals and the likely impact. Where community groups or "Friends of Parks" are active, the One Trafford Partnership work with the groups in the design of schemes and the securing of external match funding. The proposals for Turn Moss were subject to extensive consultation as part of the Refreshed Streford Masterplan at the end of 2017, and are currently subject to further consultation as part of the planning process.

8.0 Reasons for Recommendations

8.1 Ongoing capital investment ensures the protection and improvements of the Council's infrastructure in order to meet the expectations and needs of Trafford residents and businesses and ensure the Council delivers on its objectives of the core strategy and corporate priorities.

Key Decision: Yes

If Key Decision, has 28-day notice been given? Yes

Finance Officer Clearance NB
Legal Officer Clearance JLF

[CORPORATE] DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE



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To confirm that the Financial and Legal Implications have been considered and the Executive Member has cleared the report.

Appendix A: Parks Infrastructure projects 2018-19

Scheme	Capital Programme Allocation (£000)	S106 contributions (£000)	Total	Prioritisation Detail
Lostock Park – Woodland and Habitat Creation	8	8	16	Woodland and Habitat Creation - Green flag park area identified by judges from site visit interest in an orchard and replanting of wildflower meadow.
Urmston Meadows – footbridge and Boardwalk Repairs	9	-	9	Footbridge and Boardwalk Repairs additional works to site supporting successful capital bid to Veolia to assist installation of accessible path.
Priory woods site protection barriers and fencing	10	-	10	Protection barriers and fencing – this has been in response to an increasing public campaign and pressure for investment to protect Priory Woods against vehicle access and abuse by motorcyclists.
Dunham Bridge – Trans Penine Trail Drainage Issue	10	-	10	Landowner and property owner requirement for action. Without the completion of these works the council could be subject to legal action.
Crossford Bridge Fishing Pond	11	4	15	Works to secure and make ready a facility for enablement of transfer as a community asset.

Denzell Gardens Path restoration	12	-		There is a section of hoggin path (sandstone grit) which goes through the rhododendron walk off the main drive. This is badly eroded and has been raised as an item in green flag feedback over a number of years. We aim to demonstrate 'continuous improvement' as one the Green Flag scheme principles. Friends have also strived for improvement of this feature of the Gardens.
Hullard Park – Pond Restoration	15	-		Pond Restoration – Green flag candidate park Pond created by Groundwork fails to hold water part of series of works related to Greening Trafford Section 106 works.
Urmston meadows habitat and Infrastructure	25	-	*secured match funding	Footbridge and Boardwalk Repairs additional works to site supporting successful capital bid to Veolia to assist installation of accessible path.
John Leigh Park Heritage Gates restoration	-	40	40	Habitat and Infrastructure Capital element of successful Countryside Partnership funding bid to Veolia.
Victoria Park Stretford – Outdoor sports	-	28		Outdoor sports- Green flag park area noted in Green Flag judging reports – currently an area of unused tarmac surface in Victoria park the section 106 is to bring it back to use as a park asset.

Navigation recreation ground flood elevation		7		This is to back up work already begun with support from Trafford Tree Unit in February 2018, where x12 wet land tree species have been planted to manage ground water flooding on the lower field. The field is part of the flood plain of Timperley Brook. This is naturally going to be a wet area. The Environment Agency prefer drainage solutions which do not involve drainage into main rivers as this adds to flooding pressures. The work at Navigation Park aims to use ecological methods to manage the problem.
TOTAL	100,000	87,000	187,000	

Appendix B: Play Area Improvement Programme

Scheme	Capital Programme Allocation (£000)	S106 contributions (£000)	Total	Prioritisation Criteria
Gorse Hill Park Stretford: Phase 2	72,000	-	72,000	Match for community led funding bid to improve under 8's play area. Consultation with 5 local primary schools and Stretford High school is underway.
Cross Lane Park, Sale	14,000	3582	17,582	Funding to allow moving of existing spinning disc play item to more appropriate location and installation of replacement with toddler roundabout following youth misuse of spinning disc.
Navigation recreation Ground, Timperley	14,000	-	14,000	This follows a scheme in the 2017/18 programme which deals largely with dilapidations (affecting logs walls and path edges) and severe vandalism (by fire) to two play area features. The first phase has not been sufficient to preserve the existing play value. In particular, the loss of a basket swing and safety surface. The proposal is to replace this with a standard junior swing and associated safety surface.

John Leigh Park ,Altrincham	-	20,000	20,000	As this is a s106 fund and so must be used for new equipment rather than repair. The Friends of John Leigh Park have been campaigning to replace the dilapidated and largely decommissioned trim trail at John Leigh Park (7 trim trail station items). We have identified product alternative to move forward with this scheme
TOTAL	100,000	23,582	123,582	