

CANNOCK CHASE DISTRICT COUNCIL
CULTURE AND SPORT SELECT COMMITTEE

11 JULY, 2006

JOINT REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND POLICY

2006-07 CAPITAL PROGRAMME – UPDATE OF SCHEME PROGRESS

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update Members as requested of the status of current projects included in the 2006-07 Capital Programme within the Culture and Sport Select Committee's portfolio.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are requested to note the contents of the 2006-07 Capital Programme update report.

3. Key Issues – Capital Programme 2006-07

- 3.1 The comments shown below relate to each project separately, together with an indication of the Division of the Council dealing with that project's implementation. Those annotated with * are approved schemes, with the remainder currently included in the Programme subject to approval. Members should also note that the information in this report has been collated during week commencing 19 June 2006:

3.2 Flaxley Road Play Area, (Culture and Major Projects) *

The majority of this project is now complete except for some signage issues. The balance of funds is being reserved to resolve tarmac issues, and these are scheduled to be addressed during the second quarter of 2006-07.

3.3 Bettys Lane Play Area – Norton Canes, (Culture and Major Projects) *

This project is virtually complete and has included the provision of new items of play equipment with new rubber "wetpour" safer surface and tarmaced area. The only work outstanding is some signage and the replacement of some vandalised "wetpour" surface, and these are scheduled to be addressed during the second quarter of 2006-07.

3.4 Old Hednesford Parkland Development Scheme, (Culture and Major Projects)

There are problems of delay being encountered with this scheme due to the Parks Development Officer vacancy and the schemes relationship with Hawks Green Play Areas project, (see below). Consultation exercises on the scheme have now concluded with the core design content proposals being dependant upon the outcome of the Planning Application for Hawks Green Play Areas. Both these projects will add complimentary facilities to the locality. Slippage of two months currently exists on the Old Hednesford Parkland scheme, and the

Head of Culture and Major Projects is putting temporary interim professional and technical arrangements in place to ensure that this project is delivered to plan.

3.5 **Arthur Street Play Areas, (Culture and Major Projects)**

As previously reported to the Select Committee, additional funding has been secured for this scheme from Section 106 Agreement. Project consultation work will commence upon the appointment of the new Parks Development Officer, anticipated to be during September 2006, and initial expenditure will then be scheduled for the 2007-08 financial year.

3.6 **Parks Footpath Refurbishment, (Culture and Major Projects) ***

The carrying out of this work is linked to the improvement of the fencing provision in Cannock Park, and is scheduled for action during the final quarter of 2006-07, (see 3.8 below).

3.7 **White on Brown Road Signs, (Culture and Major Projects)**

Part of this budget will be utilised to provide additional required signage on the Footway / Highway to indicate nodes, (heritage feature site locations) along parts of the Chase Heritage Trail, (CHT). Works to the Footway / Highway do not qualify for Heritage Lottery Fund grant assistance. As the definitive trail route is still to be determined and agreed, and as such precise nodes are still yet to be identified, spend progress within this budget head is dependent upon CHT developments. (see also 3.14 below). In respect of the balance of this budget, negotiations will then be concluded with Staffordshire County Council (Highways Department) to provide further specific leisure related signage across the District.

3.8 **Cannock Park Fencing, (Culture and Major Projects)**

Initial quotations for this project were in excess of the original budget. Upon the appointment of the Parks Development Officer alternative quotations will be sought. Agreement is also required from Staffordshire County Council to locate the new fencing on their land. A formal Planning Application will also be required. Outcomes from the Chase Leisure Village Feasibility Study exercise may also impinge on this scheme design, (see also 3.18 below).

3.9 **Barnard Way, Provision of Play Equipment, (Culture and Major Projects) ***

Refurbishment of the play area has been completed which has included the removal of the existing bark surface and replacement with a rubber "wetpour" safer surface, and the provision of some new toddler play equipment. The only work outstanding is some signage works and the repainting of some of the play equipment, and these are scheduled to be addressed during the second quarter of 2006-07. It is proposed that any minor under spending that occurs here will be reserved for future upgrades to this play area.

3.10 **Rolling Programme of Play Areas, (Culture and Major Projects) ***

The relatively small amount of monies remaining in respect of this phase of the refurbishment programme will be committed during the second quarter of this financial year.

3.11 **Improve Tees on Golf Course, (Environmental Services) ***

This work is now complete.

3.12 **Improve Road – Stile Cop Cemetery, (Culture and Major Projects) ***

This work is now complete.

3.13 **Hawks Green Capital Works – Meadow Way / Hayes Way Play Areas, (Culture and Major Projects)**

This scheme is due for completion by the end of March 2007. Completion date was based upon a Planning Application being submitted in February 2006. However, following further extensive public consultation and a revised scheme being developed, a more detailed application was actually submitted in May 2006, with a resultant anticipated slippage of two months. Ward Members have been informed of progress on this project.

3.14 **Chase Heritage Trail and Museum Extension, (Culture and Major Projects)**

This project is awaiting Grant Drawdown being approved by the Heritage Lottery Fund, (HLF). The Council is still liaising with the H.L.F. appointed lottery monitors in relation to a large number of technical queries in order to achieve this clearance. The scheme cannot progress without such approval being granted since any works undertaken would be at considerable financial risk to this Council.

The timing of Drawdown is critical, since it is essential that there is minimum disruption to the Schools Education Programme arising from the proposed extension to the Museum in 2006-07. Officers are actively seeking Grant Drawdown on the original baseline route and Museum extension, which is hoped will be finalised by early July 2006.

3.15 **Cannock Park - Refurbishment of Tennis Courts, (Culture and Major Projects) ***

This project is to refurbish the existing six tennis courts within Cannock Park. Quotations are being obtained for both the fencing and the court resurfacing elements for this scheme. These works are scheduled for completion during September 2006.

A report has been prepared for Cabinet on 20 July 2006 to request permission to spend on this project.

3.16 **Ravenhill Park - New Tennis Court (Environmental Services) ***

The contract has not yet been let for the new court construction at Ravenhill Park. This action is pending confirmation of future maintenance and management arrangements of the new court from the Parish Council. Hence the completion date of this project is presently not known.

A report has been prepared for Cabinet on 20 July 2006 to request permission to spend on this project.

3.17 **Rugeley Swimming Pool, (Culture and Major Projects)**

Following a Feasibility Study undertaken to ascertain the associated costs of various design options, Culture and Sport Select Committee on 7 June 2006 recommended to Cabinet that Option 2, a 25 metre, 6 lane swimming pool plus an extension to the fitness suite of Rugeley Leisure Centre should be approved and progressed to the next design stage. The cost of this project option will be almost £3.7 million in total, and Cabinet will be recommending to Council on 28 June, 2006 the approval of the appropriate uplift in the Capital Programme provision.

The full Lead Consultancy / Architectural Services contract is in the process of being awarded following a European Tendering process. This appointment will be confirmed if Council approve the revised project as outlined above. If this is so, it is anticipated that construction will start on site early in 2007, and be completed by March 2008.

3.18 **Other Project – Chase Leisure Village**

The Feasibility Study for options related to the Chase Leisure Village proposals was despatched for quotation to fourteen organisations on 12 June, 2006. The successful Architectural Practice will be appointed by mid-July, 2006 with the first draft of their study scheduled to be received at the beginning of September, 2006.

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Annexes to the Report:	None

This information for each project is reproduced within the body of the report above.

Section 2

Details of Matters to be Considered

The individual project updates are also outlined within the body of the report above.

Section 3

Contribution to CHASE

The additional and refurbished community facilities outlined throughout the report will further support the aim of the Council to develop a healthier and more active community. These facilities will enable greater use by local residents and local schools and colleges.

Section 4

Section 17 Implications

Where Planning Permissions have been granted or Planning Applications are required or pending, consultation is required with the appropriate Architectural Liaison Officer from Staffordshire Police.

Section 5

Human Rights Act Implications

Where there are pending Planning Applications, it is imperative that the Council adheres to its Policies and ensures that all applicants and others entitled to address the Planning Committee have a 'fair hearing' as required under Article 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998.

Section 6

Data Protection Implications

There are no identified implications in respect of the Data Protection Act.

Section 7

Risk Management Implications

There are no additional risks to the Council associated at this update stage of the processes and work in progress as outlined in this report.

Section 8

Legal Implications

The Council must comply with its tendering process, where it applies, when seeking services from external sources. This to ensure that any contract awarded is awarded through a process that is transparent and free from any allegation of bias or favouritism.

The Council is under a legal obligation to ensure that it complies with The Public Contracts Regulations 2006 when offering and awarding contracts above a set statutory limit. This is the case in relation to the proposed New Rugeley Swimming Pool Project.

Failure to comply with the aforementioned Regulations could render any offer and award of contract invalid thereby causing delay and possible claims for contract damages.

Moreover, all projects must be approved and authorised by the Council. Officers' actions must remain within the remit of the approval / authorisation given by Council in respect each specific project.

Section 9

Financial Implications

The table below gives details of the budgets and expenditure for programmed and committed schemes:

Scheme	Budget Approved 28.06.06 £	Actual @ 20.06.06 £	Budget Available @ 20.06.06 £
Programmed Schemes:			
Flaxley Road Play Area	3,900	0	3,900
Parks Footpath Refurbishment	8,650	0	8,650
Barnard Way, Provision of Play Equipment	1,180	0	1,180
Rolling Programme of Play Areas	5,150	250	4,900
Improve Tees on Golf Course	13,550	11,208	2,342
Ravenhill Park – Tennis Courts	41,000	0	41,000
Cannock Park – Refurbishment of Tennis Courts	65,000	0	65,000
	Commitment £	Actual @ 20.06.06 £	Commitment Available £
Committed Schemes:			
Old Hednesford Parkland Development Scheme	94,980	0	94,980
Arthur Street Play Areas	23,480	0	23,480
White on Brown Signs	6,940	0	6,940
* Hawks Green Capital Works	284,950	140	284,810
* Chase Heritage Trail and Museum Extension	1,437,060	126	1,436,934
Rugeley Swimming Pool	2,800,000	0	2,800,000

There are two committed schemes on which expenditure has been incurred. Approval to include these in the programme will need to be obtained when the scheme is ready to be implemented.

Section 10

Resource Implications

The implementation of the majority of these schemes is being carried out by the Strategic Projects Section within the Culture and Major Projects Division. The remainder are being dealt with via Environmental Services.

Section 11

Conclusion

That the recommendation at point 2 be approved.

Section 12

Background Papers

General Fund Capital Programme Commitments – 22 February, 2006.

Feasibility Design Options Brief - Chase Leisure Village

Annexes

None.