

CANNOCK CHASE DISTRICT COUNCIL
CULTURE AND SPORT SELECT COMMITTEE

11 OCTOBER, 2006

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF CULTURE AND MAJOR PROJECTS
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 11 September, 2006:

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

The majority of this project is now completed except for some signage issues. The balance of funds is being reserved to resolve tarmac issues should this be required. At the moment the tarmac surface is performing adequately, however, this will be monitored during the next three months.

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

This project is now virtually complete and has included the provision of new items of play equipment with new rubber "wetpour" safer surface and tarmaced area. The vandalised "wetpour" safety surface has been replaced and the only work outstanding is the provision of some signage to the play area and this work has been arranged.

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

The consultation process in respect of the development of Old Hednesford Parkland has been completed, providing a wealth of useful information. The final design of this scheme is intended to be complimentary in nature to any new initiatives undertaken in the Meadow Way / Hayes Way play areas in Heath Hayes, (see paragraph 3.13 below). Planning Permission for the Meadow Way / Hayes Way project has initially been turned down, but an amended scheme is

being submitted to Planning Control Committee on 25 October, 2006. In the meantime, in light of the vacancy of a Parks Development Officer the Head of Culture and Major Projects has put interim arrangements in place to maintain momentum of design options development relating to the Old Hednesford Parkland scheme. Every effort is being made to ensure that the vacancy is filled at the earliest possible opportunity. The estimated completion date for this project is September 2007.

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, 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 also 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, (feature heritage site locations) along parts of the Chase Heritage Trail, (CHT). Works to the Footway / Highway do not qualify for Heritage Lottery Fund grant assistance. 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 3.20 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 playground signage works have been arranged and the painting of the play equipment will be programmed during Spring 2007. It is proposed that any minor under spending that may occur 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 towards the end 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)**

The Planning Control Committee held on 23 August 2006 did not approve the Planning Application in respect of the Hawks Green Capital Works, (Meadow Way and Hayes Way Play Areas). An amended scheme is now in the process of being designed, and should be completed in time to be considered again by the Committee on 25 October 2006. Subject to approval a minimum slippage of four months is now anticipated, which will result in the project completion during February 2008.

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

This scheme has now received clearance from the Heritage Lottery Fund in the form of Grant Drawdown. Details of the scheme and its funding will be subject to a report to Cabinet on 19 October 2006, requesting Permission to Spend so that the scheme can commence in earnest.

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 via the provision of new fencing and court resurfacing. Permission to Spend has been approved. These works are scheduled for completion during October 2006.

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.

Permission to Spend has been granted.

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

Further reports for consideration by Cabinet on 21 September, 2006 have been prepared:

- to consider the design alternative that is to be taken to the next stage as recommended by Culture and Sport Select Committee on 5 September, 2006;
- to consider recommending to Council that the Capital Programme provision for this project be varied;
- to consider the granting of Permission to Spend approval for this project.

3.18 **Other Project - Oxford Green Football Field, (Environmental Services)**

Culture and Sport Select Committee on 5 September, 2006 considered that this project should be included in the list of uncommitted schemes as a priority, and requested that further information be received in future quarterly update reports. In the first instance a site visit will be arranged and additional external funding streams will be explored to fully develop the scheme.

3.19 **Other Project – Former Sandy Lane Play Area, (Culture and Major Projects)**

In October 2005, the developer contributed £65,270 towards the provision of a replacement play area with this sum being available for up to ten years. When Officer resources become available consultation work will commence to initially identify potential sites.

3.20 **Other Project – Chase Leisure Village, (Culture and Major Projects)**

The draft Feasibility Study for design options relating the Chase Leisure Village proposals has been received. Reports to consider the way forward are being prepared.

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Section 1Background

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

Section 2Details of Matters to be Considered

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

Section 3Contribution 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 4Section 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 5Human 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 Control Committee have a 'fair hearing' as required under Article 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998.

Section 6Data Protection Implications

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

Section 7Risk Management Implications

Each project will have an individual Risk Assessment associated with it.

In general terms, the current risk to the Council is of schemes not being delivered within time. This is associated with the reduction in staffing resources currently available, due to the ongoing vacancy of the Parks Development Officer. The outcome of future Planning Applications may also impact on the Programme delivery timetable.

Section 8**Legal Implications**

All projects once embarked upon will result in the Council entering into contractual relations for such projects to be completed. The Council will be subject to various contractual obligations and liabilities and accordingly, it must ensure that it is in a position to discharge all contractual obligations. Failure to do so may expose the Council to possible claims.

For certain projects the Council will be required to comply with its tendering process. This is 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 its own Contract Procurement Policy, EU Regulations on Procurement (where applicable), other relevant statutory provisions and contract principles when offering and awarding contracts.

Failure to comply with our own Policies, EU Regulations and other legislation relating to Procurement could render any offer and award of contract unlawful 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 of each specific project.

Section 9**Financial Implications**

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

Scheme	Total Scheme Budget £	Spend to 31.03.06 £	2006-07		
			Budget Approved 28.06.06 £	Actual @ 20.09.06 £	Budget Available @ 22.09.06 £
Committed Schemes:					
Flaxley Road Play Area	19,500	15,600	3,900	0	3,900
Bettys Lane Play Area-Norton Canes	25,000	24,556	450	0	450
Parks Footpath Refurbishment	95,720	87,073	8,650	0	8,650
Barnard Way, Provision of Play Equipment	13,600	12,423	1,180	0	1,180
Rolling Programme of Play Areas	48,500	43,350	5,150	250	4,900
Improve Tees on Golf Course	16,470	2,917	13,550	11,208	2,342
Improve Road Stile Cop Cemetery	36,930	35,230	Completed Scheme		
Ravenhill Park – Tennis Courts	Start 06-07	Start 06-07	41,000	0	41,000
Cannock Park – Refurbishment of Tennis Courts	Start 06-07	Start 06-07	65,000	123	64,877
	Total Scheme Budget £	Spend to 31.03.06 £	Budget £	Actual @ 20.09.06 £	Budget Available £
Programmed Schemes:					
Old Hednesford Parkland Development Scheme	94,980	0	94,980	0	94,980

Arthur Street Play Areas	23,480	0	23,480	0	23,480
White on Brown Signs	10,000	3,060	6,940	0	6,940
Barnard Way POS Cannock Park	98,670	25,055	73,600	0	73,600
+ Hawks Green Capital Works	288,250	3,293	284,950	140	284,810
+ Chase Heritage Trail and Museum Extension	1,446,000	8,940	1,437,060	1,106	1,435,954
* Rugeley Swimming Pool	3,686,500	0	3,686,500	0	3,686,500

+ 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.

* A report to Cabinet on 21st September 2006, and subsequently to Council, asks for a supplementary estimate of £560,000 for the Rugeley Swimming Pool capital scheme. If approved, this will increase the scheme budget to £4,246,500.

Future schemes for Oxford Green Football Field, Former Sandy Lane Play Area and the Chase Leisure Village are still in the planning stage. When the way forward and resources have been identified these will be detailed further in future reports.

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 Members consider the contents of the update report, and note the current position in respect of each individual scheme.

Section 12

Background Papers

General Fund Capital Programme Commitments – 22 February, 2006.

Stage C Report – New Rugeley Swimming Pool

Feasibility Design Options Brief - Chase Leisure Village

Annexes

None.