

Report of:	Head of Housing and Partnerships
Contact Officer:	Rhiannon Holland
Telephone No:	4526
Portfolio Leader:	Housing
Key Decision:	No
Report Track:	Cabinet: 12/07/18

CABINET**12 JULY 2018****REPLACEMENT OF BOARDWALK AT LABURNUM AVENUE, CANNOCK****1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To request funding of £25,000 for the replacement of the boardwalk situated on public open space at Laburnum Avenue, Cannock. Budgetary provision of £10,000 currently exists to undertake the urgent health and safety works which were initially identified in this area. Following a detailed survey it is apparent that a more cost effective option would be to undertake the overall refurbishment and provision would be required in the Capital programme

1 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet approves the allocation of £25,000 to fund the replacement of the boardwalk situated on public open space at Laburnum Avenue, Cannock.

3 Key Issues and Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 A timber boardwalk, identified coloured green on the plan attached at Appendix 1, was constructed by the Council across public open space at Laburnum Avenue, Cannock approximately 10 years ago to enable public access over land that can be boggy at times. A boardwalk is a walkway constructed from planks that sit slightly above ground level.
- 3.2 A number of the existing wooden planks have rotted and failed. In addition, the remainder of the boardwalk is showing signs of degradation due to wet rot and will inevitably fail in due course. The main timber frame supporting the boardwalk is also starting to degrade.
- 3.3 In its current condition the boardwalk poses an immediate health and safety risk to the public. It also exposes the Council to an increased likelihood of insurance claims from individuals who have tripped or slipped whilst using it.
- 3.4 The most cost effective approach is for the Council to replace the entire boardwalk as a matter of urgency using recycled plastic planks. The

advantage of plastic planks is that they have a longer life expectancy than timber (100 years) and are fire resistant. In addition replacing the whole boardwalk gives a more aesthetically pleasing result than patch repairs.

- 3.5 The disadvantage of undertaking a full replacement is a higher initial expenditure than ongoing patch repairs. However the anticipated long term expenditure will be reduced and less frequent inspection will be necessary than for a boardwalk that is in a state of deterioration.

4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 This strategy supports the Council's Corporate Priority of Community Wellbeing.

5 Report Detail

- 5.1 The timber boardwalk across open space at Laburnum Avenue, Cannock is in a state of degradation due to wet rot. A detailed site inspection has indicated an immediate health and safety risk to the public due to a number of rotten and failed planks. Photographs of the failed planks are attached at Appendix 2.
- 5.2 Patch repairs to the boardwalk to replace the rotten planks only could solve the immediate risk to the public however it is not the most cost effective solution for the Council. Whilst full replacement of the boardwalk with recycled plastic planks will result in an initial higher expenditure the anticipated long term long costs will be reduced. It will also reduce the likelihood of the Council being liable to pay out insurance claims to individuals injured whilst using boardwalk.
- 5.3 Quotes have been obtained and on the basis of the cheapest quote received Cabinet are asked to approve the allocation of £25,000 to fund the replacement of the boardwalk with recycled plastic planks.

6 Implications

6.1 Financial

There is currently a budget of £10,000 for this area to undertake the urgent health and safety works. In light of the urgent nature the additional expenditure can be accommodated within the overall capital programme.

6.2 Legal

The legal implications are set out in the body of the report.

6.3 Human Resources

None

6.4 **Section 17 (Crime Prevention)**

None

6.5 **Human Rights Act**

None

6.6 **Data Protection**

None

6.7 **Risk Management**

None

6.8 **Equality & Diversity**

None

6.9 **Best Value**

None

7 Appendices to the Report

Appendix 1 Plan

Appendix 2 Photographs

Previous Consideration

None.

Background Papers

None

ITEM NO. 10.



