Report of:	Head of
	Environment and
	Healthy Lifestyles
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Portfolio Leader:	Culture and Sport
Key Decision:	No
Report Track:	Cabinet: 19/12/19

CABINET

19 DECEMBER 2019

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO PUBLIC OPEN SPACE AND PLAY AREA ADJOINING FORTESCUE LANE, BONNEY DRIVE AND EATON DRIVE, RUGELEY

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek Members' approval to proceed with the proposed improvements to the Public Open Space as set out in the proposals attached as Appendix 1.
- 1.2 To seek approval for permission to spend S106 funds to deliver the proposed improvements.

2 Recommendations

That Cabinet:

- 2.1 Recommend to Council to include an additional £28,332 in the Capital Programme 2019-2022 to undertake the proposed improvements set out in this report and the plan attached at Appendix 1.
- 2.2 Grant approval to add this additional amount to the £20k already included in the Capital Programme for Wolseley Road and grant permission to spend up to £48,332 to deliver the proposed improvements to the public open space as set out in this report and the proposals plan attached at Appendix 1.
- 2.3 Delegate authority to the Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles in consultation with the Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader to agree the project detail and to take such actions as may be necessary to progress the above recommendations within existing approved budgets.

3 Key Issues and Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 A sum of £20k identified for this scheme but referred to as Wolseley Road has been included in the Council's Capital Programme for number of years but has been insufficient to deliver the proposed improvements.
- 3.2 However, a subsequent housing development in Stafford Borough located on the Western Springs Road and close to the Wolseley Road has released some additional Section 106 funds amounting to £28,332; which, subject to Council approval, can be added to the initial £20k, making a total investment of £48,332 which is sufficient to deliver the improvements set out in this report and the plan attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.3 Councils have a major role in the provision of good quality parks, play areas and public open spaces that are both sustainable and meet the needs of the community.
- 3.4 Given the previous delays in delivering this scheme and for it to be delivered in 2020 it will be necessary to include the additional Section 106 funds amounting to £28,332 in the Capital Programme and to secure approval to spend the S106 funds to develop and deliver the scheme within the budget approved.
- 3.5 At this stage it is envisaged that any ongoing revenue costs associated with the improvements will be met from the existing budgets. Should this position change as the details of the scheme are clarified, then a further report to Cabinet may be necessary before any decision is made.

4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 The Council's Priorities are "Promoting Prosperity" and "Community Wellbeing" and these two priorities interlink and reinforce each other to improve the opportunities, wellbeing and quality of life for our communities.
- 4.2 The provision of safe, welcoming and clean spaces for people to use and visit and that offer opportunities to participate in physical activity and recreation contribute to both of the Council's priorities.

5 Report Detail

5.1 Background

- 5.1.1 A sum of £20k identified for this scheme but referred to as Wolseley Road has been included in the Council's Capital Programme for number of years but has been insufficient to deliver the proposed improvements.
- 5.1.2 However, a subsequent housing development in Stafford Borough located on the Western Springs Road and close to the Wolseley Road has released some additional Section 106 funds amounting to £28,332; which, subject to Council approval, can be added to the initial £20k, making a total investment of £48,332

which is sufficient to deliver the improvements set out in this report and the plan attached at Appendix 1.

5.2 Project Outline

- 5.2.1 This scheme will address a number of issues and problems currently being experienced on the open space adjoining Fortescue Lane, Bonney Drive and Eaton Drive.
- 5.2.2 A number of the existing stoned pathways which are well used have been heavily eroded making them extremely muddy in inclement weather and difficult to navigate.
- 5.2.3 Whilst there are several other good tarmac paths across the open space there are several key areas where paths are missing and as a result well used desire lines have been formed, again becoming very muddy and impractical for use for residents with pushchairs or with disability issues.
- 5.2.4 The open space is currently very accessible and there has been evidence of unauthorised vehicles crossing the site, making it potentially at risk from illegal encampments.
- 5.2.5 This scheme will include the provision of new linking tarmac pedestrian footpaths, the installation of new waste bins, permanent and removable bollards to deter vehicle access to the site, new gates and swings to the play area and general landscaping and planting.

5.3 Project Costs (Pre-Tender Estimate) and Funding

5.3.1 The estimated costs together with the funding identified for this scheme are as follows:

Pre-Tender Cost Estimate	£
Hard works Preparation	1,792.00
Hard works Construction	15,460.00
Grass Cell System	3,300.00
Recycled Plastic Bollards	5,430.00
Fencing and Gates	4,000.00
Play area equipment (Swings) and Surfacing	2,780.00
Bins (x3)	4,600.00
Tree Works and Planting	5,675.00
Contingency	5,295.00
Total	48,332.00
Funding	
Q100 Wolseley Road	20,000.00
Q100 Fortescue Lane / Bonney Drive Improvements	£5,000.00
Q273 Rugeley Bypass OSOS (SBC)	23,332.00
Total	48,332.00

5.3.2 It is envisaged that any ongoing revenue costs associated with the upgrading of the play site and improvements to the open space will be met from the existing budgets.

5.4 Project Management and Timeline

- 5.4.1 The project will be overseen and managed by the Council's Capital Projects Officer working in collaboration with the Parks and Open Spaces Team.
- 5.4.2 Subject to Cabinet's approval to progress this project the estimated timeline is as follows:

1	Finalise project brief, specification and procurement and contract documentation and confirm scheme with Stafford Borough Council	February 2020
2	Issue Tender	March 2020
3	Submit Tender	April 2020
4	Evaluate Tenders and contract award	April 2020
5	Start on Site	June 2020
6	Completion	July 2020

5.4.3 Although the Section 106 funds have been released to the Council by Stafford Borough, subject to Cabinet's approval to proceed with this project the final scheme will be confirmed with Stafford Borough Council before commencement.

6 Implications

6.1 Financial

The budget for the project is £48,332 which is to be funded from S106's as per table 5.3.1. It is expected that the project will be delivered within budget. Ongoing maintenance is to be funded from within existing revenue budgets. Should anticipated costs exceed the budget allocation as the project is progressed, a further report will be sent to Cabinet for sign off before the project is progressed.

6.2 **Legal**

The Council is obligated by the terms of the S106 Agreements with Staffordshire County Council and Stafford Borough Council to use the funding identified above to carry out physical improvements to enhance public open space. By carrying out the proposed scheme as described above the Council would be complying with its obligations.

6.3 Human Resources

Any implications will be met from the existing staff resources within the Parks and Open Spaces section.

6.4 **Section 17 (Crime Prevention)**

The proposals will be designed to meet the current 'Secure by Design' criteria

6.5 **Human Rights Act**

There are no direct implications in respect of the Human Rights Act 1998 arising from this report.

6.6 **Data Protection**

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

6.7 Risk Management

The many risks involved in such a project relate to the provider being unable to deliver the proposed improvements or not being able to deliver them to the right level of quality or within the allocated budget for the improvements. Risks associated with the programme being delayed, delivery resources being constrained, slippage and cost over runs will be controlled and mitigates via the Project Officer.

6.8 **Equality & Diversity**

The scheme will acknowledge diversity and design out any barriers to access and use. Consultation has already been undertaken with a number of access groups in the park and their comments taken into account in the design process where appropriate.

6.9 Best Value

Delivery of the scheme will be via an appointed contractor following a tender process in accordance with the Council financial regulations.

7 Appendices to the Report

Appendix 1: Fortescue Lane, Bonney Drive and Eaton Drive Proposals

Previous Consideration

None

Background Papers

None

Appendix 1

