

Report of:	Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles
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Key Decision:	No
Report Track:	Cabinet: 30/01/20

CABINET
30 JANUARY 2020
FEASIBILITY STUDY AND OPTIONS APPRAISAL IN RESPECT OF THE TOILET FACILITIES LOCATED IN ELMORE PARK, RUGELEY

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform Cabinet of the costs and processes associated with undertaking a feasibility study and options appraisal in respect of the toilet facilities located in Elmore Park, Rugeley.
- 1.2 To seek Members' direction with regards to the next steps to be taken in relation to the motion and petition received by Council on 6th November 2019.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet are requested to consider the content of the Motion and Petition in light of the information provided in this report and either:
- (a) Accept the Motion and Petition; the cost of which is to be met from existing budgets,
 - (b) Reject the Motion and Petition, or
 - (c) Propose another way forward in respect of the Motion and Petition

3 Key Issues and Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 On 6th November 2019, Council received a motion, proposed by Councillor Lyons requesting that the Council commits to undertake an options appraisal in relation to the existing toilet block and a feasibility study to assess the practicalities and costs of the proposals, with a view to identifying a toilet refurbishment scheme within this Council's capital programme.
- 3.2 Council referred the motion without debate to Cabinet for consideration.

- 3.3 At the same Council meeting, a petition, bearing over 850 signatures, was presented by Councillor Lyons. The petition highlighted the poor condition and accessibility of the current toilet provision in Elmore Park and made the same request as the Motion.
- 3.4 At its meeting on 19 December 2019 Cabinet agreed to defer consideration of the motion and to await a report from officers at the next available meeting of Cabinet on the costs and implications to the Council of accepting the Motion.
- 3.5 Cabinet are requested to consider the content of the Motion and Petition in light of the information provided in this report and either:
- (a) Accept the Motion; the cost of which is to be met from existing budgets,
 - (b) Reject the Motion, or
 - (c) Propose another way forward in respect of the Motion
- 3.6 The estimated £10,000 cost for the study, options appraisal and surveys identified in this report can be met from existing budgets.

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 On 6th November 2019, Council received a motion, proposed by Councillor Lyons as follows:

"Elmore Park is a beautiful space and has been consistently awarded the prestigious Green Flag Award since 2010. It is a stone's throw from Rugeley Town Centre and sits at the heart of our local community. A space to create memories.

Now more than ever, we must cherish parks and green spaces. As a Council, we must do all we can to promote them with pride and ensure that they are welcoming for local families. Elmore Park is an asset for several reasons – exposure to nature greatly benefits mental health, it provides a place for recreational and physical activity, it is a community hub for families to enjoy and,

more than that, the trees are crucial in helping to remove pollutants and clean the air.

Despite the positives – the pet’s corner, space to play, the picnic area and lake - the Park is let down by its toilet provision. The toilets do not cater for disabled users, they do not have baby changing facilities or running water for visitors to wash their hands. The Council have installed waterless hand sanitisers and replaced the urinal in the gents, but they remain outdated, unhygienic and do little to contribute to the Park being a destination site.

Over 850 individuals signed my petition, the large majority being local residents. It has identified a local need. A need to modernise the Park ensuring that it is accessible and suitable for all residents. With better toilets, more residents have said that they would use the park. That is more children being active, more residents spending time outdoors and more local communities spending more time together. As a Council, let’s listen to what our local residents are telling us and let’s prioritise their need.

I ask that the Council commits to undertake an options appraisal in relation to the existing toilet block and a feasibility study to assess the practicalities and costs of the proposals, with a view to identifying a toilet refurbishment scheme within this Council’s capital programme.”

5.1.2 Council referred the motion without debate to Cabinet for consideration.

5.1.3 At the same Council meeting, a petition, bearing over 850 signatures, was presented by Councillor Lyons. The petition highlighted the poor condition and accessibility of the current toilet provision in Elmore Park and requested that the Council undertakes an option appraisal and a feasibility study to assess the practicalities and cost of proposals to improve the toilets with the aim of including a toilet refurbishment scheme in the Council’s Capital Programme.

5.2 The Current Situation

5.2.1 At its meeting on 19 December 2019, Councillor Lyons addressed the Cabinet on the motion referred from the meeting of Council on 6th November 2019, after which Cabinet agreed to defer consideration of the motion and to await a report from officers at the next available meeting of Cabinet on the costs and implications to the Council of accepting the Motion.

5.2.2 Given that the Motion and the Petition received by Council on the 6th November 2019 make the same request the implications contained within this report cover both requests.

5.2.3 Elmore Park is and has been accredited with a Green Flag award since 2009. The award scheme which was established in 1996 recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.

5.2.4 That said, the existing toilet facilities servicing the park are very old and do not have running water, adequate cleansing or baby changing facilities and are not accessible to less mobile users.

5.2.5 As Members are aware Property Services are committed to undertaking and completing an Asset Management Strategy in 2020/21 and this work will, as a matter of course, include proposals for Elmore Park and the condition and state of the current toilet provision and future proposals. Consequently, there is an option when considering this Motion and petition, to await the outcome of this Strategy and its assessment findings and then to consider proposals and suggestions in respect of all of the Council's assets before making a decision on this asset in isolation.

5.3 Costs and Implications of undertaking a feasibility study and options appraisal

5.3.1 The Motion and Petition requests that an options appraisal in relation to the existing toilet block and a feasibility study to assess the practicalities and costs of the proposals be carried out, with a view to identifying a toilet refurbishment scheme within this Council's capital programme

5.3.2 In order to do this a number of site specific surveys, together with an options appraisal would need to be carried out. This would include looking at all the possible costed options for the building including demolition, rebuilding, relocating and refurbishment.

5.3.3 Council's Property Services have indicated that the likely cost of such surveys and study would be in the region of circa £10,000, based on previous estimates for similar work.

5.3.4 The estimated cost for the study, options appraisal and surveys identified in this report can be met from existing budgets.

5.4 Options open to Cabinet

5.4.1 To consider the content of the Motion in light of the information provided in this report and either:

(a) Accept the Motion; the cost of which is to be met from existing budgets,

(b) Reject the Motion, or

(c) Propose another way forward in respect of the Motion

6 Implications

6.1 Financial

The estimated £10,000 cost for the study, options appraisal and surveys identified in this report can be met from existing budgets.

6.2 Legal

Procurement of any survey should be conducted in accordance with the Council's Procurement Regulations.

6.3 Human Resources

None

6.4 Section 17 (Crime Prevention)

None

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

None

6.8 Equality & Diversity

None

6.9 Best Value

Competitive quotes would be obtained to ensure best value.

7 Appendices to the Report

None.

Previous Consideration

Motion Referred from 06/11/19 Council – Elmore Park Toilets	Cabinet	19 December 2019
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Motion to Council 06/11/19 – Elmore Park Toilets	Council	06 November 2019
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Background Papers

None.