

CANNOCK CHASE DISTRICT COUNCIL
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE

6TH FEBRUARY 2008

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

2007 - 08 PROGRAMME – CAPITAL SCHEMES UPDATE REPORT

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update Members of the status of work in progress in respect of capital schemes included in the Council's 2007-08 programmes within the Children and Young People Select Committee's portfolio.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That Members of the Children and Young People Select Committee note the content of the capital scheme updates in respect of the Council's 2007-08 programmes as outlined in the report.

3. Key Issues - Capital Scheme Updates

The comments shown below relate to each project separately. All but one of these projects is being carried out by the strategic projects section within the culture and major projects division. Members should also note that the information in this report reflects the position at the end of the January 2008.

3.1 Arthur Street Play Area, Wimblebury

The first draft layout designs for this scheme will be presented in a report to DMT in the near future, following which consultation with Members will take place. Assuming that Members are supportive of this development, public consultation will then take place.

3.2 Hawks Green Capital Works – Meadow Way / Hayes Way

The senior and junior play areas at the Meadow Way element of this scheme were opened for public use on 4 May, 2007 and to date have been well received. Seeding works have commenced, and tree planting will be carried out in December 2007/January 2008.

The toddler play area at Hayes Way opened on 17th August 2007. Landscaping work to this area is 80% complete, excluding tree planting, which will be carried out in December 2007/January 2008. An official opening ceremony is anticipated to be arranged in January/February 2008 following repair of the new vandalised equipment.

3.3 North End Park, Rugeley

Works on the play area are complete except for landscaping, which is likely to be completed by January 2008 / February 2008, weather permitting. An official opening ceremony may be arranged to include the local Residents Society and Ward Members once the scheme is complete.

3.4 Old Hednesford Parkland Development Scheme

The report on the public consultation was reviewed by Cabinet on 22nd January 2008 and Cabinet approved an alternative scheme to be produced for Old Hednesford Park, as a result of the feedback received via the public consultation on the proposed design.

3.5 Cannock Park – Replacement Fencing

Following consultation with the Friends of Cannock Park, the design has been altered and the cost of works has increased (although still within budget). This has resulted in the need for a further tender exercise to procure blacksmiths skills to provide suitable fencing.

3.5 Provision of Sports and Leisure Facilities (Athletics Track, ATP and MUGAs)

Further discussions have taken place with the Head Teacher at Blake Valley Technology College and Officers from Staffordshire County Council resulting in a fourth design (Option B2) being produced as part of the feasibility study by the Sports Construction Consultancy. The design plans have been drafted to Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Stage C level. This detailed document sets out an outline specification, a construction timetable and topographical surveys as well as a schedule of drawings for where the new facilities would go on site.

Senior Officers of Staffordshire County Council, Governors of Blake Valley Technology College and Senior Officers of Cannock Chase District Council are now in the process developing a detailed agreement about the scheme. Members of both Staffordshire County Council, Governors of Blake Valley Technology College and Cannock Chase District Council will then be asked for their approval for the project to move forward based on Option B2 design.

A meeting has been held with representatives of the Cannock and Stafford Athletics Club to discuss the likely gap in provision of an athletics track.

3.7 Cannock Sports Stadium - Site Disposal

The Planning Application was submitted on 18th October 2007. Correspondence and discussions between Cannock Chase District Council and Sport England continue in order to address issues of concern.

Expressions of interest have been received by fourteen companies wishing to develop the site.

3.8 Chase Heritage Trail

The Forestry Commission's section of the trail has been completed on time and within budget, and the sections near the Birches Valley Visitors Centre were opened by Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal on Tuesday 15 January 2008. Good progress is being made with the tarmac sections of the trail in the land ownership of Cannock Chase District Council and Staffordshire County Council (Countryside), and work is due to commence in Hednesford Park in January 2008. An action plan has been devised to resolve outstanding issues with private landowners and tenants. Delays in resolving issues may result in completion of trail sections in private ownership being delayed until May / June 2008.

There is a strong possibility that it will be necessary to extend the Grant Expiry Date by a small period and a decision will be taken once the "winter period" has ended and a clearer idea of the expected trail construction completion date is available. The Staffordshire Environmental Fund Agreement has now been signed by both parties.

Good progress is being made with regards to trail signage. Work on the Museum extension was completed in late November 2008 and the Final Account in respect of the tendered works and approved additional work items has been settled. Work on the Museum Fit Out is progressing according to plan and the design drawings for the shop, reception and tourist information area have been prepared and signed off.

3.9 Rugeley Swimming Pool

The completion of the swimming pool is still 6 weeks behind the original project plan with an end date of 8th May 2008 (the date the construction company will hand over the building) with another 4 weeks for Cannock Chase District Council to fit out the building ready for use.

The following are complete: the pool and balance tank walls (there is now water in it as part of the testing process), the front retaining wall and under slab drainage. 90% of the roof coverings and the masonry walls are in place. 80% of the internal walls are complete.

The extension to the Rugeley Leisure Centre starts on 21st January 2008 with the first phase of the extension work covering the extension to the fitness suite.

The Topping Off Ceremony took place on 14th December 2007.

3.10 Chase Leisure Village

Following receipt of the Feasibility Study in 2006, no further work has been undertaken on this project as the funding for the project is entirely dependent on the sale of Cannock Sports Stadium.

3.11 Rolling Programme

Refurbishment of Heath Hayes Park equipment has commenced. Refurbishment work to Cannock Park will follow.

3.12 New Tennis Court, Ravenhill Park

Currently there are two minor snagging items which include touch up painting of the court fence and replacement of 2 number bolts. The draft Heads of Terms has been completed and the detailed contract has now been drawn up. Arrangements can thus now be made for a formal handover meeting between Cannock Chase Council and Brereton and Ravenhill Parish Council. The new court is now in its defects period and the planting is in its establishment period. Both will last until approximately November 2008.

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Section 1

Background

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 to be considered 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 Control 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

Each project is required to 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 being related to the size of the programme and the level of staffing resources currently available for scheme implementation. The outcome of future Planning Applications may also impact on the programme delivery timetables.

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**

Scheme	Total Scheme Budget	Spend to 31.03.07	Approved Budget 2007-08	Actual to 31.12.07
	£	£	£	£

Committed Schemes**General Fund**

Rugeley Swimming Pool	4,246,496	324,366	3,854,210	1,555,679
Provision of sports – Leisure Facilities	2,060,000		1,360,000	
Feasibility Study – Sports – Leisure Facilities	40,000		40,000	26,710
Chase Heritage Trail	1,126,660	28,940	948,470	30,631
Chase Heritage Trail – Museum	328,985	18,095	279,720	115,671
Ravenhill Park – Tennis Courts	41,000		41,000	42,582
Parks Footpath Refurbishment	8,650		8,650	
Bettys Lane Play Area	450		450	
Rolling Programme of Play Areas	55,762	47,012	8,750	25,124

Section 106

Wolseley Road Play Area	110,298	77,778	32,520	6,335
Hawks Green Capital Works	264,446	154,496	109,950	122,582
North End Park	62,504	43,024	19,480	20,503
Flaxley Road Play Area	19,500	17,250	2,250	
Barnard Way Public Open Space	45,504	25,524	19,980	

Scheme	Total Scheme Budget	Spend to 31.03.07	Approved Budget 2007-08	Actual to 31.12.07
	£	£	£	£

Programmed Schemes

General Fund

Arthur Street Play Area	23,640	160	23,480	
White on Brown Road Signs	6,940		6,940	

Section 106

Old Hednesford Parkland Development Scheme	94,984	2,904	92,080	1,103
Oxford Green POS Enhancement	21,270		21,270	
Cannock Park	53,150	80	53,070	
Relocation Arthur Street Play Area	84,830		84,830	

Those schemes identified as being programmed are subject to Cabinet approval although it should be noted that some preliminary expenditure has been incurred.

There is an element of £23,800 within the Hawks Green (Meadow Way / Hayes Way) scheme for ongoing revenue maintenance approved in the report to Cabinet 16th November 2006.

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 being dealt with via Environmental Services.

The HR implications need to be considered in relation to a delay in the opening of the new Rugeley Leisure facilities. At present staff recruitment for the new facility has not commenced, so any delays will need to be considered at this time.

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

None in the context of the report.

Annexes

None.