

# Birmingham City Council

## Report to Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods jointly with the Acting Director - Neighbourhoods



8 April 2019

**Subject:** Edgbaston Reservoir Improvements Phase 1  
**Report of:** Head of Landscape and Development  
**Relevant Cabinet Member:** Sharon Thompson, Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods  
**Relevant O &S Chair(s):** Councillor Penny Holbrook, Housing and Neighbourhoods  
**Report author:** Jonathan Webster, Principal Landscape Architect  
Landscape Practice Group

Are specific wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No – All wards affected
If yes, name(s) of ward(s): North Edgbaston		
Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, add Forward Plan Reference:		
Is the decision eligible for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential :		

### 1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 To seek approval of the Full Business Case (Appendix 1) for the design proposals, procurement and implementation of landscape improvements to the public open space around Edgbaston Reservoir. The improvements will provide a new surfaced path to the perimeter of the reservoir, bank stabilisation works, drainage works, new signage and seating. The total capital cost of the scheme is £374,263 (works and professional fees), of which development costs of £19,330 have already been approved and expended.

- 1.2 To seek authority for the Head of Landscape and Development to award a contract and place orders with an approved contractor from the Landscape Construction Framework to progress the works to implementation.

## **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods jointly with the Acting Director – Neighbourhoods:-
- Approves the Full Business Case (FBC) in Appendix 1 for the implementation of landscape improvement works at Edgbaston Reservoir with a capital cost of £374,263.
  - Authorises the Head of Landscape and Development to award a contract to, and place an order with, an approved contractor to implement landscape improvements at Edgbaston Reservoir for a capital cost not exceeding £322,696, through the Landscape Construction Framework Agreement 2015-2019.
  - Approves the appointment of the Landscape Practice Group to project manage its implementation at a total capital cost not exceeding £32,237.
  - Authorises the City Solicitor to negotiate, execute, seal and complete all necessary documents to give effect to the above recommendations.

## **3 Background**

- 3.1 In 2017 Planning and Regeneration commissioned Jon Sheaff Associates to carry out stakeholder consultation and produce a feasibility study / masterplan for the future development of Edgbaston Reservoir. This study looked at the key elements of the site with a view to balance the needs of the various water based activities, the general non-water-based recreational uses, the natural environment and the economic viability of the regeneration.
- 3.2 Following the completion of this report, Planning and Regeneration requested that the Landscape Practice Group deliver some initial improvements that would not be impacted by the more strategic proposals that are still in discussion with the various stakeholders.
- 3.3 Funding has been made available for the project from the City Road Public Open Space (POS) and Playing Field Section 106 Accounts (2016/00026/LA), which were received by the Council in relation to the planning approval 2015/02982/PA, for the erection of new housing at land fronting City Road and Rotton Park Road. The “Spend Purpose” of the POS account states: ‘The money is to be spent on path and bank stabilisation works and improvements to entrances, car park and promenade railings at Edgbaston Reservoir and maintenance...’. The “Spend Purpose” of the Playing Field S106 account states: ‘The money is to be spent on the...provision of new signage to welcome visitors to recreation attractions at Edgbaston Reservoir ....., replace seating and litter bins throughout perimeter of Edgbaston Reservoir, and path and bank stabilisation works at Edgbaston Reservoir and their maintenance.’

- 3.4 The existing infrastructure around the reservoir is in need of refurbishment and the quick wins projects will seek to renew items such as footpaths, signage, fencing and entrance features that will make an immediate improvement for visitors to the Reservoir.
- 3.5 Project development work for the improvements described above was carried out by The Landscape Practice Group during 2017/2018 in consultation with Local Ward Members, Friends / stakeholder groups and residents.
- 3.6 The works are proposed to commence in April 2019 and will be completed in July 2019.

#### **4 Options considered and Recommended Proposal**

- 4.1 One option was to improve the existing car park to the reservoir which is in serious need of repair and reorganisation. However, it was felt that because this car park area could be potentially relocated as part of Edgbaston Reservoir Masterplan currently under consideration, any work may be wasted resulting in an unnecessary expenditure of S106 funding. This option was rejected.
- 4.2 A second option was to carry out some more extensive works to the reservoirs' infrastructure including revetments, walls and water edge together with more extensive replacement of site furniture and new signage in place of the perimeter path works planned. This option would meet the spend purpose set out in the original Section 106 agreements and also meet the needs of the local communities as highlighted in the consultation. However, although needed, it was again felt that these items may be better co-ordinated with any new development of facilities as part of a site masterplan and thus have been deferred for a future phase of the regeneration work.

#### **5 Consultation**

- 5.1 This report follows the delegated authority report, dated 10<sup>th</sup> August 2017, approving the allocation of professional fees to develop the project to Full Business Case. (Appendix 1).
- 5.2 Officers in the Neighbourhoods Directorate (Parks), Inclusive Growth Directorate (Development Planning), City Finance, Legal and Governance and Procurement have been involved in the preparation of this report.
- 5.3 North Edgbaston and Ladywood Ward Councillors have been consulted in the preparation of this report and support the proposals coming forward for an Executive Decision.
- 5.4 Consultations have taken place with local residents and stakeholder groups regarding the improvement of Edgbaston Reservoir. Officers from the Landscape Practice Group attended a Stakeholder Advisory Group meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at which the Quick Win proposals were discussed and approved. This meeting was attended by stakeholder groups associated with the Reservoir and Councillor Sir Albert Bore.

- 5.5 The project proposals were available on the Council's Be Heard website for 3 weeks in February 2019 and results have finalised the proposals.

## **6 Risk Management**

- 6.1 A risk register has been produced to identify and manage identified risks (Appendix 6).

## **7 Compliance Issues:**

### **7.1 How are the recommended decisions consistent with the City Council's priorities, plans and strategies?**

The proposed scheme will contribute to the Council's key outcomes as follows:

- 7.1.1 **Birmingham is a fulfilling city to age well in:** through the visible investment and physical improvement of the site increased numbers of residents will be encouraged to participate in healthy recreational and physical activity.
- 7.1.2 **Birmingham is an aspirational city to grow up in:** through the design improvements, children and young people of all backgrounds and abilities will have the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors in a safer and brighter environment.
- 7.1.3 **Birmingham is a great city to live in:** The proposed improvements to perimeter path and associated landscape works will encourage more visitors to the reservoir and by deterring vandalism and anti-social behaviour will provide a safer environment for park users.
- 7.1.4 The project supports the Council's commitment to the Future Council Programme, establishing an environment in which residents, external partners and stakeholders and Council staff can effectively and visibly work together. This will aim to make best use of the resources available and attract external funding to achieve a shared vision.

## **7.2 Legal Implications**

- 7.2.1 Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 gives powers to provide recreational facilities.
- 7.2.2 Section 164 of the Public Health Act 1875 allows for the laying out and maintenance of open space for public recreation.

## **7.3 Financial Implications**

- 7.3.1 The value of the contract reflects the pricing as per the schedule of rates under the Landscape Construction Framework Agreement 2015-19.

7.3.2 The capital cost of the improvements to Edgbaston Reservoir will be funded through S106 resources which have been secured. (Refer to the budget summary in the Full Business Case and details of the S106 agreements referred to in paragraph 3.3 of this report).

7.3.3 The revenue consequences of these proposals are neutral as the works are primarily designed to replace existing dilapidated infrastructure with minimal implications for future grounds maintenance operations.

#### **7.4 Procurement Implications (if required)**

7.4.1 The Council's Landscape Practice Group will project manage the delivery of the scheme. The contract for the works will be awarded by direct award on a 'taxi rank' basis in line with the protocol of the Landscape Construction Framework Agreement 2015-19, the award of which was approved by the former Cabinet Member for Commissioning, Contracting and Improvement jointly with the former Strategic Director of Place on 13th April 2015.

7.4.2 The value of the work is below the threshold for the Birmingham Business Charter for Social Responsibility to apply, however the successful tenderer will be required to meet the City's requirement to deliver the Birmingham Living Wage for all its employees engaged with the project.

#### **7.5 Public Sector Equality Duty**

7.5.1 A copy of the Equality Act 2010 – Public Sector Duty statement is appended. (Appendix 7).

7.5.2 An initial screening was undertaken which indicated that a full Equalities Assessment is not required as the proposals provide improved facilities for everyone and all opportunities for promoting equality have been taken. The initial screening was approved on 7th January 2019. The EA reference number is EQUA236. (Appendix 8).

#### **8.1 Background Documents**

None

#### **List of Appendices**

1. Full Business Case
2. Financial overview
3. Options Appraisal
4. Project Milestones
5. Risk assessment register
6. Stakeholder analysis
7. Equality statement
8. Equality Assessment
9. Ward Councillor matrix
10. Scheme proposals plan