

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

PUBLIC REPORT

Report to:	CABINET
Report of:	Corporate Director - Place
Date of Decision:	31st July 2018
SUBJECT:	WARD END PARK LAKESIDE RENEWAL PROJECT EXTERNAL FUNDING APPLICATIONS
Key Decision: Yes	Relevant Forward Plan Ref: 005274/2018
If not in the Forward Plan: (please "X" box)	Chief Executive approved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	O&S Chair approved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cllr. Sharon Thompson, Homes and Neighbourhoods Cllr. Brett O'Reilly, Finance and Resources
Relevant O&S Chair:	Cllr. Penny Holbrook, Housing and Neighbourhoods Cllr. Albert Bore, Resources
Wards affected:	Ward End

1. Purpose of report:

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet Approval to submit a Full Application for European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and HS2 Community and Environment Funds (CEF) in respect of proposals to renovate the Dolphin Centre and deliver environmental enhancements promoting increased bio-diversity, recreational facilities and community engagement at Ward End Park
- 1.2 To seek Cabinet Approval to submit further grant funding applications to bridge the gap in the match funding requirements of ESIF
- 1.3 To give an overview of the project proposals and the outcomes sought for the assets within the Park and for local residents and park users.

2. Decision(s) recommended:

That Cabinet:-

- 2.1 Approves the Project Definition Document at Appendix 1 of this report setting out the project proposals, outline costing and funding proposals for the Ward End Park Lakeside Renewal Project.
- 2.2 Approves the Head of Landscape and Development to submit a Full Application for ESIF funding up to £1,405,035 (including £2,500 revenue) to the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) Sustainable Urban Development Programme (SUDP) as a contribution to the Ward End Park Lakeside Renewal Project.
- 2.3 Approves that the Head of Landscape and Development submits an application for up to £1,000,000 to the HS2 CEF Strategic Fund as a contribution to the Ward End Park Lakeside Renewal Project.

- 2.4 Approves that the Head of Landscape and Development submits further grant funding applications to bridge the gap in the match funding requirements of ESIF.

Lead Contact Officer(s): Bob Churn, Head of Landscape and Development

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3. Consultation

3.1 Internal

Local Ward Councillors have been briefed on the proposals for Ward End Park prior to the May 2018 Local Council elections and were supportive of the proposals. Following the ward boundary changes and election of a new Ward Member for Ward End, Councillor Mohammed Aikhlaq has been consulted.

The District Parks Manager for Hall Green, Hodge Hill and Yardley has been consulted and is supportive of the proposals.

The proposals have been shared with the Washwood Heath and HS2 Working Group chaired by Assistant Director of Planning

Officers from Legal and Democratic Services, Procurement and City Finance have been involved with the preparation of this report.

3.2 External

The Friends of Ward End Park have been consulted and involved throughout the development of the project and are supportive of the scheme. Local users of the Dolphin Centre facilities have been consulted about the proposals for the building and the plans for the park and are keen for the proposals to be realised. Further public consultation is planned for when there is more certainty regarding the security of the funding.

The proposals have been shared with and are supported by the HS2 Environment and Land Board.

4. Compliance Issues:

4.1 Are the recommended decisions consistent with the Council's policies, plans and strategies?

The proposed schemes will contribute to the Council's Outcomes and Priorities 2018-2022 in the following way:

Birmingham is an entrepreneurial city to learn, work and invest in: through the enhancements to the Dolphin Centre and creation of additional learning space more women will gain access the learning and skills that will increase their opportunities for employment and enterprise.

Birmingham is a fulfilling city to age well in: through the visible investment and physical improvement of the building and park increased numbers of residents will be encouraged to participate in recreational and physical activity.

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 more ecologically diverse, safer and brighter environment.

Taking a whole building and whole place approach will help to deliver the ambitions set out in the Carbon Roadmap, where the City Council is committed to a 60% carbon reduction by 2027, which is reflected in the environment and sustainability policies and targets of the Birmingham Development Plan.

The proposals will help to deliver the Birmingham and Black Country Nature Improvement Area action plan targets, help meet the policy commitments in Birmingham's Green Living Spaces Plan and its global Biophilic City commitments.

It will help deliver the recommendations in the 2018 Birmingham Tree Policy and contribute to the Environment Agency's Water Quality targets under the Water Framework Directive,

4.2 Financial Implications

- 4.2.1 The key financial issues are summarised below (and the details including the phasing of the project are set out in Section 5 of Appendix 1):
- The capital expenditure of the project is estimated at £2.463m and the main components include the Dolphin Centre Building (at £1.517m) and Park Landscape Construction Work (at £0.946m)
 - The expenditure will be funded from a proposed bid of £1.405m to the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership and a further £1.000m bid to HS2 from their Community and Environment Fund. The remaining sum of £0.058m will be provided by the Council (through BMHT) and local Section 106 resources
- 4.2.2 There may be grant clawback implications on the GBSLEP funding as this is funded from ERDF resources (these implications will need to be assessed if the Council is successful in its bid and accepts the grant funding).
- 4.2.3 There will be some annual on-going revenue financial implications of this scheme (mainly maintenance and repairs) and these have been assessed at £0.130m per annum and will need to be funded from within the annual approved budgets for Parks Services.

4.3 Legal Implications

Development of a strategy to improve community recreational facilities, support community engagement and deliver environmental enhancements/promote bio-diversity is made pursuant to the general power of competence contained in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011.

Under Section 19 of the Local Government Act (Miscellaneous Provisions) 1976, the Council has the power to provide such open space recreational facilities

4.4 Public Sector Equality Duty

A copy of the Equality Act 2010 – Public Sector Duty statement is appended – Appendix 2 together with the initial equality assessment screening – Appendix 3

5. **Relevant background/chronology of key events:**

- 5.1 In May 2017 the Parks Service was approached by Norton Hall (a registered charity and voluntary organisation supporting children, parents and families in East Birmingham) to assist them with a view to seeking funding for the refurbishment of the Dolphin Centre and a lakeside renewal project. The organisation had previously secured funding for the commissioning of an architect to design the scheme for which they were awarded planning consent on 30 September 2015.

- 5.2 A project group was established comprising the District Parks Manager and Head of Landscape and Development from Parks and representatives from Norton Hall, the Friends of Ward End Park, the Sons of Rest, local residents and the Constituency M.P
- 5.3 The location of Ward End Park, adjacent to the HS2 Depot site in Washwood Heath meant that there was a strong possibility that the project being conceived by Norton Hall and the Friends would attract support and funding from HS2. The HS2 Growth Strategy Programme Team was approached and they advised that the HS2 Environment and Landscape Board were inviting expressions of interest to create a list of projects that aligned with the board's priorities.
- 5.4 In September 2018 the Landscape Practice Group with support from Norton Hall and the Friends submitted an expression of interest to the HS2 E&L Board and were subsequently invited to make a presentation to the Board on 15 November 2017. This was received well and representatives from HS2 Ltd, Environment – Area North indicated that the project aligned with their strategic priorities.
- 5.5 On 31 January 2018 an outline bid was submitted on behalf of the Parks Service to the GBS Sustainable Urban Development Programme which is aligned to maximise the economic impact of the High-Speed Rail line (HS2) arrival in the area. This stream of funding has been made available by the European Regional Development Fund and there are two priority axes for which calls for bids have been requested. Our project straddles both the Supporting the Shift towards a low carbon economy (P4) and Protecting the Environment and promoting resource efficiency (P6) priority axes.
- 5.6 On 23 April the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government confirmed by letter that the Managing Authority for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Programme in England and the Intermediate Body for the Birmingham and Solihull Sustainable Urban Development Strategy that the project proposal had been assessed and was accepted at outline stage to progress to a full application. The deadline for this has been set as 29 June 2018.
- 5.7 The project team are now working towards completing the full application for the SUDP ERDF funding along with further applications for match funding including HS2 CEF as the ERDF will only provide 50% of the full project costs.

6. Evaluation of alternative option(s):

- 6.1 To do nothing would miss a great opportunity to take advantage of the current investment in transport infrastructure in the City as a result of HS2 coming to Birmingham and its obligations to mitigate the impact of construction on local neighbourhoods
- 6.2 To bid for alternative funding other than ERDF. This is happening alongside the SUDP bid but if the alternative funding sources were bid for in lieu of ERDF it would be difficult for the project to deliver the required outcomes within the available resources from alternative funders and timescales of the HS2 impact.

7. Reasons for Decision(s):

- 7.1 The impact of HS2 on the Ward End community will be significant and disruption to the lives of local residents can be mitigated through the environmental enhancements proposed through this project
- 7.2 Through the enhancements to the Dolphin Centre and the creation of additional learning space more women will gain access to learning and skills that will increase opportunities for employment and enterprise in Ward End ward which currently suffers high levels of deprivation.
- 7.3. Approval to this report will enable bids for external funding to be submitted within the timescales of the funding organisations.

Signatures

Date

Cabinet Member

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Cllr. Sharon Thompson, Homes and Neighbourhoods

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Cabinet Member

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Cllr Brett O'Reilly, Finance and Resources

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Chief Officer

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Jacqui Kennedy, Corporate Director - Place

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List of Background Documents used to compile this Report:

ESIF Outline Application Form 31st January 2018

List of Appendices accompanying this Report (if any):

1. Project Definition Document
2. Equality Act 2010 – Public Sector Duty statement
3. Initial Equalities Assessment Screening
4. Ward End Park Landscape Proposals
5. Dolphin Centre Proposals

Report Version

Dated