

Birmingham City Council

Trust and Charities Committee

12th April 2023



Subject: SMALL HEATH PARK – PROPOSED LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS

Report of: Director - Street Scene

Report author: Bob Churn, Head of Landscape and Development

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential:

1 Executive Summary

To seek Committee approval to implement landscape improvement works on Trust land at Small Heath Park as identified at Appendix 1, to include; an outdoor fitness facility, improved cricket facilities and replacement play facilities as a priority along with biodiversity enhancements and works to the lake to improve water quality within the available Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Section 106 Agreement resources.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To approve the implementation of the landscape improvement works identified at Appendix 1 at Small Heath Park through the Council's Landscape Practice Group.
- 2.2 To receive a report from the Landscape Practice Group once the works are completed, anticipated to be in summer 2023.

3 Background

- 3.1 Small Heath Park was formed from the original gift of 16.63 hectares of land from Miss Louisa Anne Ryland who also provided the costs for laying out the park which opened in 1879. The gift was by way of a long lease of 900-year lease from 29th September 1876. The terms of the gift require the Park to be used for 'providing for the inhabitants of the City, parks and other places of healthful and pleasurable resort'.
- 3.2 The proposed landscape and recreational improvement works are consistent with the trust objectives.

- 3.3 The trust currently delegates day to day management of the park to the Birmingham City Council Street Scene and Parks Service who cover all costs, and collect income generated, if any, which is used to offset the maintenance costs incurred at the Park.
- 3.4 The cost of the design, construction and maintenance of the improvement works will be fully funded by external capital sums from Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Section 106 resources.

4 Options considered and Recommended Proposal

- 4.1 The Council considered various options for delivering improvements to Small Heath Park and undertook a public consultation during the period between 16th December 2022 and 22nd January 2023 via the Council's Be Heard website. One option was to focus the resources on the Moghul gardens within the park but the response from local residents was to direct the monies towards the more general landscape improvements described within this report.
- 4.2 It is therefore recommended that the Committee supports the proposals to undertake the landscape improvement works to the trust land as outlined above.

5 Appendices

- 5.1 Appendix 1 Sketch proposals drawing