

## **CABINET MEMBER DELEGATED DECISION 9 SEPTEMBER 2021**

**Report title:** Capital Investment in Parks and Open Spaces

**Wards:** All

**Portfolio:** Cabinet Member for Equalities and Culture: Councillor Sonia Winifred

**Report Authorised by:** Bayo Dosunmu: Strategic Director for Resident Services

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### **REPORT SUMMARY**

This report seeks the allocation of £3.939m of the capital funds identified for investment in our parks and open spaces in the July 2020 Cabinet Report, from the Parks theme, to replace and enhance core infrastructure such as playgrounds, public toilets and paths.

### **FINANCE SUMMARY**

The delivery of the programme will cost £3.939m which includes consultancy fees, internal project management fees, procurement, design, construction, enabling costs and contingency funds. This funding has been approved in the five-year Capital Investment Programme against the Parks theme.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. To allocate the proposed capital investment of £3.939m from the agreed Parks theme within the corporate five-year capital programme approved by Cabinet in July 2020, for the purposes set out in this report.

## 1. CONTEXT

- 1.1 Lambeth's Parks service is responsible for 90 open spaces covering 790 acres. These sites contain extensive assets and infrastructure, including miles of internal paths, roadways, railings and fencing, hundreds of bins and benches, 33 play areas, 18 toilet blocks and dozens of sports facilities. Due to a historic lack of investment the majority of these facilities need upgrading or replacing. Although most existing buildings have been brought into commercial use, there are still a number of derelict properties needing investment to bring them into productive use.

## 2. PROPOSAL AND REASONS

- 2.1 It is proposed to allocate fixed sums of capital to the parks as shown below. Allocations over £100,000 will be commissioned to Lambeth's Capital Studio through detailed project mandates. The expenditure priorities at each site will be determined by a steering group made up of parks officers, key stakeholders and ward councillors. Formal procurement processes will need to be followed for individual project elements. Allocations under £100,000 will be managed by the Parks development team in liaison with ward councillors and stakeholders.

Site	Allocation (£)	Notes
Clapham Common	950,000	Continued implementation of Masterplan (priorities to be agreed by Implementation Group)
Kennington Park	950,000	Implementation of revised Masterplan (priorities to be agreed by Steering Group)
Ruskin Park	950,000	Implementation of new Masterplan (priorities to be agreed by Steering Group)
Stockwell Skatepark	213,000	Additional funding needed to fully refurbish site
Vauxhall Park	200,000	Works to central building
Agnes Riley Gardens	190,000	Improvements to play area and other core infrastructure
Larkhall Park	100,000	Extension of play area / sports pitch improvements
Windmill Gardens	100,000	Play area refurbishment
Holmewood Gardens	80,000	Play area refurbishment; core infrastructure replacement
Rush Common	50,585	Core infrastructure improvements
Operational contingency	50,000	Bins, benches and other equipment
Highway verges	50,000	Conversion to wildflower verges
Claylands Green	35,000	Improvements to core infrastructure and site enhancements
St. Leonard's Churchyard	20,000	Conservation of listed memorials on the Heritage at Risk Register
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,938,585</b>	

## 3. FINANCE

- 3.1 The requested £3.939m of capital funding has been approved for the Parks theme within the corporate five-year capital programme 2020-25. The £3.939m will be spent over two financial years, from 2021/22–2022/23. The budget allocation over the two financial years will be

determined at the start of year 1. The individual Project Managers will need to assess the necessary requirements to meet the investment and following procurement timescales.

- 3.2 The investment is to replace end-of-life assets, preserve heritage assets and fund new income-generating infrastructure. Ultimately the investment is designed to sustain core infrastructure within our parks and open spaces.

#### **4. LEGAL AND DEMOCRACY**

- 4.1 The Greater London Parks and Open Spaces Order 1967 sets out the powers and limitations on London Local Authorities in respect of their management of parks and open spaces including commons. In addition to the above Order, the commons are subject to the various Commons Acts and by local schemes such as the Metropolitan Commons Supplemental Act 1877 in respect of Clapham Common. In carrying out capital works on parks, spaces and commons, members and officers will need to be mindful of the various limitations and prohibitions contained within the legislation.
- 4.2 Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 gives the Council the power to do anything (whether or not involving the expenditure, borrowing or lending of money or the acquisition or disposal of any property or rights) which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of its functions.
- 4.3 The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the Council's Contract Standing Orders will need to be complied with in respect of any proposed commissioned works or services which will be subject to further reports at the appropriate time.
- 4.4 The proposed key decision was entered in the Forward Plan on 27 October 2020 and the necessary 28 clear days' notice has been given. In addition, the Council's Constitution requires the report to be published on the website for five clear days before the proposed decision is approved by the Cabinet Member. Any representations received during this period must be considered by the decision-maker before the decision is taken. A further period of five clear days – the call-in period – must then elapse before the decision is enacted. If the decision is called-in during this period, it cannot be enacted until the call-in has been considered and resolved.

#### **5. CONSULTATION AND CO-PRODUCTION**

- 5.1 Consultation has been undertaken with ward councillors and with the Lambeth Parks and Open Spaces Forum. All feedback received was positive.
- 5.2 An online user survey was carried out during autumn 2020 and 1,051 responses were received. Overall satisfaction with parks was at 90%, and satisfaction with maintenance issues was at similar levels, i.e. personal safety (89%), horticulture (88%) and cleanliness (83%). However, in terms of key built infrastructure this was noticeably lower, i.e. play areas (57%) and toilets (30%). This demonstrates the need for a focus within our capital programme on improving these core facilities.

#### **6. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 6.1 The main risks that impede on the successful delivery of these capital works are:

##### **Table 1 – Risk Register**

Item	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Score	Control Measures
1	Insufficient capacity within the Capital Studio	2	2	4 (Low)	Having an entire four-year programme agreed, with funding in place, will allow the Capital Studio to plan resourcing accordingly
2	Insufficient capacity within the Parks Development Team	1	2	2 (Low)	A small tranche of initial projects is planned
3	Local opposition to proposals	2	2	4 (Low)	Larger projects will be subject to separate engagement and/or consultation, including through the planning process where appropriate. Most of the projects within the plan are to replace or improve existing infrastructure, which will not prove controversial

#### Key

<b>Likelihood</b>	Very Likely = 4	Likely = 3	Unlikely = 2	Very Unlikely = 1
<b>Impact</b>	Major = 8	Serious = 4	Significant = 2	Minor = 1

## 7. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment was completed on 19 October 2020 and approved by the Director of Environment and Streetscene on 10 November 2020.
- 7.2 The proposed works do not have the potential to negatively impact on the protected characteristics. The Plan focuses on replacing or upgrading existing core infrastructure such as play areas, toilets and paths. The changes will improve the visitor experience for the majority of users and will bring positive change for some of the protected characteristics, impacting particularly on age and disability.

## 8. COMMUNITY SAFETY

- 8.1 No significant implications. Some of the proposed projects may create a slight improvement in community safety, for example through new or improved lighting, or better designed toilets. Overall improvements to parks should make them more attractive and increase usage levels, which will have a knock-on positive impact in terms of community safety in those locations.

## 9. ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

### Environmental

- 9.1 None specifically from this report. The larger projects will require separate procurement exercises, and the supporting reports will cover how environmental impacts will be mitigated within the works programme. There will be short-term environmental impacts from infrastructure works in parks, but overall parks have a highly beneficial impact on our environment, particularly in terms of improving local air quality.

## **Health**

- 9.2 Spending time in parks produces a wide range of positive benefits for health and well-being. This is well documented through a large number of scientific studies conducted in numerous countries across the world. Many of these benefits are involuntary and affect all users, for example reducing blood pressure and nervous system changes. By making our parks more attractive and accessible, with better quality facilities, we will increase usage, and this will improve the overall health of Lambeth's population. Improvements to play and sports facilities will bring additional health benefits from increasing physical activity levels.

## **Corporate Parenting**

- 9.3 Keeping parks and their facilities in a well-maintained condition is a vital part of any borough's corporate parenting responsibilities. Local and safe open spaces which children and young people are comfortable spending time in alone or with friends are crucial to physical health, social development and wellbeing.

## **Staffing and accommodation**

- 9.4 None.

## **Responsible Procurement**

### *Good Quality Jobs with Fair Pay and Decent Working Conditions*

- 9.5 Not applicable for approval of the investment itself. Some of the larger proposals will require contracted works and will be subject to separate procurement reports which will cover responsible procurement issues.

### *Quality Apprenticeships, targeted Employment for Lambeth residents and Lambeth Priority Group*

- 9.6 Not applicable.

### *Reduce Emissions: Lambeth Council has a commitment to being Zero Carbon by 2030*

- 9.7 These projects focus on replacing existing infrastructure. The larger projects will require separate procurement reports with a specific focus on how carbon emissions will be minimised. For these procurements the Capital Studio will be asked to make sustainability criteria at least 10% of the quality score; require bidders to set out how the environmental impacts of carrying out the works will be minimised, e.g. through use of low emissions vehicles and commit to reporting on emissions released from contract delivery; set out in the specification details on how the works will contribute to Lambeth's climate resilience/adaptive capacity (e.g. with reference to sustainable drainage, heat reduction etc); contain in the specification details on how the environmental impacts of waste and new material use will be minimise; and contain, where relevant, details on how works will contribute to improved biodiversity. Having attractive local parks with a wide range of facilities encourages recreational activity close to home, helping to minimise carbon implications from travel.

### *Single Use Plastics*

- 9.8 Not applicable.

### *Positive Health and Wellbeing*

- 9.9 Not applicable.

### *Other Offers (Innovation)*

- 9.10 Not applicable.

## 10. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

10.1 The table below details the stages and deadlines for implementing the recommendations:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Proposed Date</b>
Publication on Decisions online	September 2021
Cabinet Member Decision	September 2021

## AUDIT TRAIL

Name and Position/Title	Lambeth Directorate	Date Sent	Date Received	Comments in paragraph:
Councillor Sonia Winifred	Cabinet Member for Equalities and Culture	26.08.21	26/8/21	Approved
Bayo Dosunmu, Strategic Director	Resident Services	25.08.21	25.08.21	Cleared
Venetia Reid-Baptiste, Director of Environment and Streetscene	Resident Services	10.08.21	24.08.21	Cleared
Michael Munnely, AD Infrastructure, Environment, Public Realm and Climate Change	Resident Services	06.07.21	06.07.21	Cleared
Andrew Ramsden, Finance	Finance and Property	30.07.21	10.08.21	3
Natalie Woodcock, Finance	Finance and Property	06.07.21	29.07.21	3
Andrew Pavlou, Legal Services	Legal and Governance	06.07.21	07.07.21	4
Wayne Chandai, Democratic Services	Legal and Governance	06.07.21	09.07.21	4
Paul Keenlyside, Climate Change and sustainability – Technical Lead	Sustainable Growth and Opportunity	06.07.21	14.07.21	9

## REPORT HISTORY

<b>Original discussion with Cabinet Member</b>	16.10.20
<b>Report deadline</b>	N/A
<b>Date final report sent</b>	N/A
<b>Part II Exempt from Disclosure/confidential accompanying report?</b>	No
<b>Key decision report</b>	Yes
<b>Date first appeared on forward plan</b>	27.10.20
<b>Key decision reasons</b>	2. Expenditure, income or savings in excess of £500,000
<b>Background information</b>	<a href="#">Cabinet report</a> (five-year corporate capital programme)
<b>Appendices</b>	Appendix 1 – Equalities Impact Assessment

**APPROVAL BY CABINET MEMBER IN ACCORDANCE WITH SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

**I confirm I have consulted Finance, Legal, Democratic Services and the Procurement Board, and taken account of their advice and comments in completing the report for approval:**

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Post:** Kevin Crook, Assistant Director Neighbourhoods

**I confirm I have consulted the relevant Cabinet Members, including the Leader of the Council (if required), and approve the above recommendations:**

**Signature:**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Post:** Councillor Sonia Winifred, Cabinet Member for Equalities and Culture

**Any declarations of interest (or exemptions granted):** none

**Any conflicts of interest:** none

**Any dispensations:** none