

CABINET MEMBER DELEGATED DECISION 31 DECEMBER 2021

Report title: Parks Capital Investment Plan 2020-25

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

In 2015 Cabinet approved Lambeth's first Parks Capital Investment Plan 2014-2019. The duration of that plan was extended until the end of March 2020. This report proposes that a new Parks Capital Investment Plan covering 2020 to 2025 (Appendix 1) is approved and adopted.

FINANCE SUMMARY

The proposed Parks Capital Investment Plan 2020-2025 carries an estimated cost of £28.682m. Cabinet has approved £12.915m within the 2020-2025 Capital Investment Programme for the parks theme. The available funding will be prioritised and the Parks service will continue to explore and identify alternative funding from grants and sponsorships to close the funding gap. If there remains a funding shortfall the unfunded activities will roll over into any subsequent Lambeth capital programmes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To approve the Parks Capital Investment Plan 2020-2025 (Appendix 1).

1. CONTEXT

- 1.1 On 12 January 2015 Cabinet approved Lambeth's first Parks Capital Investment Plan (2014-2019). The plan had an estimated implementation cost of £20m, however funding was not secured and relied on S106 receipts and external funding.
- 1.2 Towards the end of 2019 Lambeth adopted a more strategic approach to capital expenditure and developed a five-year corporate programme with committed funding. As this took time to develop and approve it was necessary to extend the original Parks Capital Investment Plan up until the end of March 2020.
- 1.3 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 many of these facilities need upgrading or replacing. Although most existing buildings have been brought into commercial use, there are still several derelict properties needing investment to bring them into productive use.
- 1.4 The new plan for 2020-2025 includes a list of all capital works funded under the original Investment Plan (2014-2019) – some 75 projects across 37 parks and open spaces. The bulk of the capital funding for these schemes derived from S106 covenants, which mostly came with restrictive conditions, requiring expenditure to take place close to the developments generating the funding. Consequently, investment tended to be focused on the areas of the borough where larger developments were being granted planning consent. As a result, there is still a huge amount of infrastructure replacement and refurbishment required in parks, particularly in those areas of the borough where lower levels of development have taken place.

2. PROPOSAL AND REASONS

- 2.1 It is proposed to adopt a new Parks Capital Investment Plan covering 2020 to 2025, linked to the Parks funding allocation within the corporate capital programme 2020-2025. The Plan is attached as Appendix 1 and will cost an estimated £28.682m. Cabinet has allocated £12.491m within the 2020-2025 Capital Investment Programme and a substantial additional sum of external funding has either been secured or is anticipated. Officers will continue to explore sources of additional funding to make up the gap; but any projects remaining unfunded or uncompleted will need to be carried forward into a subsequent investment plan.
- 2.2 The parks team is also working closely with colleagues across the authority to decarbonise buildings within the Parks and Leisure portfolio. For new and refurbished buildings within the five-year plan, making them net zero or very low carbon emitters will be a top priority, dependent on funding and practical restrictions.

3. FINANCE

- 3.1 The new Parks Capital Investment Plan 2020-2025 will cost an estimated £28.682m to fully deliver. The core aim of the plan is to replace existing infrastructure which is at or nearing end of life; or invest in income-generating activities. As infrastructure is replaced this should reduce maintenance and repair costs and help address the current overspend on parks revenue budgets.
- 3.2 The funding to implement the plan will come primarily from the Parks theme allocation of £12.915m within the five-year capital programme; with a requirement to prioritise the projects within the Plan.
- 3.3 The corporate Capital Investment Programme allocated £10.338m of capital to the Parks theme in general and £2.577m to match-funding for the Brockwell Hall restoration project.

- 3.4 Out of the £10.338m allocated to the Parks theme, £380,533 relates to funding committed to works in open spaces not categorised as public open space, primarily on Housing land, and therefore is outside the scope of the Parks Capital Investment Plan. In addition, the total includes £95,000 of capital previously committed to tree-planting.
- 3.5 Officers will continue to explore all avenues for identifying additional funding to close the gap. Revenue funding is in place for the continuing employment of a Fundraising Officer, who identifies suitable external funding and completes applications; as well as supporting stakeholder groups to complete additional applications. The part-time Fundraising Officer secured external funding totalling £117,000 in 2020/21.
- 3.6 It may not be possible to fund everything within the Plan by 2025. The Capital Investment Programme allocation for the Parks theme is based on projected available funding and may be subject to future change due to unforeseen circumstances, changing priorities or available resources.

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 This proposed key decision was entered on the Forward Plan on 15 November 2021 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 the Parks Capital Investment plan 2020-2025 are:

Table 1 – Risk Register

Item	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Score	Control Measures
1	Insufficient capacity within the Capital Studio	2	2	4	Having an entire five-year programme agreed, with funding in place, will allow the Capital Studio to plan resourcing accordingly
2	Sufficient external funding is not secured	2	2	4	A substantial sum is relatively secure; the aim will be to seek more; and this risk is reduced through the continuing employment of the Fundraising Officer. Projects will simply not be initiated if funding is not secured
3	Local opposition to proposals	2	2	4	Larger projects will be subject to separate engagement and/or consultation, 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

Likelihood	Very Likely = 4	Likely = 3	Unlikely = 2	Very Unlikely = 1
Impact	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 Investment Plan itself does 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, 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 decision reports, and these 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 they 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 Some of the proposed measures within the plan relate to improving staff accommodation and depots, in particular the Brockwell Hall restoration project. There are no negative implications for staffing or accommodation. In Brockwell Park all staff will be relocated to new, purpose-built accommodation and staff have been closely involved in the designs.

Responsible Procurement

Good Quality Jobs with Fair Pay and Decent Working Conditions

- 9.5 Not applicable for approval of the Investment Plan. Some of the larger proposals within the plan will require contracted works and will be subject to separate decision 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 The investment plan is focused on replacing existing infrastructure. The larger projects will require separate procurement reports with a specific focus on how carbon emissions will be minimised. Having attractive local parks with a wide range of facilities encourages recreational activity close to home, helping to minimise carbon implications from travel. A very small number of new facilities are proposed, such as floodlit artificial grass sports pitches. Whilst these will increase the Council's energy consumption, this won't impact on carbon neutrality so long as Lambeth continues to purchase electricity generated from renewable sources. For new and refurbished buildings, a key priority will be to make them as close to zero carbon emitters as possible, funding dependent.

Single Use Plastics

- 9.8 Not applicable.

Positive Health and Wellbeing

- 9.9 Not applicable in relation to procurement.

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:

Activity	Proposed Date
Publication on Decisions online	21 December 2021
Cabinet Member Decision	31 December 2021
End of Call-in Period (key decisions only)	10 January 2022

AUDIT TRAIL

Name and Position/Title	Lambeth Directorate	Date Sent	Date Received	Comments in paragraph:
Councillor Sonia Winifred	Cabinet Member for Equalities and Culture	04.11.21	22.11.21	Approved
Bayo Dosunmu, Strategic Director	Resident Services	04.11.21	04.11.21	Cleared
Venetia Reid-Baptiste, Director of Environment and Streetscene	Resident Services	19.11.21	28.01.21	Cleared
Michael Munnely, Assistant Director Infrastructure, Environment, Public Realm & Climate Change Delivery	Resident Services	06.11.20	23.11.20	Cleared
Hamant Bharadia, AD Strategic Finance	Finance and Property	03.11.21	04.11.21	3
Greg Carson, Principal Lawyer	Legal and Governance	06.11.20	23.11.20	4
Jacqueline Pennycook, Democratic Services	Legal and Governance	06.11.20	10.11.20	4
Matthew Panou and Grace Ferris, Sustainability team	Sustainable Growth and Opportunity	06.11.20	16.11.20	2
Councillor Kevin Craig	Bishop's ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Ibrahim Dogus	Bishop's ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Jennie Mosley	Bishop's ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Adrian Garden	Brixton Hill ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Maria Kay	Brixton Hill ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Martin Tiedemann	Brixton Hill ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Tim Briggs	Clapham Common ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Joe Corry-Roake	Clapham Common ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Joanna Reynolds	Clapham Common ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Linda Bray	Clapham Town ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Nigel Haselden	Clapham Town ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Christopher Wellbelove	Clapham Town ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Donatus Anyanwu	Coldharbour ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Scarlett O'Hara	Coldharbour ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Emma Nye	Coldharbour ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Jessica Leigh	Ferndale ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Joshua Lindsey	Ferndale ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Irfan Mohammed	Ferndale ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Matthew Bennett	Gipsy Hill ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Jennifer Brathwaite	Gipsy Hill ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Pete Elliott	Gipsy Hill ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Jim Dickson	Herne Hill ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Pauline George	Herne Hill ward	09.03.21	-	

Councillor Becca Thackray	Herne Hill ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Jackie Meldrum	Knight's Hill ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Jane Pickard	Knight's Hill ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Tina Valcarcel	Larkhall ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Andy Wilson	Larkhall ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Timothy Windle	Larkhall ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Claire Holland	Oval ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Jack Hopkins	Oval ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Philip Normal	Oval ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor David Amos	Prince's ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Jon Davies	Prince's ward	09.03.21	10.03.21	Throughout
Councillor Joanne Simpson	Prince's ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Scott Ainslie	St Leonards ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Jonathan Bartley	St Leonard's ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Nicole Griffiths	St Leonard's ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Lucy Caldicott	Stockwell ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Dr Mahamed Hashi	Stockwell ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Mohamed Jaser	Stockwell ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Liz Atkins	Streatham Hill ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Rezina Chowdhury	Streatham Hill ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Iain Simpson	Streatham Hill ward	09.03.21	10.03.21	Throughout
Councillor Danial Adilypour	Streatham South ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor John Kazantzis	Streatham South ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Clair Wilcox	Streatham South ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Malcolm Clark	Streatham Wells ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Marianna Masters	Streatham Wells ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Mohammed Seedat	Streatham Wells ward	09.03.21	09.03.21	-
Councillor Edward Davie	Thornton ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Stephen Donnelly	Thornton ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Nanda Manley-Browne	Thornton ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Anna Birley	Thurlow Park ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Fred Cowell	Thurlow Park ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Peter Ely	Thurlow Park ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Mary Atkins	Tulse Hill ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Marcia Cameron	Tulse Hill ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Ben Kind	Tulse Hill ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Jacqui Dyer	Vassall ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Paul Gadsby	Vassall ward	09.03.21	-	
Councillor Annie Gallop	Vassall ward	09.03.21	-	

REPORT HISTORY

Original discussion with Cabinet Member	16.10.20
Report deadline	N/A
Date final report sent	N/A

Part II Exempt from Disclosure/confidential accompanying report?	No
Key decision report	Yes
Date first appeared on forward plan	15.11.21
Key decision reasons	2. Expenditure, income or savings in excess of £500,000
Background information	Parks and Open Spaces Capital Investment Plan 2014/15-2018/19
Appendices	Appendix 1 – Parks Capital Investment Plan 2020-2025 Appendix 2 – 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 Equalities and Culture

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

Any conflicts of interest: none.

Any dispensations: none.