

**Oversight and Governance**

Chief Executive's Department

Plymouth City Council

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Published 28/03/25

Delegated Decisions

Delegated Executive/Officer Decisions

Delegated Executive and Officer decisions are published and are available at the following link - <https://tinyurl.com/ms6umor>

Cabinet decisions subject to call-in are published at the following link - <http://tinyurl.com/yddrql6>

Notice of call-in for non-urgent decisions must be given to the Democratic Support Team by 4.30 pm on 04 April 2025. Please note – urgent decisions and non-key Council Officer decisions cannot be called in. Copies of the decisions together with background reports are available for viewing as follows:

- on the Council's Intranet Site at <https://modgov/mgDelegatedDecisions.aspx>
- on the Council's website at <https://tinyurl.com/jhnax4e>

The decisions detailed below may be implemented on 05 April 2025 if they are not called-in.

Delegated Decisions

I. Councillor Tudor Evans OBE (Leader of the Council):

I.a. Central Park Improvements Programme

(Pages 1 - 34)

EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Cabinet Member



REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY BY AN INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER

Executive Decision Reference Number – L52 24/25

Decision	
1	Title of decision: Central Park Improvements Programme
2	Decision maker: Councillor Tudor Evans OBE, Leader of the Council
3	Report author and contact details: Liza Oxford, liza.oxford@plymouth.gov.uk 01752398393
4	<p>Decision to be taken:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To add the following sums to the capital programme: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) £237k of funds through a Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay (RCCO) into the Central Park Improvements Project b) £100,271.00 grant from The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Urban Innovative Actions (UIA) programme - Green Minds c) £19,877.60 grant fund from Flood and Coastal Innovation Fund (FCRIP) 2) Vire £500k from the existing Skid programme to the Environmental Improvement Programme within Street Services; 3) Approve the business case. <p>N.B. Any unspent funds will be returned to the Skid programme</p>
5	<p>Reasons for decision:</p> <p>I. Completion of Central Park Ponds Scheme will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve the high flood risk catchment area which experiences surface water flooding and to which the park contributes. 2. Alleviate the limited capacity in the sewer system which cause Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) spills into Pennycomequick stream culverted watercourse. 3. Reduce direct costs for clean-up and indirect costs to local residents through the impact of surface water flooding on houses/streets downstream <p>Furthermore, the sustainable drainage system will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce flooding, reduce the risk of pollution and CSO incidents and increase the capacity of highway drainage and combined sewers. 2. Create a model nature-based solution, which could be replicated in other areas of the city. 3. Contribute to improved air quality, heat reduction and carbon sequestration through increased tree planting, future-proofing the tree stock of the park 4. Increase biodiversity in the park to support connection to nature for health and wellbeing 5. Ensure Central Park meets the aspirations as the city's Flagship Park, bringing a more diverse and

	increased audience to the park, supporting active lifestyles and increasing income generation for the park enterprises and events			
6	Alternative options considered and rejected: <div>1. Do nothing – runs the risk of increased future flooding and risk of flooding to nearby properties</div> <div>2. Non completion would reduce the planting and reduce the effectiveness of the Scheme and lower the legal and planning requirement for Biodiversity Net Gain</div>			
7	Financial implications and risks: Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay (RCCO) of £237k has been approved and allocated and will not lead to any revenue finance pressure. Vire £500k virement from the Skid programme within Street Services to finance completion of project £100,271.00 grant from The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Urban Innovative Actions (UIA) programme - Green Minds £19,877.60 grant fund from Flood and Coastal Innovation Fund (FCRIP) Financial cost of dealing with ongoing flooding within the park and subsequently downstream within the Stonehouse Flood Risk catchment area			
8	Legal Implications: (For completion by Legal Officers) None			
9	Is the decision a Key Decision? (please contact Democratic Support for further advice)	Yes	No	Per the Constitution, a key decision is one which:
			X	in the case of capital projects and contract awards, results in a new commitment to spend and/or save in excess of £3million in total
			X	in the case of revenue projects when the decision involves entering into new commitments and/or making new savings in excess of £1 million annually
			X	is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the local authority.
	If yes, date of publication of the notice in the Forward Plan of Key Decisions			
10	Please specify how this decision is linked to the Council's corporate plan/Plymouth Plan and/or the policy framework and/or the revenue/capital budget:		<u>Corporate Plan</u> Green investment, jobs, skills and better education Make Plymouth a great place to grow up and grow old One of Europe's most vibrant waterfront cities, where an outstanding quality of life is enjoyed by everyone <u>Plymouth Plan</u> HEA7 optimising the health and well-being benefits of the natural environment GR06 Delivering Plymouth's natural network GR07 Reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climate change	

		INT6 Enhancing Plymouth's green city credentials		
I I	Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact)	<p>The Scheme will reduce flooding and provide substantial Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) above the 10% required.</p> <p>The project aims to have a minimum impact on carbon emissions. The Sustainable drainage scheme is a nature-based solution that uses natural features to manage water and prevent flooding, avoiding the carbon impact that a hard engineered solution has.</p> <p>Tree planting and interpretation about the role of trees in carbon sequestration and air quality will improve carbon capture, knowledge and understanding.</p> <p>Working closely with the Sustainable Transport team the project enhances and promotes a strategic route for connecting walking and cycling through the city, encouraging a lower use of vehicles.</p> <p>In line with the Net Zero Action Plan the project as a whole aims to provide exemplars for nature-based solutions for climate change and carbon capture, which can inspire and engage a wider audience.</p>		
Urgent decisions				
I 2a	Is the decision urgent and to be implemented immediately in the interests of the Council or the public?	Yes		(If yes, please contact Democratic Support (democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk) for advice)
		No	X	(If no, go to section I 3a)
I 2b	Reason for urgency:			
I 2c	Scrutiny Chair Signature:		Date	
	Scrutiny Committee name:			
	Print Name:			
Consultation				
I 3a	Are any other Cabinet members' portfolios affected by the decision?	Yes	X	
		No		(If no go to section I 4)
I 3b	Which other Cabinet member's portfolio is affected by the decision?	Councillor Tom Briars-Delve, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change		
I 3c	Date Cabinet member consulted	24/01/2025		

14	Has any Cabinet member declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision?	Yes		If yes, please discuss with the Monitoring Officer	
		No	X		
15	Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted?	Name	Philip Robinson		
		Job title	Service Director - Street Services		
		Date consulted	24/01/2025		

Sign-off


16	Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:	Democratic Support (mandatory)	JS124 24/25
		Finance (mandatory)	DJN.24.25.180
		Legal (mandatory)	LS/00001312/4/AC/24/3/25
		Procurement (if applicable)	N/A
		Corporate property (decisions involving Council owned land or facilities) (if applicable)	N/A
		Human Resources (if applicable)	N/A

Appendices

17	Ref.	Title of appendix
	A	Briefing report for publication
	B	Equalities Impact Assessment
	C	Climate Impact Assessment
	D	Business Case

Confidential/exempt information

18a	Do you need to include any confidential/exempt information?	Yes		If yes, prepare a second, confidential ('Part II') briefing report and indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box in 18b below. (Keep as much information as possible in the briefing report that will be in the public domain)				
		No	X					
		Exemption Paragraph Number						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18b	Confidential/exempt briefing report title:							

Background Papers								
19	<p>Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below.</p> <p>Background papers are <u>unpublished</u> works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based. If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</p>							
Title of background paper(s)		Exemption Paragraph Number						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cabinet Member Signature								
20	<p>I agree the decision and confirm that it is not contrary to the Council's policy and budget framework, Corporate Plan or Budget. In taking this decision I have given due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act (2010) and those who do not. For further details please see the EIA attached.</p>							
Signature				Date of decision	27.03.2025			
Print Name	Cllr Tudor Evans OBE (Leader of the Council)							

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CAPITAL INVESTMENT BRIEFING NOTE

Central Park Improvements Programme



The purpose of this briefing note is to request approval to add the following into the Central Park Improvements Project within the capital programme i) £237k of funds through a Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay (RCCO), ii) £100,271.00 grant from The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Urban Innovative Actions (UIA) programme - Green Minds, and iii) £19,877.60 grant fund from Flood and Coastal Innovation Fund (FCRIP) and to vire £500k from the existing Skid programme to the Environmental Improvement Programme within Street Services .

SCHEME SUMMARY: *(Provide a brief outline of what has happened to date. Explain the details of the proposal and how the proposal will address the issue)*

A Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) has been installed in Central Park to reduce flooding in the park and surrounding catchment. The scheme, which is a model nature-based solution could be replicated across the city.

The scheme consists of new drainage channels down Coronation Avenue, two attenuation ponds and hydrobrakes to control the flow of water from the ponds.

The scheme has been on hold due to weather constraints earlier in the year and later contractual issues.

While the main engineering works have been completed, a large amount of landscaping, seeding tree and shrub planting still need to happen. The installation of the landscaping works is an integral part of the plan and will contribute to the success of the scheme to slow the flow of water that runs down to the Barn Park entrance. Without the planting and landscaping PCC will be unable to fulfil their Biodiversity Net Gain target for the scheme.

STRATEGIC CASE: *(How will this proposal meet corporate priorities? Explain how the project delivers or supports delivery of Plymouth Plan / Joint Local Plan Policies (including policy references))*

The scheme is in line with the following strategic plans:

- Leisure and sports facilities plans as it will allow for the two junior playing pitches to be re-instated above the north pond.
- Climate emergency action plan – the scheme will benefit the natural environment and enhancements for biodiversity net gain and carbon sequestration and air quality.
- Joint Local Plan key project - JLP Policy PLY19 for Central Park - Strategic Green Space Site

OUTCOMES AND BENEFITS: *(List the outcomes and benefits expected from this project)*

Financial outcomes and benefits:

Less flooding in the Barn Park area of the park, reducing Council costs dealing with flood management in the park and downstream

Non-financial outcomes and benefits:

OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES: This project will ensure Central Park is a Flagship Park for high quality physical activity, play and access to nature that is freely available, open at all times and for all ages and all demographics. Success will be measured by:

- Increased footfall in the park and usage of facilities
- Positive feedback from communities and city wide user groups about improvements

	<p>BENEFITS:</p> <p>Increasing capacity of highway drainage and combined sewers through surface water separation and capacity improvements, the drainage scheme will reduce risk of pollution and CSO incident will benefit park users and households in the Stonehouse Flood Risk catchment.</p> <p>For further information refer to the original business case attached</p>
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<p>KEY RISKS: <i>(Identify the risks, level of risks and measures in place to mitigate the risks)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • runs a reputational risk of not delivering against its original proposal - High • reduces the ability to deliver the health and wellbeing benefits made possible through high quality access to local greenspace - Low • suffers the additional financial cost of dealing with ongoing flooding within the park and subsequently downstream within the Stonehouse Flood Risk catchment area - high • the Plymouth pitch deficit continues to suffer - high
<p>MILESTONES AND DATES: <i>(delivery timescales)</i></p> <p>The completion date for the scheme is now estimated to be Late Summer 2025. This will include the completion of drainage channels, alleviation ponds, landscaping and planting. The main works will be finished before this time but we need time to enable the landscaping to embed before we allow public use.</p>

<p>FUNDING: <i>(Funding proposals / names and amounts from each funding proposal)</i></p> <p>£237k of funds through a Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay (RCCO) £100,271.00 grant from The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Urban Innovative Actions (UIA) programme - Green Minds £500k from the existing Skid programme to the Environmental Improvement Programme within Street Services. £19,877.60 grant fund from Flood and Coastal Innovation Fund (FCRIP)</p>
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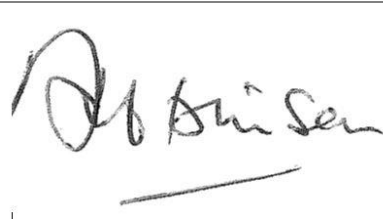
<p>REVENUE & VAT IMPLICATIONS: <i>(ongoing PCC revenue implications / Budget implications)</i></p> <p>Revenue Implications: The RCCO of £237k, £100,271.00 grant from The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Urban Innovative Actions (UIA) programme - Green Minds, a virement of £500k from the existing Skid programme to the Environmental Improvement Programme within Street Services and £19,877.60 grant fund from Flood and Coastal Innovation Fund (FCRIP) has been approved and allocated and will not lead to any revenue finance pressure.</p> <p>N.B. Any unspent funds will be returned to the Skid programme.</p> <p>VAT Implications: The project will not directly generate any VAT-exempt income for the Council. The provision or enhancement of public open spaces for the public to enjoy free of charge are a non-business activity of the Council and so any VAT incurred by the Council on costs relating to the project</p>
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will be fully recoverable and there will be no adverse impact on the Council's partial exemption position.

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EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT – TREFUSIS PARK FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME

SECTION ONE: INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSAL

Author(s): The person completing the EIA template.	Liza Oxford	Department and service:	Street Services – Environmental Planning, Projects and Partnerships	Date of assessment:	20/03/2025
Lead Officer: Head of Service, Service Director, or Strategic Director.	Philp Robinson	Signature:			24.03.2025
Overview:	<p>A Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) has been installed in Central Park to reduce flooding in the park and surrounding catchment. The scheme, which is a model nature-based solution could be replicated across the city.</p> <p>The scheme consists of new drainage channels down Coronation Avenue, two attenuation ponds and hydrobrakes to control the flow of water from the ponds.</p> <p>The scheme has been on hold due to weather constraints earlier in the year and later contractual issues.</p> <p>While the main engineering works have been completed, a large amount of landscaping, seeding tree and shrub planting still need to happen. The installation of the landscaping works is an integral part of the plan and will contribute to the success of the scheme to slow the flow of water that runs down to the Barn Park entrance. Without the planting and landscaping PCC will be unable to fulfil their Biodiversity Net Gain target for the scheme.</p> <p>Flooding within the park and the wider catchment is an issue. Central Park sits in a Flood Risk Area where there are existing surface water flooding issues within the catchment which the park contributes to. Limited capacity in the sewer system causes Combined Sewer Overflow spills into Pennycomequick stream culverted watercourse. This reduces access and incurs a direct cost to the Council for clean-up and an indirect cost to local residents through the impact of surface water flooding on houses/streets downstream.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• poor quality sports pitches, preventing us from meeting need and demand for local sports provision as identified through the Playing Pitches Delivery Plan (2018-2021)• poor quality built and natural infrastructure, signage, paths and seating, creating barriers to access for the increasing number of local visitors <p>If we do not proceed with the scheme, the Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• runs a reputational risk of not delivering against its original proposal				

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">reduces the ability to deliver the health and wellbeing benefits made possible through high quality access to local greenspacesuffers the additional financial cost of dealing with ongoing flooding within the park and subsequently downstream within the Stonehouse Flood Risk catchment area the Plymouth pitch deficit continues to suffer
Decision required:	<p>It is recommended that the Leader of the Council:</p> <p>1) To add the following sums to the capital programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">£237k of funds through a Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay (RCCO) into the Central Park Improvements Project£100,271.00 grant from The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Urban Innovative Actions (UIA) programme - Green Minds£19,877.60 grant fund from Flood and Coastal Innovation Fund (FCRIP) <p>2) Vire £500k from the existing Skid programme to the Environmental Improvement Programme within Street Services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">N.B. Any unspent funds will be returned to the Skid programme

SECTION TWO: EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCREENING TOOL

<p>Potential external impacts:</p> <p>Does the proposal have the potential to negatively impact service users, communities or residents with protected characteristics?</p>	Yes		No	x
<p>Potential internal impacts:</p> <p>Does the proposal have the potential to negatively impact Plymouth City Council employees?</p>	Yes		No	x
<p>Is a full Equality Impact Assessment required? (if you have answered yes to either of the questions above then a full impact assessment is required and you must complete section three)</p>	Yes		No	x
<p>If you do not agree that a full equality impact assessment is required, please set out your justification for why not.</p>	<p>This Scheme will deliver the following Corporate Plan priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Keeping children, young people and families safeGreen investment, jobs, skills, and better educationSpending money wiselyFocussing on prevention and early intervention <p>When the Scheme completes, this project will ensure Central Park is a Flagship Park for high quality physical</p>			

	<p>activity, play and access to nature that is freely available, open at all times and for all ages and all demographics.</p> <p>Success will be measured by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Increased footfall in the park and usage of facilities- Positive feedback from communities and city-wide user groups about improvements <p>BENEFITS:</p> <p>Increasing capacity of highway drainage and combined sewers through surface water separation and capacity improvements, the drainage scheme will reduce risk of pollution and CSO incident will benefit park users and households in the Stonehouse Flood Risk catchment.</p>
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SECTION THREE: FULL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Protected characteristics (Equality Act, 2010)	Evidence and information (e.g. data and consultation feedback)	Adverse impact	Mitigation activities	Timescale and responsible department
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Age	<p>It is anticipated that the project will be open to all age groups. There would be a requirement for young children to be supported by an adult. We will actively engage families and schools</p> <p>Plymouth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 16.4 per cent of people in Plymouth are children aged under 15.• 65.1 per cent are adults aged 15 to 64.• 18.5 percent are adults aged 65 and over.• 2.4 percent of the resident population are 85 and over. <p>South West</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 15.9 per cent of people are aged 0 to 14, 61.8 per cent are aged 15 to 64.• 22.3 per cent are aged 65 and over. <p>England</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 17.4 per cent of people are aged 0 to 14.• 64.2 per cent of people are aged 15 to 64.• 18.4 per cent of people are aged 65 and over. <p>(2021 Census)</p>	<p>No adverse impact is anticipated. All age groups will have the opportunity and will be actively encouraged to be involved.</p>		
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<p>Care experienced individuals</p> <p>(Note that as per the Independent Review of Children’s Social Care recommendations, Plymouth City Council is treating care experience as though it is a protected characteristic).</p>	<p>It is estimated that 26 per cent of the homeless population in the UK have care experience. In Plymouth there are currently 7 per cent of care leavers open to the service (6 per cent aged 18-20 and 12 per cent of those aged 21+) who are in unsuitable accommodation.</p> <p>The Care Review reported that 41 per cent of 19-21 year old care leavers are not in education, employment or training (NEET) compared to 12 per cent of all other young people in the same age group.</p> <p>In Plymouth there are currently 50 per cent of care leavers aged 18-21 Not in Education Training or Employment (54 per cent of all those care leavers aged 18-24 who are open to the service).</p> <p>There are currently 195 care leavers aged 18 to 20 (statutory service) and 58 aged 21 to 24 (extended offer). There are more care leavers aged 21 to 24 who could return for support from services if they wished to.</p>	<p>No adverse impact is anticipated.</p>		
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Disability	<p>Access to monitoring forms and networks that are developed will conform to the requirements of the Equality Act and recommended guidelines for users with a disability.</p> <p>Improvements will comply with the Equality Act and recommended guidelines for users with a disability</p> <p>9.4 per cent of residents in Plymouth have their activities limited 'a lot' because of a physical or mental health problem.</p> <p>12.2 per cent of residents in Plymouth have their activities limited 'a little' because of a physical or mental health problem (2021 Census)</p>	No adverse impact is anticipated. The project will be accessible to all abilities.	N/A	N/A
Gender reassignment	<p>Access to being involved in the project will not be limited by gender reassignment.</p> <p>0.5 per cent of residents in Plymouth have a gender identity that is different from their sex registered at birth. 0.1 per cent of residents identify as a trans man, 0.1 per cent identify as non-binary and, 0.1 per cent identify as a trans women (2021 Census).</p>	No adverse impact, there will be no barriers to involvement based on gender reassignment		

Marriage and civil partnership	<p>40.1 per cent of residents have never married and never registered a civil partnership. 10 per cent are divorced, 6 percent are widowed, with 2.5 per cent are separated but still married.</p> <p>0.49 per cent of residents are, or were, married or in a civil partnerships of the same sex. 0.06 per cent of residents are in a civil partnerships with the opposite sex (2021 Census).</p>	No adverse impact is anticipated.	N/A	N/A
Pregnancy and maternity	<p>Overall 50.2% of our population are women; this reflects the national figure of 50.7%.</p> <p>The total fertility rate (TFR) for England was 1.62 children per woman in 2021. The total fertility rate (TFR) for Plymouth in 2021 was 1.5.</p>	No adverse impact is anticipated.	N/A	N/A
Race	<p>In 2021, 94.9 per cent of Plymouth's population identified their ethnicity as White, 2.3 per cent as Asian and 1.1 per cent as Black (2021 Census)</p> <p>People with a mixed ethnic background comprised 1.8 per cent of the population. 1 per cent of the population use a different term to describe their ethnicity (2021 Census)</p> <p>92.7 per cent of residents speak English as their main language. 2021 Census data shows that after English, Polish, Romanian, Chinese, Portuguese, and Arabic are the most spoken languages in Plymouth (2021 Census).</p>	No adverse impact is anticipated. The project will be open to all to participate regardless of race.		

Religion or belief	48.9 per cent of the Plymouth population stated they had no religion. 42.5 per cent of the population identified as Christian (2021 Census). Those who identified as Muslim account for 1.3 per cent of Plymouth’s population while Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish or Sikh combined totalled less than 1 per cent (2021 Census).	No adverse impact is anticipated. The project will be accessible to all faiths, religions and beliefs		
Sex	51 per cent of our population are women and 49 per cent are men (2021 Census).	No adverse impact is anticipated.		
Sexual orientation	88.95 per cent of residents aged 16 years and over in Plymouth describe their sexual orientation as straight or heterosexual. 2.06 per cent describe their sexuality as bisexual, 1.97 per cent of people describe their sexual orientation as gay or lesbian. 0.42 per cent of residents describe their sexual orientation using a different term (2021 Census).	No adverse impact is anticipated.		

SECTION FOUR: HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

Human Rights	Implications	Mitigation Actions	Timescale and responsible department
	<p>This service recognises Article 14 of Human Rights Act – The right to receive Equal Treatment and prohibits discrimination including sex, race, religion and economic and social status in conjunction with the Equalities Act which includes age and disability.</p> <p>All staff and service users will be treated fairly and that their human rights will be respected.</p>	N/A	

	No adverse impact on human rights has been identified.		
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SECTION FIVE: OUR EQUALITY OBJECTIVES

Equality objectives	Implications	Mitigation Actions	Timescale and responsible department
Work together in partnership to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ promote equality, diversity and inclusion▪ facilitate community cohesion▪ support people with different backgrounds and lived experiences to get on well together	The site is a city wide provision. It will remain free open access for all and improvements will benefit walking and cycling and actively encourage nature based activities for all abilities.		This is part of Phase 3 of the Central Park Improvements Programme, which is a continuation of Phase 1 and 2 started in May 2017 and is delivered by the Environmental Planning Team.
Give specific consideration to care experienced people to improve their life outcomes, including access to training, employment and housing.	No adverse impact is anticipated.		
Build and develop a diverse workforce that represents the community and citizens it serves.	The project has had input from user-groups and design will embed areas for communal seating/picnic/meeting areas and interaction with nature		
Support diverse communities to feel confident to report crime and anti-social behaviour, including hate crime and hate incidents, and work with partners to ensure Plymouth is a city where everybody feels safe and welcome.	No adverse impact is anticipated.		

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Central Park Improvements Programme

Project details

Assessment author

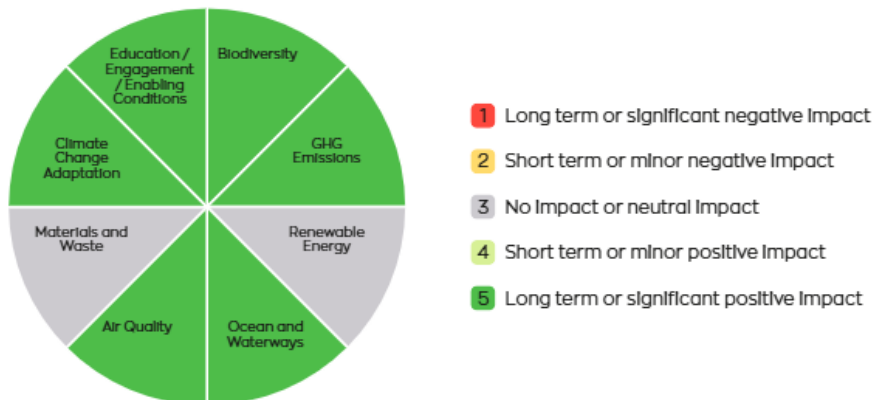
Liza Oxford

Project summary

A Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) has been installed in Central Park to reduce flooding in the park and surrounding catchment. The scheme, which is a model nature-based solution could be replicated across the city.

The scheme consists of new drainage channels down Coronation Avenue, two attenuation ponds and hydrobrakes to control the flow of water from the ponds.

Summary of assessment



Assessment scores

Biodiversity

Score

(5) Long lasting or extensive positive impact

Score justification

The project will provide a nature based solution to alleviate flood risks at the bottom of the park. The scheme

includes extensive planting and landscaping to fulfil and exceed the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) targets.

Mitigatory measures applied:

The creation of two attenuation ponds and swales to slow the flow of water running down Coronation Avenue and off the fields have been created to both mitigate and adapt to our changing climate.

GHG Emissions

Score

(5) Long lasting or extensive positive impact

Score justification

Very little canopy cover has been removed to create the alleviation ponds, New trees are being planted where there were no trees previously.

Mitigatory measures applied:

Planting more trees
Landscaping and planting

Renewable Energy

Score

(3) No impact or neutral impact

Score justification

The project will have no impact.

Ocean and Waterways

Score

(5) Long lasting or extensive positive impact

Score justification

The water will be captured in alleviation ponds and will reduce the flooding and sewer overflows that have previously occurred in the area.

Air Quality

Score

(5) Long lasting or extensive positive impact

Score justification

The project includes increasing vegetation and ground cover, planting trees and landscaping to contribute to better air quality in the park.

Materials and Waste

Score

(3) No impact or neutral impact

Score justification

The project will have no impact.

Climate Change Adaptation

Score

(5) Long lasting or extensive positive impact

Score justification

This project will lead to long term management of flood risk in the Barn Park area. There are built in systems to the scheme that can help to mitigate such as a hydro brake system to further slow the over flow of water

Education / Engagement / Enabling Conditions

Score

(5) Long lasting or extensive positive impact

Score justification

We already work with schools, residents, community groups and volunteers in the park. Educational and awareness raising walks and volunteering days are a regular activity.

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CAPITAL INVESTMENT BUSINESS CASE

Central Park Improvements Programme



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Executive Summary is a short summary of the Business Case and should be the last section you complete, this will enable you to extract or only the key facts from relevant sections i.e. 'project on a page'. The summary is a 'snapshot' of the business case which will need to tell the story and sell the proposal.

This proposal forms part of the programme of works to deliver Phase 3 of Central Park Masterplan (adopted by the Council in March 2013 and approved by Cabinet on 12th March 2013) to build a 'premier park for the people of Plymouth and outstanding venue of regional and national significance for active recreation and formal sport, culture, art and the natural environment.' See original Business Case attached for more details.

In line with strategic leisure and sports facilities plans, climate emergency action plan and the Joint Local Plan, key projects in Phase 3 include a sustainable urban drainage scheme that will benefit park users and downstream properties by protecting them from surface water flooding. The draw down of money will ensure the scheme is completed and the council can honour its pledge to make enhancements for the natural environment which will contribute a substantial biodiversity net gain, improve carbon sequestration and air quality. We will deliver on the reinstatement of two junior sport pitch as part of the Plymouth Pitch Strategy and endorsed by Sport England.

The purpose of this business case is to request approval to:

- add £237k of funds through a Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay (RCCO) into the Central Park Improvements Project within the capital programme
- add £100,271.00 grant from The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Urban Innovative Actions (UIA) programme - Green Minds
- Vire £500k from the existing Skid programme to the Environmental Improvement Programme within Street Services.
- £19,877.60 grant fund from Flood and Coastal Innovation Fund (FCRIP)

N.B. Any unspent funds will be returned to the Skid programme.

Following some of the issues that have been experienced during this project a lessons learned activity has already begun and has been shared with the Trefusis Park project team. This will continue during the final stages and at completion.

SECTION I: PROJECT DETAIL

Project Value (indicate capital or revenue)	£357,148.60 Capital	Contingency (show as £ and % of project value)	£0
Programme	Natural Infrastructure	Directorate	Growth
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Tom Briars-Delve	Service Director	Philip Robinson (Street Services)

Senior Responsible Officer (client)	Kathryn Deeney	Project Manager	Liza Oxford
Address and Post Code	Alma Road, Plymouth, PL3	Ward	Peverell
Current Situation: <i>(Provide a brief, concise paragraph outlining the current situation and explain the current business need, problem, opportunity or change of circumstances that needs to be resolved)</i>			
<p>A Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) has been installed in Central Park to reduce flooding in the park and surrounding catchment. The scheme, which is a model nature-based solution could be replicated across the city.</p> <p>The scheme consists of new drainage channels down Coronation Avenue, two attenuation ponds and hydrobrakes to control the flow of water from the ponds.</p> <p>The scheme has been on hold due to weather constraints earlier in the year and later contractual issues.</p> <p>While the main engineering works have been completed, a large amount of landscaping, seeding tree and shrub planting still need to happen. The installation of the landscaping works is an integral part of the plan and will contribute to the success of the scheme to slow the flow of water that runs down to the Barn Park entrance. Without the planting and landscaping PCC will be unable to fulfil their Biodiversity Net Gain target for the scheme.</p> <p>Flooding within the park and the wider catchment is an issue. Central Park sits in a Flood Risk Area where there are existing surface water flooding issues within the catchment which the park contributes to. Limited capacity in the sewer system causes Combined Sewer Overflow spills into Pennycomequick stream culverted watercourse. This reduces access and incurs a direct cost to the Council for clean-up and an indirect cost to local residents through the impact of surface water flooding on houses/streets downstream.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • poor quality sports pitches, preventing us from meeting need and demand for local sports provision as identified through the Playing Pitches Delivery Plan (2018-2021) • poor quality built and natural infrastructure, signage, paths and seating, creating barriers to access for the increasing number of local visitors 			
Proposal: <i>(Provide a brief, concise paragraph outlining your scheme and explain how the business proposal will address the current situation above or take advantage of the business opportunity) and (What would happen if we didn't proceed with this scheme?)</i>			
<p>Phase 3 is in the delivery stage for completing the Sustainable Drainage Improvements including landscaping, planting and reinstatement for football pitches. Completion is estimated as Autumn 2025</p> <p>The total of phase 3 is £3,073,758.</p> <p>If we do not proceed with the scheme, the Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • runs a reputational risk of not delivering against its original proposal • reduces the ability to deliver the health and wellbeing benefits made possible through high quality access to local greenspace • suffers the additional financial cost of dealing with ongoing flooding within the park and subsequently downstream within the Stonehouse Flood Risk catchment area • the Plymouth pitch deficit continues to suffer 			

Why is this your preferred option: *(Provide a brief explanation why this option is preferred) and (Explain why this is a good capital investment and how this would be an advantage for the Council) and (explain how the preferred option is the right balance between the risks and benefits identified below).*

- completes the sustainable drainage system to reduce flooding, reducing the risk of pollution and CSO incidents and increase the capacity of highway drainage and combined sewers
- creates an exemplar nature-based solution, which could be replicated in other areas of the city.
- contributes to improved air quality, heat reduction and carbon sequestration through increased tree planting, future-proofing the tree stock of the park
- increases biodiversity in the park to support connection to nature for health and wellbeing
- ensures Central Park meets the aspirations as the city's Flagship Park, bringing a more diverse and increased audience to the park, supporting active lifestyles and increasing income generation for the park enterprises and events

Option Analysis: *(Provide an analysis of 'other' options which were considered and discounted, the options considered must be a 'do Nothing' and 'do minimum' and 'viable alternative' options. A SWOT – Strength, Benefit, Opportunity, Threat analysis could be attached as an appendix).*

Do Nothing Option	Not undertake this decision
List Benefits:	None
List Risk / Issues:	Continued increase in flood risk to the catchment area. Cost and burden to Street Services.
Cost:	
Why did you discount this option	<p>Failure to complete the scheme could result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a reputational risk of not delivering against its original proposal • reduces the ability to deliver the health and wellbeing benefits made possible through high quality access to local greenspace • suffers the additional financial cost of dealing with ongoing flooding within the park and subsequently downstream within the Stonehouse Flood Risk catchment area • the Plymouth pitch deficit continues to suffer
Do Minimum Option	Partial completion of the scheme
List Benefits:	Limited reduction in risk
List Risk / Issues:	Continued flood risk to the catchment area. Cost and burden to Street Services
Cost:	
Why did you discount this option	<p>Failure to complete the scheme could result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a reputational risk of not delivering against its original proposal • reduces the ability to deliver the health and wellbeing benefits made possible through high quality access to local greenspace • suffers the additional financial cost of dealing with ongoing flooding within the park and subsequently downstream within the Stonehouse Flood Risk catchment area

	the Plymouth pitch deficit continues to suffer
Viable Alternative Option	Not an option
List Benefits:	
List Risk / Issues:	
Cost:	
Why did you discount this option	

Strategic Case:	
Which Corporate Plan priorities does this project deliver?	Green investment, jobs, skills and better education Make Plymouth a great place to grow up and grow old One of Europe's most vibrant waterfront cities, where an outstanding quality of life is enjoyed by everyone

Milestones and Date:		
Contract Award Date	Start On Site Date	Completion Date
September 2024	December 2024	October 2025

SECTION 2: PROJECT RISK, OUTCOMES AND BENEFITS

Risk Register: The Risk Register/Risk Log is a master document created during the early stages of a project. It includes information about each identified risk, level of risk, who owns it and what measures are in place to mitigate the risks (cut and paste more boxes if required).

Potential Risks Identified			Likelihood	Impact	Overall Rating
Risk	Reputational risk of not delivering against its original proposal		High	High	High
Mitigation	None - complete the programme		Low	Low	Low
Calculated risk value in £ (Extent of financial risk)	£50,000	Risk Owner			
Risk	Reduces the ability to deliver the health and wellbeing benefits made possible through high quality access to local greenspace.		Low	Low	Low
Mitigation			Select value	Select value	Select value
Calculated risk value in £ (Extent of financial risk)	£	Risk Owner			
Risk	Additional financial cost of dealing with ongoing flooding within the park and subsequently downstream within the Stonehouse Flood Risk catchment area.		High	High	High
Mitigation	Complete the programme and monitor the effect		Low	Low	Low
Calculated risk value in £ (Extent of financial risk)	£	Risk Owner			
Risk			Select value	Select value	Select value

Mitigation		Select value	Select value	Select value
Calculated risk value in £ (Extent of financial risk)	£	Risk Owner		

Outcomes and Benefits

List the outcomes and benefits expected from this project.

(An **outcome** is the result of the change derived from using the project's deliverables. This section should describe the anticipated outcome)

(A **benefit** is the measurable improvement resulting from an outcome that is perceived as an advantage. Benefits are the expected value to be delivered by the project, measurable whenever possible)

Financial outcomes and benefits:

Less flooding in the Barn Park area of the park, reducing Council costs dealing with flood management in the park and downstream

Non-financial outcomes and benefits:

OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES: This project will ensure Central Park is a Flagship Park for high quality physical activity, play and access to nature that is freely available, open at all times and for all ages and all demographics. Success will be measured by:

- Increased footfall in the park and usage of facilities
- Positive feedback from communities and city wide user groups about improvements

BENEFITS:

Increasing capacity of highway drainage and combined sewers through surface water separation and capacity improvements, the drainage scheme will reduce risk of pollution and CSO incident will benefit park users and households in the Stonehouse Flood Risk catchment.

For further information refer to the original business case attached

SECTION 3: CONSULTATION

Does this business case need to go to CMT	No	Date business case approved by CMT (if required)	
Did a mandate go via CPOG/CPB	Yes	Date Capital Mandate approved by CPB	19 February 2025

Does this project involve a corporately maintained property

No

Details of impact of this project ie cost saving from this project or additional requirements

Climate Impact Assessment

Upload Climate Impact Wheel

N/A

Summary of the anticipated impact of the proposal on the climate (including any proposed mitigations and impacts beyond 2030)	<p>The project aims to have a minimum impact on carbon emissions.</p> <p>The Sustainable drainage proposal is a nature-based solution that uses natural features to manage water and prevent flooding, avoiding the carbon impact that a hard engineered solution has.</p> <p>Tree planting and interpretation about the role of trees in carbon sequestration and air quality will improve carbon capture, knowledge and understanding.</p> <p>Working closely with the Sustainable Transport team the project enhances and promotes a strategic route for connecting walking and cycling through the city, encouraging a lower use of vehicles. In line with the Climate Emergency Action Plan the project as a whole aims to provide exemplars for nature based solutions for climate change and carbon capture, which can inspire and engage a wider audience</p>
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Confirm you have engaged with Procurement		Yes
Procurement route options considered for goods, services or works	<p>South West Highways were contracted to deliver the Central Park Ponds Project under the existing Term Maintenance Contract following an executive decision made by the Service Director for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure in May 22 (reference COD28 21/22).</p> <p>The additional funds will be used to complete the works to the North Pond, drainage and football pitches including all landscaping works.</p> <p>The North Pond works are being managed by the PCC Highways Team.</p> <p>If the situation changes and the recommended route no longer represents value for money, a discussion will take place between the department and procurement to agree an alternative procurement route. Any alternative procurement route will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Contract Standing Orders.</p>	
Procurements Recommended route.		
Who is your Procurement Lead?	Holly Golden	
Is this business case a purchase of a commercial property?		No
If yes then provide evidence to show that it is not 'primarily for yield'		

Which Members have you engaged with and how have they been consulted (including the Leader, Portfolio Holders and Ward Members)	Cllr Tom Briars-Delve
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Confirm you have taken necessary Legal advice, is this proposal State Aid	Yes
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compliant, if yes please explain why.	
Who is your Legal advisor you have consulted with?	PCC Legal Services Department

Equalities Impact Assessment completed <i>(This is a working document which should inform the project throughout its development. The final version will need to be submitted with your Executive Decision)</i>	No
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SECTION 4: FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT

FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT: In this section the robustness of the proposals should be set out in financial terms. The Project Manager will need to work closely with the capital and revenue finance teams to ensure that these sections demonstrate the affordability of the proposals to the Council as a whole. Exact amounts only throughout the paper - not to be rounded.

CAPITAL COSTS AND FINANCING

Breakdown of project costs including fees surveys and contingency	Prev. Yr.	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	Future Yrs.	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Landscaping works		£357,148.60						£357,148.60
Total capital spend		£357,148.60						£357,148.60

Provide details of proposed funding: *Funding to match with Project Value*

Breakdown of proposed funding	Prev. Yr.	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	Future Yrs.	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
RCCO		£237,000						£237,000
Green Minds grant		£100,721						£100,721
FCRIP grant		£19,877.60						£19,877.60
Total funding		£357,148.60						£357,148.60

S106 or CIL <i>(Provide Planning App or site numbers)</i>	
Which alternative external funding sources been explored	Explored S106 – nothing that can be applied to this
Are there any bidding constraints and/or any restrictions or conditions attached to your funding	RCCO to be used in current financial year
Tax and VAT implications	VAT Implications: The project will not directly generate any VAT-exempt income for the Council. The provision or enhancement of public open spaces for the public to enjoy free of charge are a non-business activity of the Council and so any VAT incurred by the Council on costs relating to the

	project will be fully recoverable and there will be no adverse impact on the Council's partial exemption position.
Tax and VAT reviewed by	Sarah Scott
Will this project deliver capital receipts? <i>(If so please provide details)</i>	No

REVENUE COSTS AND IMPLICATIONS

Cost of Developing the Capital Project (To be incurred at risk to Service area)

Total Cost of developing the project	N/A
Revenue cost code for the RCCO	5876/7701
Revenue costs incurred for developing the project are to be included in the capital total, some of the expenditure could be capitalised if it meets the criteria	Y/N
Budget Managers Name	Kat Deeney

Ongoing Revenue Implications for Service Area – RCCO only

	24/25 £	25/26 £	26/27 £	27/28 £	28/29 £	Future Yrs.
Service area revenue cost						
Other (eg: maintenance, utilities, etc)						
RCCO	237,000					
Total Revenue Cost (A)	237,000					
Service area revenue benefits/savings						
Annual revenue income (eg: rents, etc)						
Total Revenue Income (B)						
Service area net (benefit) cost (B-A)						
Has the revenue cost been budgeted for or would this make a revenue pressure	<p><u>RCCO – subject of this Business Case</u></p> <p>It was identified in 2023-24 that funding would be required for an expected capital project overspend on Central Park Suds in 24-25.</p> <p>Revenue funding was identified from an overall 2023-24 Place revenue budget underspend, and approved via a year end Corporate Health Adjustment (copy supplied)</p> <p><u>Revenue Implications of existing Approved Capital Project</u></p> <p>Central Park already has a maintenance plan via the Grounds Team. Colin Johnson and Jay Petrie are aware of these works.</p>					
Which cost centre would the revenue pressure be shown	CC5876	Has this been reviewed by the budget manager		Y		

Name of budget manager		Kat Deeney					
Loan value	n/a	Interest Rate	%	Term Years	n/a	Annual Repayment	£0
Revenue code for annual repayments		n/a					
Service area or corporate borrowing		n/a					
Revenue implications reviewed by		Sharon Gillett					

Version Control: (The version control table must be updated and signed off each time a change is made to the document to provide an audit trail for the revision and update of draft and final versions)

Author of Business Case	Date	Document Version	Reviewed By	Date
Liza Oxford	24/01/2025	VS 1.0	Lynn Walter	24/01/2025

SECTION 5: RECOMMENDATION AND ENDORSEMENT

It is recommended that the Leader of the Council:

- 1) To add the following sums to the capital programme:
 - a) £237k of funds through a Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay (RCCO) into the Central Park Improvements Project
 - b) £100,271.00 grant from The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Urban Innovative Actions (UIA) programme - Green Minds
 - c) £19,877.60 grant fund from Flood and Coastal Innovation Fund (FCRIP)
- 2) Vire £500k from the existing Skid programme to the Environmental Improvement Programme within Street Services.

N.B. Any unspent funds will be returned to the Skid programme

Councillor Tudor Evan OBE		Service Director: Philip Robinson	
Either email dated:	27/03/2025	Either email dated:	Date 24/01/2025
Or signed:		Signed: 	
Date:		Date: 24/01/2025	

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