

EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Cabinet Member



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

Executive Decision Reference Number – L27 21/22

Decision	
1	Title of decision: Central Park Improvements Programme Phase 3
2	Decision maker (Cabinet member name and portfolio title): Councillor Nick Kelly, Leader of the Council
3	Report author and contact details: Zoe Sydenham, Natural Infrastructure Projects and Partnerships Manager T: 01752 307849 E: zoe.sydenham@plymouth.gov.uk
4	<p>Decision to be taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notes the allocation of £9 million (2017-2021) for the project within the Capital Budget, agreed at Council on 27 February 2017 Approves Phase 3 of the Business Case Allocates an additional £3,073,758 to the Capital Programme for Phase 3 with £2,950,000 funded by corporate borrowing and £123,757.88 secured S106 funds. Authorises the procurement process Delegates the award of the contracts referred to in the Briefing Paper to Paul Barnard, Service Director for Strategic Planning & Infrastructure
5	<p>Reasons for decision:</p> <p>Central Park is one of the most prominent parks in the City and provides equality of access for walking, cycling, play and a range of sports. It is a key resource for people without access to their own green space or funds to pay for gyms/other sports.</p> <p>This project will further develop the park to meet the aspirations set out in the 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.'</p> <p>Phase 3 provides the opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> implement a sustainable drainage system to reduce flooding, reducing the risk of pollution and CSO incidents and increase the capacity of highway drainage and combined sewers create an exemplar nature-based solution, which could be replicated in other areas of

	<p>the city.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contribute to improved air quality, heat reduction and carbon sequestration through increased tree planting, future-proofing the tree stock of the park • increase biodiversity in the park to support connection to nature for health and wellbeing • 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	<p>Alternative options considered and rejected:</p> <p>Plymouth City Council has two main commitments to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have committed to deliver the publicly available Masterplan for Central Park that was adopted in March 2013 and has been identified as a priority; <p>As the largest park in the City, Central Park is a major asset and leisure and recreational hub belonging to Plymouth City Council.</p> <p>The criteria to measure each of the options against are:</p> <p>a) opportunity for community and partner involvement</p> <p>b) progression of objectives of the Central Park Masterplan noted in the Joint Local Plan.</p> <p>The options available:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do nothing – PCC will miss the opportunity to make improvements that will reduce flooding and its associated costs within the park; fail to meet the local need and demand for high quality sports provision as identified through the Playing Pitches Delivery Plan (2018-2021); create barriers to access for the increasing number of local visitors (in particular since COVID) due to poor quality infrastructure (paths, signage, seating). This will cause a greater financial pressure in the future when we are forced to repair parts of the park that cause a health and safety risk. The reputation of the Council will suffer as we have already announced the plans to fully refurbish the park and invested time and resources to develop the proposals for planning permission 2. Reduce the aspirations of the drainage solution and associated budget – The scheme would have limited potential to provide an improved community facility or to deliver against the Council's biodiversity and climate change goals. It would require time and cost to redesign and prepare a new submission to planning, which may not be approved by planning. The reputation of the Council will suffer as per option 1 and due to changing the design and aspirations of the drainage solution to one that is less beneficial for the community and park. 3. Pursue the project to deliver the Masterplan aspirations to develop the full capacity of the park's potential – this option is most likely to meet criteria a & b. <p>The preferred option is that option 3 is taken forward because this will enable us to deliver PCC's wider Corporate objectives; the aspirations in the Joint Local Plan; lower ongoing maintenance costs for the park; make the best use of the park for opportunities to improve the city's health and well-being and continue to support PCC's reputation as One Council that delivers against its aspirations.</p>

7	<p>Financial implications and risks:</p> <p>The total value of Phase 3 is £3,073,758 of which £123,757.88 is secured S106 funds and the remainder corporate borrowing, of which a provision has been made for within the revenue budget. The programme will continue to seek additional funding to replace the corporate borrowing ask.</p>			
8	<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? (please contact Democratic Support for further advice)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Per the Constitution, a key decision is one which:</p> <p>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</p> <p>in the case of revenue projects when the decision involves entering into new commitments and/or making new savings in excess of £1 million</p> <p>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.</p>
	<p>If yes, date of publication of the notice in the Forward Plan of Key Decisions</p>	<p>N/A</p>		
9	<p>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:</p>	<p><u>Growing:</u> The delivery of the Masterplan will directly support the Council's vision for the City, supporting its ability to deliver growth by providing high quality and accessible green infrastructure to meet both the current and anticipated future recreational and leisure needs of Plymouth. The café, tennis courts and Community Sports Hub will also provide new employment.</p> <p><u>Caring:</u> The new approach to collaborative working to achieve the Park enhancements will empower communities to be involved in decision making and the delivery of the improvements. The health benefits of accessing the natural environment are well documented. The project will build on existing work to remove physical and perceptual barriers to accessing natural space and will encourage community members to become more actively involved in their local site. Opportunities that can support social cohesion will be explored through the project delivery.</p> <p><u>Confident:</u> The Masterplan provides an opportunity to focus the delivery of the Parks enhancement in line with One City Council aspirations. Improvements to the overall site will support individuals, community groups and visitors to the city to engage in physical</p>		

		<p>activity, play and build social networks.</p> <p>Delivers JLP Policy PLY 19 Central Park - Strategic Green Space Site: 2. Enhancing existing and creating new facilities that develop the park's role as a premier park for the city and region whilst being sensitive to the park's natural and historic features.</p> <p>Meets Strategic Objective 4 of Plymouth Plan: 'Delivering a Healthy City' (5) health-promoting natural and built environments, community facilities and public spaces and accessible local services.</p> <p>Delivers Plymouth Plan Policy 14: 'Optimising the health and wellbeing benefits of the natural environment'.</p> <p>(4) Providing high quality outdoor facilities that encourage people to participate in sport and active recreation</p> <p>Supports delivery of Plymouth Plan DEV29: 'to protect and support a diverse and multi-functional network of green space (including play space).'</p>
10	Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact)	The project aims to have a minimum impact on carbon emissions. The Sustainable drainage proposal is a nature based solution that uses natural features to manage water and prevent flooding, minimizing the carbon impact that a hard engineered solution has.

Urgent decisions

11	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 13a)
12a	Reason for urgency:			
12b	Scrutiny Chair Signature:		Date	
	Scrutiny Committee name:			
	Print Name:			

Consultation			
13a	Are any other Cabinet members' portfolios affected by the decision?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		No	<input type="checkbox"/>
		(If no go to section 14)	
13b	Which other Cabinet member's portfolio is affected by the decision?	Councillor Mrs Maddi Bridgeman Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Scene	
13c	Date Cabinet member consulted	25 January 2022	
14	Has any Cabinet member declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
		No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		If yes, please discuss with the Monitoring Officer	
15	Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted?	Name	Anthony Payne
		Job title	Strategic Director for Place
		Date consulted	24 January 2022
Sign-off			
16	Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:	Democratic Support (mandatory)	DS98 21/22
		Finance (mandatory)	ba.21.22.240
		Legal (mandatory)	MS/20.01.21
		Human Resources (if applicable)	
		Corporate property (if applicable)	
		Procurement (if applicable)	
Appendices			
17	Ref.	Title of appendix	
	A	Briefing report for publication	
	B	Equalities Impact Assessment	
	C	Central Park Business Case Phase 3	
Confidential/exempt information			
18a	Do you need to include any confidential/exempt information?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
		If yes, prepare a second, confidential ('Part II') briefing report and indicate why it is not for	

		No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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)				
		Exemption Paragraph Number						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18b	Confidential/exempt briefing report title:							
Background Papers								
19	Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. 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 I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.							
Title of background paper(s)		Exemption Paragraph Number						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cabinet Member Signature								
20	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 and those who do not. For further details please see the EIA attached.							
Signature				Date of decision	31 January 2022			
Print Name	Councillor Nick Kelly							