

Housing and Community Service Scrutiny Panel



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| Date of meeting: | 04 December 2024 |
| Title of Report: | Central Park Petition – Response Report |
| Lead Member: | Councillor Tom Briars-Delve (Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change) |
| Lead Strategic Director: | Karime Hassan (Interim Strategic Director for Growth) |
| Author: | Kat Deeney |
| Contact Email: | Kathryn.deeney@plymouth.gov.uk |
| Your Reference: | 241204 Central Park Petition - Scrutiny Response Report FINAL |
| Key Decision: | No |
| Confidentiality: | Part I - Official |

Purpose of Report

The Ponds project has been the most recent project to come forward as part of the Central Park improvements. The project is the third phase of the original Central Park project. The business case for the project was approved on the 21st of January 2022. The Central Park Ponds Project aims to transform water from a problem into a resource. The project involves re-landscaping an area of the park to provide a nature-based solution to flooding by using a sustainable drainage system to manage surface water and provide a space for wildlife and people.

This report responds to the petition submitted to the Council which raised 4 key issues. The ePetition ran from 16/07/2024 to 31/08/2024.

Recommendations and Reasons

1. Note the report and its response to the petition.

Reason: The petition was started at a time when the project delivery had been stalled whereas the current situation is that the project delivery is underway, adhering to the approved entering the final stages of delivery.

Alternative options considered and rejected

1. Look to revise the plans. This has been discounted as the project is being delivered to the approved plans and is nearly complete.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

Central Park is an allocation in the Joint Local Plan PLY19.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

No new implications as the project has an approved business plan and we are not proposing any changes to the delivery plans as a result of the petition.

Financial Risks

No new risks.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

The projects is to deliver a Sustainable Urban Drainage system to help the city respond to the challenges of climate change, particularly increased rainfall, and improve the biodiversity value of this part of the park. The project will therefore have a positive impact on the environment.

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

** When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give 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.*

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Appendices

**Add rows as required to box below*

| Ref. | Title of Appendix | Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>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.</i> | | | | | | |
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Background papers:

**Add rows as required to box below*

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished 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.

| Title of any background paper(s) | Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>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.</i> | | | | | | |
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Sign off:

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Karime Hassan

Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes

Date agreed: 26/11/2024

Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Briars-Delve, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change

Date approved: 22/11/2024