

Subject:	Improvements to Victoria Park Wheeled Sports facilities	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	18 th September 2024
Report of:	Head of Environmental Services	Lead Member:	Environment and Corporate Services
Key Decision:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached: N/A
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached: N/A
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1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That Cabinet approves the improvements to the wheeled sports facilities at Victoria Park.
- 1.2 That Cabinet notes and approves the bid to FCC Community Action Fund and grants authority to officers to submit external funding bids relevant to this project.
- 1.3 If successful, delegate the acceptance of the external funding to the Head of Environmental Services in consultation with the Lead Member for Environment and Corporate Services.
- 1.4 In the event that a bid is not successful, authority given to officers to deliver an alternative scheme and to appoint a contractor in line with the Council's Constitution, provided the revised design is of value and provides a greatly improved experience.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Improvements to the wheeled sports area are the priority for development in the Victoria Park Masterplan.
- Public Consultation has been undertaken and there is strong support for the improvements.
- The project will be funded through a combination of external funding and RBC capital.
- In order to comply with grant application requirements a tender process has been completed in line with the Council's Constitution in order to appoint an approved provider subject to receipt of grant.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Victoria Park Masterplan was created by the Council in consultation with residents and park users in 2022.
- 3.2 The Council has been working with the local community and Councillors on the Masterplan since 2022, and this has so far delivered much needed improvements to the roads and footpaths, an increase in number and quality of items of street furniture and a measured route around the park which has since been utilised by Junior Parkrun. The next priority to address is to update and improve the offer of the wheeled sports area.
- 3.3 The current equipment is steel fabricated and is coming towards the end of its life in terms of safety for users. The design is very basic and users have voiced a desire for a park with more interesting flows and a range of features that suit all abilities and types of wheeled equipment.
- 3.4 Specific consultation has taken place with the wider public and in local schools in 2023 to give the team firm ideas around design and features.

3.5 There is a capital sum for use within the park and this will be supplemented by bids to external funders to form the project budget.

4. DETAILS

4.1 Funding applications are proposed to the following sources:

Lancashire Environmental Fund- £40,000
FCC Community Action Fund- £100,000

4.2 The Council approved the addition to the Capital Programme of the Victoria Park Improvements scheme in February 2022. It is proposed that £35,000 from this scheme is used as match funding, along with £20,000 UKSPF capital funding to increase chances of success in the bids mentioned above. This this will give an approximate budget of £195,000 for completion of the works, development costs and third party contributions. The third party contributions are payments that have been made by the Council or community group to the funders to release the grants.

4.3 The scheme is dependent on the success of funding bids and securing the target budget. If one or both funding bids are unsuccessful the project scope will be revised, a bid to an alternative funder will be submitted; or, the project will not go ahead. The project will only be revised and delivered if the design can offer a significantly improved facility for users.

4.4 The outcome of the funding bids to LEF and FCC will be known by the end of September and if successful, the project will progress through the procurement process, ready for delivery in early 2025.

4.5 Due to the budget involved to deliver the improvements, approval is sought from Cabinet to accept the external funding should bids be successful and to award the contract to the proposed contractor.

5. RISK

All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- Failure to invest in the site will risk deterioration leading to increased maintenance liability and health and safety issues.
- Extensive consultation has taken place with local residents who have voiced their desire for the area to be improved. To ignore this would negatively affect the Council's reputation.
- Failure to attract the funding. The risk is mitigated by the Council meeting the grant application criteria. Further funding would be identified in the event that the applications are not successful.

6. FINANCE

6.1 The expenditure and financing for the scheme are set out in the table below:-

Project Budget		£
Expenditure		
Victoria Park Improvements		195,000
Total Expenditure		195,000
Financed By		
RBC Victoria Park Improvements Capital Scheme	Secured	35,000
RBC UKSPF - Victoria Park Capital Scheme	Secured	20,000
Lancashire Environmental Fund	Not Secured	40,000
FCC Community Action Fund	Not Secured	100,000
Total Income		195,000
Surplus/ (-) Deficit		0

6.2 The RBC match will be funded from a combination of the Victoria Park Capital budget and UKSPF. Should the external funding bids be unsuccessful the scheme will be revised accordingly.

7. LEGAL

7.1 Under the Constitution, approval must be obtained from the Corporate Management Team and Cabinet to incur expenditure over £100k. Corporate Management Team has considered this matter and recommends its approval.

7.2 Under the Constitution, acceptance of grant funding over £100k and up to and including £250k may be authorised by Cabinet.

7.3 All works contracts must be carried out in compliance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and the grant funding requirements of each funder.

8. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Community consultation has been carried out in order to inform the bids and meet local demands. There are no other policy or equality implications arising from this report.

9. REASON FOR DECISION

9.1 The development of Victoria Park Play wheeled sports will mean that the Council is investing to ensure the continued delivery. Much needed refurbishments of the existing area will ensure it is safe and remains an asset to residents. In addition, provision of challenging and exciting equipment for wheeled sports enthusiasts will mean the park addresses a shortfall of first class facilities in the west of the borough.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Victoria Park Wheeled Sports	CMT 14.5.24