

SPECIAL URGENCY DECISION

Leader of Council:

Name: Councillor Alyson Barnes
Date agreed: 1st May 2024

Chair of Overview and
Scrutiny:

Name: Councillor Samara Barnes
Date agreed: 22nd April 2024

Decision Taker:

Rob Huntington

Details of Decision and
Reasoning:

Decision:

To accept the grant from FCC of £99,250 for the redevelopment of Edgeside Park Wheeled Sports facility and give Officers permission to tender the work and add to the Capital Programme.

The decision to grant authority to deliver this project falls outside of the forward plan timescales and there is not a Cabinet meeting within the required timescales to approve the decision.

The Masterplan for the Park identified the current skate park as in need of upgrading as part of the improvements. The current facility consists of several steel fabricated ramps that have been in situ for almost 20 years. They have deteriorated over time and soon will become a health and safety liability.

Therefore, a funding application was made in September 2023 to the FCC Communities fund for £99,250 towards the installation of a new concrete facility that accommodates wheeled sports activities for all ages and abilities. This will be used in combination with £35,000 Section 106 monies allocated towards the park from the Dark Lane development. The total project budget is therefore £134,250.

The funding from FCC has a deadline for spending of 12 months from the offer letter date. The project therefore needs to be completed on the ground and all funding claimed and received by this date. The process to this point includes a tender process to get a specialist contractor on board, who will then need to work with local skaters to confirm designs, before construction takes place. The physical works are likely to be carried out in months of poor weather which will slow the build.

The next Cabinet is not until June 2024 and waiting for authority until this time will mean that 3 months has elapsed without the project being started, meaning completion within deadlines would be unlikely.

Decision to be taken by:

Chief Executive

Documents to be considered by the decision taker:

Grant Offer Letter

Implications:

Legal – In order of having a realistic chance of completing the project within the funding deadlines imposed by FCC, it is important that the project is authorised straight away to allow the tender process to begin. Leaving this until June would severely affect the chances of completion in time.

Finance – Although the grant amount falls within Senior Management's level of authority, the total project budget means that it requires the approval of Cabinet and for the scheme to be added to the Capital Programme.

Status:

Open- for publication

Date:

2nd May 2024

NOTES

A Key Decision is defined as one that either:

- a) is, in value worth more than £100,000, or
 - b) has a **significant impact** because (for example) it either:
 - (i) affects individuals or organisations outside the Borough; or
 - (ii) will have a long term (more than 5 years) or permanent effect on the council or the borough.
1. Status - Is the issue an open and public matter or is it a private and excluded matter as described in Schedule 12 A of the Local Government Act 1972. If it is an open matter it is for publication. If it is a private matter it is not for publication and you state the reason why and the appropriate paragraph number of Schedule 12A.
 2. Implications – List any financial staffing and legal implications and remember to consult with legal, human resources and finance. Also consider implications such as LA21 Environment, Human Rights Act 1998. Equal opportunities, Community Safety, IT, Land and Property and Partnership Working.
 3. When the decision has been made and the form signed by the decision taker and the portfolio holder the form should be sent to the Committee Services Manager.