

# REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1st November 2016

### Parks Infrastructure/Use of Section 106 Monies

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Pat Witherspoon
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	John Godwin
Ward(s) Affected	Astwood Bank and Feckenham & Matchborough
Ward Councillor(s) Consulted	Yes
Non Key Decision	

#### 1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 This report overviews a number of potential improvements to the infrastructure within a number of parks and green spaces design to increase usage and participation and requests Members approval for the use of Section 106 funding to support these schemes.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive is asked to RESOLVE that:

##### 2.1 The schemes identified in Section 4 of this report are approved as follows:

- a) Astwood Bank Outdoor Gym - £4,005
- b) Astwood Bank Teenage Play (Skate Ramps) - £30,426
- c) Astwood Bank Improvements at Overdale Park - £5,645
- d) Matchborough Play facilities - £29,372

2.1 The Executive is asked to RECOMMEND that the capital programme is increased by £69,448 funded by S106 receipts and is revised to reflect these approvals.

#### 3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 As members will be aware the Leisure & Cultural Services department work very closely with colleagues in the Planning Section in the creation of Section 106 Agreements to ensure that new developments provide suitable facilities and infrastructure to meet the need that they create. In some cases appropriate off site contributions are agreed which the Council then uses to enhance existing facilities and/or create additional activities to meet local demand.
- 3.2 The following proposals reflect a number of enhancements that the department wishes to make using Section 106 funding to offer a wider and improved range of open space and fixed equipment within Parks and Green Spaces.

All the schemes proposed are designed to support the Council's Strategic Purposes and the actions contained within the upcoming Corporate Plan, contribute to wider

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community objectives and those of our Partners across the Borough by tackling sedentary lifestyles :

### **Astwood Bank (Crossroads at the Junction of Sambourne Lane and Evesham Road) – Outdoor Gym**

The 106 Sports contribution from Planning 106 agreement 2014/169/FUL is requested to support existing approved 106 funds for outdoor gym at Astwood Bank Public Open Space. This will increase the variety of equipment on offer to improve the range of exercises that can be undertaken, improve access for local people to become and remain active and ensure that the objective of the Section 106 agreement are met.

### **Astwood Bank Crossroads at the Junction of Sambourne Lane and Evesham Road) Teenage Play Provision – Funded from Planning 106 agreement 2014/169/FUL**

- 3.2 The Council completed the refurbishment of Toddler/Junior Play at Astwood Bank in Spring 2016 and it is now proposed that the refurbishment of Teenage play facility on the open space at Astwood Bank is undertaken using the available funds for the area. The existing skate facility is constructed of metal ramps which has received historic concerns & ongoing comment from local residents due to the noise generated by the material used. The new provision proposed will remove these issues by using concrete ramps to reduce noise level.
- 3.3 The ramps also have open access underneath and this allows young people to congregate under them and this has resulted in a number of Anti social behaviour issues including fires.
- 3.4 The concrete ramps are more sustainable and hard wearing due to the nature of the material and will mean that the future maintenance requirement for the area will be significantly reduced.

### **Overdale Park (Overdale Road, Astwood Bank B96 6DF) Public Open Space - Funded from Planning 106 agreement 2014/169/FUL**

- 3.5 Members are being asked to approve this funding to support the ongoing improvements to the open space at Overdale Park. This funding will enable the pathway network to be improved to enhance access and egress to increase the appeal and usage of the area and address maintenance concerns that currently exist and to ensure we minimise any risk to the Council from slips, trips or falls.

### **Matchborough Play Facility – Funded from Planning 106 agreements 09/123**

- 3.8 The 106 contributions for improvements to play improvements at Matchborough are to be aligned with the work of the 'Matchborough Regeneration Project' and are to be included within the planning exercise currently being progressed. This funding will allow work to be undertaken at the earliest opportunity and ensure that as improvements are identified within the overall project that these can be delivered in line with the objectives of the overall scheme. It will also allow officers to ensure that we do not risk clawback on the funding streams should the works be agreed and then require member approval to bring them forward.

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### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications with regard to this report as:
- 4.1.1 All design and project management costs for this project will be funded from Section 106 Funds;
  - 4.1.2 Consultation cost on designs and layouts will be met by existing budgets (officer time);
  - 4.1.3 Ongoing maintenance implications will be met from existing resources. However by making this investment we anticipate that the actual cost to the Council will be reduced in the short to medium term.
- 4.2 All schemes put forward have been reviewed with colleagues from the finance and legal service teams to ensure the use of the funding is correct and this has been confirmed.
- 4.3 Funding requirements are as follows:
- 4.3.1 Astwood Bank Outdoor Gym - £4,005
  - 4.3.2 Astwood Bank Teenage Play (Skate Ramps) - £30,426
  - 4.3.3 Astwood Bank Improvements at Overdale Park - £5,645
  - 4.3.4 Matchborough Play facilities - £29,372
- Total Funding to be made available - £69,448

### **5. Legal Implications**

- 5.1 There are no legal implications contained within this report. All contracted works will be tendered within the procurement guidelines and use standard RBC services contracts.
- 5.2 All projects requested meet the requirements of the relevant Section 106 Agreement and all locations selected reflect the locality requirements contained within them.

### **6. Service / Operational Implications**

- 6.1 The projects requested will be managed and maintained from existing resources and are standard schemes that the team have carried out on numerous occasions.
- 6.2 All works will be carried out in Q4 of this financial year to ensure the disruption caused to users is minimal and that they are completed in good time for next year's peak usage times of spring and summer.
- 6.3 As stated previously all schemes are designed to continue to corporate purposes and priorities, partner objectives and increase the use of the Parks and Green Spaces.

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### **7. Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 7.1 Increased quality of provision will lead to higher customer satisfaction with the Council and its services.
- 7.2 There are no equality and diversity implications.
- 7.3 During the various consultation periods officers will identify the needs for disabled users and endeavour to maximise inclusive provision and ensure site access arrangements will be enhanced to support such usage.

### **8. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 8.1 There are no risks associated with these projects over and above normal process for installing new facilities within the parks and open spaces. These implications will be reviewed and scrutinised within the contractual frameworks used within the procurement process.

### **9. APPENDICES**

None

### **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

### **11. KEY – N/A**

### **AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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