

THE EXECUTIVE

2 AUGUST 2005

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT

This report is submitted under Agenda Item 9. The Chairman will be asked to decide if it can be considered at the meeting under the provisions of Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 as a matter of urgency, so as to avoid delay in the commencement of works on site and expenditure of the funding this financial year.

Title: Goresbrook Park: New Capital Project 2005/06	For Decision
<p>Summary:</p> <p>Improvements to Goresbrook Park were originally part of the A13 Artscape Programme and were intended to be undertaken in a number of phases. As a result the end of Single Regeneration Bid funding and high levels of vandalism the remaining works in the scheme were deferred pending a further review of the needs of the Park in association with local residents. Residents and local Councillors are still keen for the improvements to the Park to be undertaken.</p> <p>The project has been through the CPMO process and has obtained “Four Green” status. The project will include provision of perimeter security measures and play equipment, together with a dedicated Play Projects Officer for two years. The Projects Play Office will project manage the scheme as well as build play capacity and develop community ownership of the Park and work on the production of a Park Master Plan and Management Plan for the remainder of the Park to be implemented as part of the rollout of Parks and Green Spaces Strategy Programme 2006/07 onwards.</p> <p>Wards Affected: Goresbrook Ward</p>	
<p>Implications:</p> <p>Financial:</p> <p>The total Capital costs for the elements are £637,000. This could be funded from the Revenue underspends in 2004/05 reported to the Executive on 12 July 2005. The anticipated annual Revenue costs will be in the order of £8,000 per financial year, and this can be met from existing Leisure and Community budgets.</p> <p>Legal:</p> <p>None.</p> <p>Risk Management:</p> <p>The appointment of a Play Project Officer, to act as the project manager for this scheme, and this will provide a dedicated resource to ensure the project is delivered on time and within budget.</p>	

Social Inclusion and Diversity:

The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 places a requirement on local authorities to make an assessment of the impact of new and revised policies in terms of race equality. Existing policies have already been subjected to impact assessments. This Authority has adopted an approach of extending the impact to cover gender, disability, sexuality, faith, age and community cohesion.

As this report does not concern a new or revised policy there are no specific adverse impacts insofar as this report is concerned.

Crime and Disorder:

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a responsibility on local authorities to consider the crime and disorder implications of any proposals. In relation to this report the proposals are aimed at reducing the amount of anti-social behaviour by improving perimeter security to the Park and providing facilities to engage local young people in constructive activity and thus creating a sense of community ownership, especially by young people, of the area.

Recommendation

The Executive is asked to:

1. Agree to the inclusion of the scheme for Goresbrook Park in the 2005/06 Capital Programme, to the sum of £637,000 as profiled in paragraph 3.4.2 and funded as detailed in paragraph 3.1;
2. Note that it is intended to undertake full tendering procedures and to advise, in accordance with Constitution (Contract Rule 3.6), if Councillors wish to be involved with the packaging and specification of the above mentioned contract and decide the nature of their involvement in the subsequent evaluation and award of the contract;
3. Subject to 2 above, to authorise the Director of Regeneration and Environment, in association with the Director of Finance and Solicitor for the Council, to acceptance of the tender(s); and
4. Reprofile the Capital Project for regeneration initiatives of £1m from 2005/06 into 2006/07.

Reasons

To assist the Council in achieving its Community Priorities of *“Raising General Pride in the Borough”*, and *“Making Barking and Dagenham Cleaner, Greener and Safer”*.

Contact Officer:

Allan Aubrey

Title:

Head of Leisure and
Community

Contact Details:

Tel: 020 8227 3576

Fax: 020 8227 3129

Minicom: 020 8227 3034

E-mail: allan.aubrey@lbbd.gov.uk

1. Background

- 1.1 Goresbrook Park improvements were originally part of the A13 Artscape Programme and the scheme secured external funding (principally SRB funding) for a range of environmental improvements and new teenage facilities in 2001/2002. Phase One improvements were subjected to high levels of vandalism and following receipt of a petition; the Assembly agreed to defer Phase Two of the Goresbrook Park Master Plan and agreed that a revised Master Plan should be developed for the Park. (Assembly Minute 88, 4 February 2004 refers).
- 1.2 Due to the premature ending of the Artscape Programme, further phases of the project were cancelled, and this has enabled a review of what is practical to install in this Park and the needs of the surrounding community. There has also been ongoing demand at the Community Forum and from Ward Councillors to address a number of issues within the Park.
- 1.3 Project Objectives

The key objectives of the Goresbrook Park Project

- Provision of a combined Neighbourhood Exercise Activity Playground (NEAP) / Local Exercise Activity Playground (LEAP) standard playground in the broad area of the existing redundant playground site.
- Appointment of a Play Projects Officer on a fixed-term two-year contract to build play capacity within the Park, consult on design and develop community ownership and undertake infrastructure management for the play area.
- Security Improvements by
 - the closure of two access-points into the Park,
 - the installation of squeeze barriers, knee high railings around the Park boundary to prevent motorcycle access and securing the remainder of the park boundary, which abuts residential properties.
- Production of a Park Master Plan and Management Plan to identify a programme of improvements for the rest of the Park that will be implemented as part of the rollout of Parks and Green Spaces Strategy Programme 2006/07 onwards.

Timescale: Play facilities, fencing and infrastructure

Inception and Feasibility	July / August 2005
Stage 1 Consultation	August / September 2005
Procurement (tenders and use of Term Contractors)	September 2005

Stage 2 Consultation	October / November 2005
Executive and other approvals (if necessary)	October / November 2005
Appointment	November 2005
Construction	December 2005 / January 2006
Completion	March 2006
Handover	Easter 2006

2. Policy and Other Issues

- 2.1 The Project has clear links to the Council's Strategic Balanced Scorecard Objectives of meeting customer needs first, providing accessible local services, improving standards, excellence through partnerships and performance and accountability.
- 2.2 The Project also links into the Leisure and Community Services Balanced Scorecard of high quality leisure services, maximise inward investment, increase levels of satisfaction and reducing barriers to participation.
- 2.3 In a Pan-London context this project relates to Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) Thames Gateway Objectives – improving the environmental quality and image of the area and provide enhancements to open spaces and local services that will improve the quality of the area to live and to work.
- 2.4 Whilst not a Government Initiative – this project also supports the delivery of the Mayor of London's Children and Young People's Strategy – Making London Better for Children.
- 2.5 If the decision is not taken to undertake the project a major opportunity to revitalise Goresbrook Park as an early scheme within the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy will be lost. If this project is not progressed local people, especially young people will not be able to access free modern play facilities within the Park. In addition ongoing anti-social behaviour issues would continue to be a constraint on restricted Revenue budgets.
- 2.6 The work will not exceed EU Procurement Regulations thresholds and it is intended that the project will be tendered in accordance with Council's Constitution. The contract is anticipated to be of a value which will require Executive approval to tender and acceptance of the tender since individual scheme elements may exceed £200,000. It is intended to undertake full tendering procedures, but in order that the works can start on site at the earliest opportunity and to ensure the expenditure of the funds in the 2005/06 financial year it is recommended that the acceptance of the tenders is delegated to the Director of Regeneration and Environment, in association with the Director of Finance and Solicitor for the Council.

3. Financial Implications

3.1 To date funding has not been secured to deliver the works from the original project and additional works to improve security in the Park within the existing Capital Programme for the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy. This is the result of other priorities needing to be addressed first. The £637,000 could be funded from the Revenue underspends in 2004/05 reported to the Executive on 12 July 2005.

3.2 It should however be noted that by using the funds for this purpose will prevent the resources being used on other projects (Capital or Revenue) at a later date.

3.3 The Capital Programme is currently showing a slippage and it is recommended that the £1m project for regeneration initiatives be reprofiled into 2006/07 from 2005/06, to reflect a more realistic spend profile.

3.4 Capital Issues

3.4.1 The scheme has been through the CPMO process and achieved "Four Greens" status.

3.4.2 As mentioned above the total Capital costs for the elements are £637,000 and this is inclusive of all fees, contingencies, recruitment and on-costs. The anticipated expenditure is shown below.

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	TOTAL
Play Projects Officer	£20,000	£40,000	£20,000	£80,000
Park Master Plan and Management Plan (inc. consultation):	£15,000	£5,000	£0	£20,000
Play Facilities:	£220,000	£30,000	£0	£250,000
Fencing and Infrastructure:	£282,000	£5,000		£287,000
TOTAL	£537,000	£80,000	£20,000	£637,000

3.5 Revenue Issues

3.5.1 Increased Revenue costs for ongoing playground maintenance and boundary repairs are estimated at £8,000 and will be funded through a re-prioritisation of existing budgets. However, it should be noted that this will reduce the funding available for other maintenance across the Borough's parks.

3.5.2 It is also hoped that efficiency savings maybe generated through a reduction in maintenance and repair spend, mainly as a result in reduction in vandalism, but this can only be quantified at post project completion.

4. Staffing Implications

4.1 The Play Projects Officer post will be essential to ensure the delivery of this scheme as there are insufficient resources in house to undertake this work.

4.2 The post is anticipated to be of an S02 grade, subject to job evaluation, and the costs of this post, including overheads, is anticipated to be £40,000 per financial year.

4.3 As the post will be on a fixed-term two year contract there will be no long-term overheads or potential redundancy costs to the Council.

5. Consultation

5.1 Officers

The following Officers have been consulted on this report and are happy with the report as it stands:

Corporate Strategy

Muhammad Saleem, Solicitor to the Council

Robin Hanton, Corporate Lawyer and Deputy Monitoring Officer

Housing and Health

Jeff Elsom, Crime and Anti Social Behaviour Unit Manager.

Regeneration and Environment

Maureen Perkins, Head of Human Resources (DRE)

Finance

Julie Parker, Director of Finance

Alexander Anderson, Head of Finance (DRE)

Tony Middleton, Management Auditor

5.2 Councillors

The following Councillors have been advised of the proposals:

Portfolio Holders

Lead Member for Regeneration, Councillor Kallar.

Community Development and Safety Portfolio (Parks), Councillor Geddes

Adult Social Services and Lifelong Learning Portfolio (Finance), Councillor Bramley

Goresbrook Ward Councillors

Councillors Thomas, Porter and Northover.

Background Papers

- Executive Report and Minute 65, 12 July 2005. Re: Council's Revenue and Capital Outturn 2004/2005
- Goresbrook Park A13 Consultation (March 2000)
- Parks and Green Spaces Strategy (May 2003)
- River, Village and Community Action Plan (January 2004)
- Assembly Petition (Minute 88 4 Feb 2004) requested that the Council took action to address anti-social behaviour within the Park.