

Notice of Non-key Executive Decision

Subject Heading:	Application of National Highways Funding for Parks Improvement Works
Decision Maker:	<i>Imran Kasalbash</i>
Cabinet Member:	<i>Paul Middleton</i>
SLT Lead:	<i>Andrew Blake-Herbert</i>
Report Author and contact details:	<i>James Rose</i>
Policy context:	<p><i>The Havering Vision</i></p> <p><i>Place Outcome – Havering is a Green Borough</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Investing in our parks</i> • <i>Number of parks with Green Flags</i>
Financial summary:	<i>The Council will benefit from £0.495m of external funding to improve several parks. No match funding or additional budget is required to manage this.</i>
Relevant OSC:	<i>Environment OSC</i>
Is this decision exempt from being called-in?	<i>The decision will be exempt from call in as it is a Non key Decision</i>

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The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

People - Things that matter for residents

Place - A great place to live, work and enjoy **X**

Resources - A well run Council that delivers for People and Place.

Part A – Report seeking decision

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DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is recommended that the Assistant Director of Public Realm, in consultation with Councillor Middleton:

1. Apply for £495,000 from the National Highways Company funding to improve various parks and open spaces.

AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE

3.3 Powers of Members of the Senior Leadership Team Financial responsibilities

- (c) In consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member to apply for, accept and manage external funding up to a limit of £500,000 per grant in support of any function within their Directorate provided that any financial contributions by the Council are made from within existing budgets.

STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION

1. Designated funds from the National Highways Company, ring-fenced from the Department for Transport's Road Investment Strategy 2 (RIS2), are available for improvement projects in the borough. Improvement locations must be within 5km of the M25, and must fit within the three improvement subjects; Heritage, Biodiversity and Access. The funding period runs until 2025. The Council is not required to match fund.
2. Project proposals are submitted to the Lower Thames Crossing (LTC) Benefits Lead officer and agreed by the National Highways Company Board.
3. Following discussions between the Council's Parks Officer and LTC Officer, improvements that fit the funding criteria are proposed at the following sites:
 - Straight Road Woodland (£90,000)
 - Fencing, pathways and signage
 - Coronation Gardens (£45,000)
 - Restoration of the Lychgate and signage
 - North Hill Recreation Ground (£100,000)
 - Fencing and pathway
 - Cottons Park (£130,000)
 - Pathways and signage
 - Rise Park (£100,000)
 - Pathways and drainage

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- Havering Country Park (£10,000)
 - Woodland Management Plan
 - Bedfords Park (£10,000)
 - Woodland Management Plan
 - Dagnam Park (£10,000)
 - Woodland Management Plan
4. This is a good opportunity to carry out improvement works at various site at no cost to the Council. It is therefore recommended that a project proposal application is made to the National Highways Company for funding as set out above.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

1. Do not apply and use Council funding for these improvement works. Resources are limited and any available capital funding can be used for other improvements in parks and open spaces.
2. Do not apply and investigate other sources of external funding. There is no certainty that any other applications will be successful, especially to this value.

PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION

The Lead Member for Parks, Councillor Paul Middleton, has been briefed on this proposal and is supportive.

NAME AND JOB TITLE OF STAFF MEMBER ADVISING THE DECISION-MAKER

Name: James Rose

Designation: Park Development Manager

Signature:



Date: 4th May 2023

Part B - Assessment of implications and risks

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The Council has power to apply for the funding under the general power of competence contained in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011. This allows the Council to do anything that an individual may do subject to any statutory constraints on the Council's powers. None of the constraints on the Council's s.1 power are engaged by this decision

This decision sets out the information relating to the funding application only. Any acceptance of funding and the entering into of a contract will be subject to a further report setting out related information and implications.

For the reasons set out above the Council may apply for the funding.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

There are no financial implications or risks to the Council at this stage of the application process. If the application is successful, the Council will secure £0.495m from National Highways Funding for Parks Improvement Works, at which time any grant terms and conditions will be considered and the necessary governance followed to accept and manage the grant.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS (AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS WHERE RELEVANT)

None

EQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have 'due regard' to:

- (i) The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (ii) The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and;
- (iii) Foster good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not.

Note: 'Protected characteristics' are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnerships, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex/gender, and sexual orientation.

The Council is committed to all of the above in the provision, procurement and commissioning of its services, and the employment of its workforce. In addition, the Council is also committed to improving the quality of life and wellbeing for all Havering residents in respect of socio-economics and health determinants.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

APPENDICES

None

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Part C – Record of decision

I have made this executive decision in accordance with authority delegated to me by the Leader of the Council and in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution.

Decision

Proposal agreed

Details of decision maker

Signed 

Name: Imran Kazalbash

Cabinet Portfolio held:

CMT Member title: Assistant Director of Public Realm

Head of Service title

Other manager title:

Date: 16/6/23

Lodging this notice

The signed decision notice must be delivered to Democratic Services, in the Town Hall.

For use by Committee Administration

This notice was lodged with me on _____

Signed _____

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