



Havering
LONDON BOROUGH

Notice of Non-key Executive Decision

Subject Heading:	Application to DEFRA for Lawns Park Woodland Funding
Decision Maker:	<i>Imran Kazalbash</i>
Cabinet Member:	<i>Barry Mugglestone</i>
SLT Lead:	<i>Neil Stubbings</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:	<p><i>If successful the Local Authority will benefit from grant funding of £0.037m to facilitate the creation of 1.6 acres of woodland in Lawns Park. With the exception of nominal project/contract management costs which will be contained within the services available budget, no match funding or additional budget is required to manage this project.</i></p>
Relevant OSC:	<i>Places OSSC</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>

Non-key Executive Decision

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

DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is recommended that the Director Of Environment, *Imran Kazalbash* in consultation with Cabinet Member *Barry Mugglestone* agrees:

1. To submit an application to DEFRA for the Coronation Living Heritage Fund's Micro woodland creation grant to facilitate woodland planting and ongoing maintenance at Lawns Park.

AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE

3.4 Powers of Second Tier Managers Second Tier Managers are those managers directly reporting to a SLT Director. Second Tier Managers all have delegated authority to act as follows within the assigned service, subject to the general provisions and limitations set out in section 3.1 above.

- d) In consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member, to apply for, accept and manage external funding up to a limit of £250,000 per grant in support of any function within their service provided that any financial contributions by the Council are made from within existing budgets.

STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION

1. DEFRA's Coronation Living Heritage Fund (CLHF) aims to fund local authority tree planting and tree production. The funding is under section 31 of the local government act 2003. The available fund totals £2.5 million, with local authorities being able to apply for projects of up to £50,000.
2. The Parks Department would like to apply for £37,300 to facilitate a woodland project at Lawns Park. The fund will cover the below;

Initial delivery	Cost
Trees	11000
Initial mulch	5000
Bowser Purchase	5000
Fencing supplies	12000
Interpretation board and instillation	1000
SUBTOTAL	34000
Maintenance (three years)	Cost
Mulch (1x application per year for three years)	£1000 (Y1), £1000 (Y2), £800 (Y3) Total 2800
Fencing repairs (ad hoc over three years)	500

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SUBTOTAL	3300
TOTAL	37300

3. To use the fund efficiently, majority of the trees planted will be donated by the Trees for Havering group and the Thames Chase Communities Trees for Climate fund. The CLHF will be used to finance infrastructure such a fencing, signage and the purchase of a bowser to keep the trees watered for at least the first three years after planting.

4. This project will provide a good opportunity for community engagement through planting opportunities. This project will also improve the borough's woodland cover with a total of 34'000 trees being planted (rough 1.6 acres when complete) as per the Council's vision to provide quality green space.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

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.

If the application is not successful the project will not progress.

PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION

The Lead Member for Parks, Councillor Barry Mugglestone, 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:2/10/23

Part B - Assessment of implications and risks

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The Council has a general power of competence under Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 to do anything an individual can 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.

The recommendations in this report are in keeping with this power and the Council may apply for the Grant funding. In the event that the Grant application is successful, the Grant funding agreement will have to be reviewed by the Legal team.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

There are no financial implications or risks to the Local Authority (LA) at this stage of the application process. If the application is successful, the LA will secure £0.037m 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.

The nature of the project is such that after the 3 year embedding period the woodland will be self-maintaining.

With the exception of nominal project/contract management costs which will be contained within the services available budget, no match funding or additional budget is required to manage this project

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.

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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.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

1. Greater woodland cover in the borough, and introduction of a new habitat within Lawns Park will allow for better ecological connectivity.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

APPENDICIES

Appendix A
Appendix B
Appendix C

Non-key Executive Decision

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 ✓

~~Proposal NOT agreed because~~

Details of decision maker

Signed 

Name: Imran Kazalbash

Cabinet Portfolio held:
CMT Member title: Director of Environment
Head of Service title
Other manager title:

Date: 6/11/23

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 _____