

Summary Sheet

Council Report

Cabinet and Commissioner Decision Making Meeting – 12 December 2016

Title

Addition of Barkers Park Changing Rooms to the Capital Programme

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

Yes and the report has been included in the forward plan.

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Damien Wilson, Strategic Director, Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s):

Andy Lee, Urban Green Spaces Manager

Ward(s) Affected:

Keppel

Summary: As a result of significant vandalism, this report requests that repairs and security measures to Barkers Park changing rooms are included in the Council's Capital Programme. In so doing the facility will be returned to use by the local community and will support Council objectives in relation to health and well-being.

Recommendations:

That Council be recommended to approve inclusion of the scheme in the Capital Programme as identified in Paragraph 7.1 of this report.

List of Appendices Included

None

Background Papers

None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Strategic Capital Investment Group (SCIG)

Council Approval Required

Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Addition of Barkers Park Changing Rooms to the Capital Programme

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 That Council be recommended to approve inclusion of the Scheme in the Capital Programme as identified in paragraph 7.1 of this report.

2. Background

- 2.1 In 2015 the new changing rooms at Barkers Park were broken into and vandalised. Copper piping and wiring were removed and extensive damage was caused to the sanitary ware, the boiler and various other parts of the building including external doors. Significant repair work is now needed in order to return the facility to a condition that will allow it to be used by the local community. This will then enable the Service to continue to deliver the relevant objectives and outcomes from the Council's Sport & Active Recreation Strategy and to meet external funding obligations.
- 2.2 An investment of approximately £350,000 was made in 2013 to provide good quality football changing rooms at Barkers Park, which is identified as a key site for playing pitch sports. The capital funding for the changing rooms was made up of: £103,000 insurance payment to the Council as a result of a vandalism / fire attack to a previous changing room at the site; a £50,000 grant from the Football Foundation; a £70,000 grant from Sport England; and a £127,000 capital contribution from the Council.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 The changing rooms are currently unusable and are blighting the main entrance into the park from Redscope Crescent. There are no existing funding sources for the major repairs that are needed to allow the facility to reopen. The Council does not insure against vandalism, so there is no funding available from the Insurance Fund for these works and there is no revenue budget provision for such significant works
- 3.2 The two external funding organisations are aware of the situation and have asked to be kept updated on the Council's plans to bring the changing rooms back into operation. Failure to do so may result in a request from either of them to have their funding returned.
- 3.3 If action is not taken then the council's reputation could be compromised.
- 3.4 The buildings cannot be properly secured and are at risk of further vandalism damage. As a result the Green Space service is currently paying for extra security patrols at Barkers Park at a cost of £6,000 per year.

4. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 4.1 Do nothing. This option will mean that the facility will continue to deteriorate and the local community will not be able to benefit from the investment made in 2013. It is also likely to lead to claw back from the external funders.

- 4.2 Secure funding from the Capital Programme to carry out the repair work. The estimated cost of the repair and security works is approximately £40,000. This will allow the changing rooms to be brought back into use and mean that the local community can continue to benefit from the investment. It will also avoid any claw back from the external funders.
- 4.3 If the funding for the repair works is approved, it is proposed that additional works are carried out to improve building security (e.g. strengthening physical barriers to access and installing CCTV with off-site monitoring and call out). The cost of this works is approximately £6,000 and this figure is included in the £40,000 that is being requested from the Capital Programme.
- 4.4 The recommendation is for 4.2 and 4.3 above to be progressed together.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Local members were consulted on the original plan to install the new changing facility and they are aware of the current situation.

6. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 6.1 If approval is given to 4.2 and 4.3 above implementation by Asset Management and Green Spaces teams will begin immediately.

7. Financial and Procurement Implications

- 7.1 The estimated cost of the works to reinstate facilities vandalised and to provide enhanced security to help prevent such future incidences is £40,000. The nature of the planned works would enable the Council to treat the expenditure as capital under relevant accounting rules. If the recommendation to include the scheme works within the capital programme is approved, the proposal is to fund the works from existing, uncommitted capital receipts generated pre 1st April 2016 to avoid additional prudential borrowing and the revenue cost arising from that.
- 7.2 In accordance with Contract Procedure Rules the contract for the works will be managed by Asset Management (Facilities Management section) and the appropriate number of written quotations, from approved contractors will be sought, evaluated and contracts awarded to enable the works to progress.

8. Legal Implications

- 8.1 If a decision is taken not to carry out the repair works and reinstate the operation of the changing rooms, it is likely that the external funders would seek to claw back their funding contribution.

9. Human Resources Implications

- 9.1 None

10. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

10.1 None

11 Equalities and Human Rights Implications

11.1 None

12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates

12.1 None

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 If approval is given to the fund the repair works the risk of further vandalism will be reduced and the risk of claw back will be removed

14. Accountable Officer(s)

14.1 Damien Wilson, Strategic Director, Regeneration and Environment

Approvals Obtained from:-

Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services:- Jon Baggaley, Finance Manager, Regeneration & Environment and Capital

Assistant Director of Legal Services:- N/A

Head of Procurement (if appropriate):- N/A

This report is published on the Council's website or can be found at:-
<http://moderngov.rotherham.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?Categories=>