

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Delegated Officer Decision – 02 April 2026

Report Title

Green Spaces Reactive Maintenance Capital Investments

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

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Assistant Director Approving Submission of the Report

Polly Hamilton, Service Director, Culture, Sport & Tourism

Report Author(s)

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Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report details the proposed allocation of £60,000 capital investment for the maintenance and improvement of green spaces across the borough. The funds will be used to support requests from the police, elected members, and community leaders to improve access, enhance facilities, upgrade footpaths and surfaces, and secure sites from anti-social behaviour (ASB). The approach is mainly reactive, addressing specific issues as they arise. Emphasis is placed on projects that benefit community use, ensuring that green spaces are welcoming, safe and accessible for all residents.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. The allocation of £60,000 capital investment for the maintenance and improvement of green spaces is approved.
2. The proposed sites, capital expenditure, and programmed works are endorsed.
3. Any need for further consultation with stakeholders is approved.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Equalities Impact Screening Part A
Appendix 2 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Green Spaces Reactive Maintenance Capital Investments

1. Background

- 1.1 Green Spaces oversees various parks, recreation grounds, woodlands, and open spaces across the borough. The existing revenue budget is modest and primarily allocated for minor routine maintenance tasks.
- 1.2 There is no dedicated revenue budget for significant improvements or for securing sites from anti-social behaviour. The requirement for capital investment arises from the need to respond to issues reactively as they occur.
- 1.3 The £60,000 allocation is drawn from the Green Spaces Capital Repairs Programme (£240,000) included within the 2024/25–2028/29 Capital Programme.
- 1.4 This £60,000 will fund specific projects aimed at improving access, enhancing facilities, upgrading footpaths and surfaces, and securing sites from ASB. These activities are separate from routine maintenance and are required to deliver meaningful improvements to the borough's green spaces.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The green spaces across the borough are vital for community wellbeing, providing areas for recreation, exercise, and social interaction. However, ASB has deterred many residents from using these spaces.
- 2.2 Enhancing access and facilities in green spaces will encourage greater community use, thereby promoting both physical and mental health benefits.
- 2.3 Upgrading footpaths and surfaces will ensure that green spaces are safe and accessible for all users, including those with mobility issues.
- 2.4 Securing sites from ASB will involve specific projects such as installing better lighting, fencing, and surveillance systems. These projects require capital investment as they involve significant one-time expenditures that go beyond the scope of routine maintenance.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 The following options were considered:
 - Do Nothing: This would result in continued deterioration of green spaces and increased ASB.
 - Partial Investment: This would address some issues but may not be sufficient to make a significant impact.
 - Full Investment: The recommended option, which involves allocating the full £60,000 to address the issues through specific projects.
- 3.2 It is recommended that the full £60,000 capital investment is allocated to the maintenance and improvement of green spaces through specific projects.

Delivery has taken place across all four quarters of the financial year, with a number of schemes now completed or underway. All funding has been fully allocated across the programme, as detailed in the list of projects below:

Item	Location	Budget
Identified Projects 2025		
Steps Alcove plantation	North Anston	£1,585.00
Anti-vehicle barriers, Thrybergh Country Park	Thrybergh	£2,350.00
Anti-vehicle barriers Pottery Ponds	Swinton	£420.00
Anti-motorbike barriers at Wath Woods	Wath	£6,000.00
Access improvements at Creighton Woods	Swinton	£3,000.00
Repairs to Greasbrough Cenotaph perimeter fence	Greasbrough	£4,500.00
New Artificial Cricket Wicket Eldon Road	Eastwood	£3,150.00
Anti-motorbike fencing for Hadleigh Close	Rawmarsh	£1,950.00
Storage Container for Anston Cricket Club, Greenlands Park	Anston	£2,500.00
Fencing to secure perimeter of Herringthorpe Playing Fields to prevent ASB behind residential properties	Herringthorpe	£5,000.00
Footpath resurfacing due to erosion, Dinnington Community Woodland	Dinnington	£2,700.00
Vegetation Clearance overgrowing properties at St Francis Close	Wickersley	£2,000.00
Anti-motorbike barriers, Rother Valley Country Park	Wales	£6,500.00
	Total	£41,655.00
Reactive Additional Projects (quotations for works TBC)		
Anti-motorbike fencing for Well Lane Recreation, Treeton	Treeton	£7,500.00
Brash Clearance at Winterhill	Kimberworth	£2,000.00
Fencing and signage at Brookfield	Wath	£4,000.00
Securing the boundary with Brecks Lane Farm	Dalton Parva	£5,000.00
	Grand Total	£60,000.00

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 Consultation with elected members, the police, residents, and community groups has taken place or is currently underway, ensuring that the proposed measures align with community needs.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 The reactive maintenance and capital improvement programme is being delivered on a rolling basis, with works prioritised according to operational

need, site conditions, and stakeholder input. Strategic oversight is provided by the Head of Operations & Business Transformation, while the Green Spaces Manager leads day-to-day delivery, contractor coordination, and stakeholder liaison.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications (Head of Finance and Head of Procurement)

6.1 On 5th March 2025 Council approved a £240k a capital budget Investment (£60k per annum from 25/26 to 28/29) as part of the Council's Budget and Council Tax Report 2025/26, to fund a Green Spaces Capital Repairs Programme. These works will be funded by the 25/26 allocation of this programme.

6.2 All materials and the engagement of third-party suppliers to deliver the works detailed in this report, must be procured in compliance with relevant procurement legislation (Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or the Procurement Act 2023 dependant on the route to market selected) as well as the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

7. Legal Advice and Implications (Property Team Manager (acting))

7.1 The recommendations are in line with existing authorities and the Council's constitution. There are no substantive legal implications arising from the contents of this report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications (HR Business Partner)

8.1 There are no Human Resources implications arising from this decision, as the works will be delivered using existing staffing arrangements without any impact on roles, responsibilities, or staffing levels.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The improvements will make green spaces safer, more accessible, and more welcoming, benefiting children, young people, and vulnerable adults. Better paths, reduced ASB, and improved site security will help increase confidence and support inclusive use of these areas.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 The programme is expected to have a positive impact on equality and inclusion by improving the safety, accessibility, and usability of green spaces across the borough. Enhancements such as upgraded footpaths, improved access routes, and measures to reduce anti-social behaviour will support a wider range of residents, including those with mobility needs and other vulnerable groups.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 The programme will generate minor short-term increases in emissions, mainly from contractor transport, machinery use, and limited waste removal. These impacts will be reduced through measures such as using local contractors, minimising site visits, and recycling materials where feasible. No significant long-term emission impacts are expected. Improved green spaces may encourage more local outdoor use, supporting wider environmental and climate-resilience benefits.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1. The proposed measures will be implemented in collaboration with the police, community leaders, and other stakeholders to ensure a coordinated approach.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 The primary risks include potential inflationary increases in material and labour costs, project delays due to unforeseen circumstances, and the possibility that the measures may not fully meet community expectations. To mitigate these risks, fixed quotes for the works will be obtained to ensure budget certainty, a detailed project timeline will be developed, and extensive community consultation will be conducted. Additionally, there are risks related to security and vandalism, health and safety, and regulatory compliance. These will be addressed through robust security measures, comprehensive health and safety protocols, and adherence to relevant laws and regulations.

14. Accountable Officers

Zoe Oxley, Head of Business Operations & Transformation
Jon Hinchliffe, Green Spaces Manager

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	John Edwards	Click here to enter a date.
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	Click here to enter a date.
Head of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	Click here to enter a date.

Report Author: *Zoe Oxley, Head of Operations & Business Transformation*

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