

Single Member Cabinet Decision

Executive
Forward Plan
Reference

E2606

Beechen Cliff and Other Open Space Areas

Decision maker/s	<p>Cllr David Dixon, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Deputy Leader of the Council</p> <p>Cllr Paul Crossley, Leader of the Council</p>
The Issue	<p>Investment into the management and maintenance of the Beechen Cliff woodland and other open spaces is important to ensure the assets are maintained safely for public access and enjoyment.</p> <p>This report recognises the importance of proceeding with this work as soon as possible and sets out a revised proposal to mitigate any potential risks arising from failing to manage and maintain the Beechen Cliff woodland and other open spaces in good condition.</p>
Decision Date	14 January 2014
The decision	The Cabinet Member agrees that funding allocations for Beechen Cliff and other open spaces within Bath and North East Somerset, as set out in Appendix 1, be approved.
Rationale for decision	The available funding must be directed towards treating any risk arising from not managing the woodland at Beechen Cliff competently and other open spaces in Bath and North East Somerset to limit liability for the Council and to ensure the continuation of existing service levels.
Financial and budget implications	<p>£500k for 'Beechen Cliff Woodland and Other Open Spaces Improvement' was included in the 2012/2013 capital programme approval in the February 2012 Council budget, subject to detailed project plan and subject to third party negotiations, to be financed through corporate capital funding (corporate headroom).</p> <p>£20k of this funding has been spent on urgent tree safety works in Beechen Cliff during 2013, leaving a total budget of £480k remaining.</p> <p>The project will seek to restore the woodland above the cliff and maintain it to a suitable standard. The balance will be reserved for open space improvements across Bath and North East Somerset as set out in Appendix 1, Parks & Green Spaces – Programme of Works 2013/2014.</p>

Issues considered	Customer Focus; Sustainability; Property; Equality (age, race, disability, religion/belief, gender, sexual orientation); Corporate; Health & Safety; Other Legal Considerations
Consultation undertaken	Ward Councillor; Cabinet colleagues; Staff; Other B&NES Services; Service Users; Local Residents; Community Interest Groups; Section 151 Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer
How consultation was carried out	Meetings with Ward Councillors, meetings with Cabinet Members, staff meetings with service users, attendance at Resident's Steering Group meetings, email consultation and confirmation from Finance and Legal colleagues
Other options considered	None – earlier lengthy negotiations with National Trust had not been possible to proceed with after National Trust withdrew from earlier proposal. Do nothing not an option as the financial and reputational risks to the Council outweigh this.

Signatures of Decision Makers	
Date of Signature	
Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision	