

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Cabinet	
MEETING DATE:	14 May 2014	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 2660
TITLE:	Capital Spend approvals for Environmental Services	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 This report sets out the Neighbourhood Environment Services projects that are identified in the Council's 2014/15 budget for provisional approval and are now ready for Cabinet approval to proceed

2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the Cabinet give approval for the budgets for the following capital projects and for the projects to proceed:

- (1) Parks and Green Spaces Capital programme (£1,010k)
- (2) Public WC Conversions (£100k) with the Divisional Director for Environmental Services, in consultation with the Chief Property Officer and the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, to have delegated authority on where the detailed spend is targeted.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

3.1 The capital budgets for each project were given provisional approval in the February 2014 budget report approved by Council.

3.2 Parks and Green Spaces Capital programme: The majority of the projects within this programme are funded through corporate borrowing; the following projects are replacement facilities and it is therefore not anticipated that there will be any additional revenue implications: Royal Victoria Park Skate Park (£250k capital); Royal Victoria Park Great Dell Walkway (£25k capital); Litter Bins (£20k capital) and Play Equipment (£100k capital).

3.3 The following projects are improvements or new facilities: the Royal Victoria Park Open Space Improvement (£50k capital) project, the Queen Square Improvements (£100k capital) project, the East of Bath Skate Park (£100k capital) and the Sandpits (£40k capital). Any arising revenue costs will be met through reprioritisation within existing budgets although replacement provisions will need to be considered in future capital programmes as equipment and facilities reach the end of their useful life.

3.4 Also within the Parks and Green Spaces programme are two project elements funded through Service Supported Borrowing: Play area equipment (£225k capital) and Bin and Bench replacement (£100k capital). The 14/15 revenue costs will be funded from corporate reserves and the on-going revenue support will be factored in to the Medium Term Service and Resources Plans item from 15/16 onwards. These are both replacement facilities and it is not anticipated that there will be any additional revenue implications.

3.5 Public Toilets Capital project: A Council resolution was passed in September 2013 which sought further work on the PCs savings/closures in the MTSRP. In addition to a one off headroom allocation in the 2014 budget to meet the 'cost of delaying the reduction in the numbers of public conveniences for up to one year to provide further time to consider opportunities for alternative provision', there is a provisional approval in the capital programme for £100k spend on Public Convenience buildings; this is funded through corporate borrowing. The project's aim is to meet the MTSRP revenue savings target from 2015/16, thus will not incur future revenue cost. This allocation is now sought in order to:

- Complete the core contract improvement programme with Healthmatic
- Continue to progress handovers and related tasks for the other locations
- Commission asset reviews with Property Services and identify specific works and costs to be incurred at each location as appropriate to a maximum of the capital budget of £100k.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

4.1 All appropriate statutory considerations will be made through the consultation, design and implementation of the proposed projects

5 THE REPORT

5.1 In its 2014/15 budget the Council made provision for the delivery of a number of projects within the services delivered by the Neighbourhood Environment Services division of Environmental Services. These projects have been taken through the Council's officer led Capital Strategy Group and are now ready for Cabinet approval to proceed

5.2 Each project will be managed individually with the overall programme being overseen by an experienced programme manager in Project Delivery.

5.3 Projects are planned to be completed by mid-December 2014.

5.4 The Queen Square Improvement project may include the preliminary work needed to assess options available to close part of the Square to support events

6 RATIONALE

6.1 Approval to proceed is required in order that the individual projects can be delivered within the timeframe available

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 None

8 CONSULTATION

8.1 Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods; Staff; Other B&NES Services; Section 151 Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

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Background papers	<i>The Council budget 2014/15</i>
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