

Single Member Cabinet Decision

Executive Forward Plan Reference	E3433
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Bath Bike Park – decision not to proceed

Decision maker/s	Cllr Mark Roper, Cabinet member for Economic Development, Regeneration & Growth
The Issue	<p>Plans for a mountain bike and activity park at the site of the former Entry Hill golf course site in Bath will not proceed.</p> <p>A 20% increase in supply costs alongside additional site costs impacted on the viability of the proposal which means the Bath Bike Park project cannot progress.</p>
Decision Date	17th February 2023
The decision	<p>The Cabinet Member agrees with the decision not to proceed with the Bath Bike Park project and that the costs incurred to date will be treated as a revenue pressure as part of Quarter 3 reporting process.</p> <p>To delegate approvals to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the S151 officer, to secure income to cover future maintenance and security costs.</p>
Rationale for decision	Progressing the project further would require substantial further borrowing at a time of unprecedented financial challenges for all local authorities.
Financial and budget implications	<p>The council has, in total, committed resource of approximately £80K. Just under £33k of this is apportioned directly to the Bike Park Plan, whilst the remainder is necessary general site cost evaluation which will be invaluable information when deciding the future of the site.</p> <p>Funding was allocated from the 'Inception' budget for the feasibility works. However, because the project has not resulted in an asset and is no longer proceeding, those costs cannot at present be capitalised. This means the costs need to be moved to revenue and presented as a revenue pressure of £80K.</p>
Issues considered	Social Inclusion; Sustainability; Property; Young People; Equality (age, race, disability, religion/belief, gender, sexual orientation);
Consultation undertaken	Ward Councillors; Cabinet colleague; Local Residents; Community Interest Groups; Stakeholders/Partners; Section 151 Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer
How consultation was carried out	Meetings with Ward cllrs and Director of Public Health. Local resident groups were informed. British cycling also contacted.

<p>Other options considered</p>	<p>The council had planned to fund the project through a combination of its own capital funding and by attracting external support, however due to the current national economic climate, it has become increasingly difficult to attract funding for projects of this nature.</p> <p>The site is currently maintained by Parks under an SLA with Leisure. This minimal management includes cutting desire pathways and bin emptying. This costs approximately £4k per year.</p> <p>Full management of the site as a green space/park would likely require considerable resource from the Parks Team. This is currently unfunded.</p> <p>CiL funding could be allocated to this and any other improvements. However, it is unclear without a reason to visit the site, how this investment would be sustainable. This option may also require another phase of community consultation to gain resident views.</p> <p>As part of the initial consultation support was shown for a park and café option for the future of the site. If this option was selected it should be noted that the buildings on site (café/shop/toilets) will require capital investment which could be in the region of £40K. A full condition survey would need to be completed – a resource of approximately £2K will be needed for this.</p>
<p>Declaration of interest by Cabinet Member(s) for decision:</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Any conflict of interest declared by anyone who is consulted by a Member taking the decision:</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Name and Signature of Decision Maker/s</p>	<p>Cllr Mark Roper</p>
<p>Date of Signature</p>	<p>17/02/2023</p>
<p>Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision</p>	

