



Report to Policy Committee

Author/Lead Officer of Report: Stuart Turner

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Report of: Ajman Ali
Report to: Communities, Parks & Leisure
Date of Decision: 6th February 2023
Subject: Public Health 4-year Green Space Investment Plan

Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given? 1452				
Has appropriate consultation taken place?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has a Climate Impact Assessment (CIA) been undertaken?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If YES, give details as to whether the exemption applies to the full report / part of the report and/or appendices and complete below:-				

Purpose of Report:

This Committee is asked to approve an extension of the existing spending principles for Parks & Countryside's Public Health.

The funding is used to support sustaining and improving the quality of Sheffield's green and open spaces in areas of Sheffield with the greatest health inequalities.

The report also provides context relating to the use and value of green space public health funding.

Recommendations:

That the Communities, Parks, and Leisure Committee:

- Approve the extension of the spending principles for Parks & Countryside's Public Health funding as described in this report to enable continued investment and renewal of Sheffield's Parks and Countryside sites.
- Approve the spend profile for the funding as described in this report.
- Request an annual brief to the committee on the investment plan as specific projects and opportunities are identified.

- **Public Health Spending Principles 2017/18**

Lead Officer to complete:-		
1	I have consulted the relevant departments in respect of any relevant implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist, and comments have been incorporated / additional forms completed / EIA completed, where required.	Finance: <i>James Lyon</i>
		Legal: <i>Louise Bate</i>
		Equalities & Consultation: <i>Ed Sexton</i>
		Climate: <i>Jessica Rick</i>
	<i>Legal, financial/commercial and equalities implications must be included within the report and the name of the officer consulted must be included above.</i>	
2	SLB member who approved submission:	<i>Ajman Ali</i>
3	Committee Chair consulted:	<i>Richard Williams</i>
4	I confirm that all necessary approval has been obtained in respect of the implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist and that the report has been approved for submission to the Committee by the SLB member indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1.	
	Lead Officer Name: <i>Stuart Turner</i>	Job Title: <i>Service Manager (Green & Open Spaces)</i>
	Date: <i>26/01/2023</i>	

1. PROPOSAL

1.1 Context

A programme of investment was agreed in 2017/18 for to use Public Health funding within Sheffield's green and open spaces in order to improve the quality and recreational value of parks and green spaces in the 30% most deprived wards of the city.

The commitment of investment of Public Health provides £400k a year towards green space improvements. A key driving principle is that the Public Health Funding supports green space improvements that enable people of all ages and abilities to be active and enjoy their local recreational spaces and to help reduce health inequalities in areas of the city that need it the most.

Principles

The principles for the Public Health funding were developed in 2018 with the Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks and Leisure, following engagement with a Policy Working Group and ward councillors, as well as colleagues in the Public Health team, including the Director of Public Health. The criteria are:

- Funding should be restricted to the 10-30% most deprived neighbourhoods on the 2015 Indices of Multiple Deprivation
- Any SCC green and open space, including e.g. woodlands and allotments.
- When something significant needs addressing to bring the site to the minimum Sheffield Standard Quality (but not for regular maintenance).
- In support of (but not only) other city initiatives and activities which contribute to reducing health inequality e.g. Move More, People Keeping Well, The Outdoor City etc. This is an overarching principle that applies to this spend but the priority must be making a difference to the green space in the area.
- When a gap in provision is identified and there is community support for a specific improvement, for example an area of the city which has no multi-use games area within a specified distance.
- Infrastructure and equipment improvements e.g. bins, footpaths, boundaries and signage and play equipment.
- Facilities such as café's, toilets, and community assets.
- Council officer resources employed specifically to deliver public health related activities or projects.

2. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE?

By improving the quality of local green spaces and access to outdoor leisure facilities, the proposal supports the Corporate Delivery Plan priorities of strong and connected neighbourhoods which people are happy to call home, and healthy lives and wellbeing for all.

Sheffield's Green and Open Spaces provide opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to use and enjoy for their health and wellbeing, and these green spaces also play a vital role in ecological and climate change resilience and adaptation. There are benefits in relation to reducing the need to travel to good quality green spaces, by providing quality green spaces close to where people live. This is in line with the one-year plan ('Our Sheffield: one year plan', helping Sheffield to be a sustainable city, and contributes to our ambition to be a net zero carbon city by 2030.

- 2.1
- **Reduced inequalities.** By improving the quality of green space provision in more economically deprived areas of the city (as measured to the Sheffield Standard).
 - **Improve inclusivity.** Project officer capacity will support good quality consultation and engagement with communities to ensure that improvements meet local needs. Infrastructure improvements, including paths, playgrounds and other recreational facilities will be delivered to ensure they are inclusive by design. Better Parks initiative related projects will improve inclusivity where possible. for example cafe and toilet facilities are a vital aspect of making urban green spaces more accessible to all ages and abilities.
 - **Improve customer experience.** Quality green spaces and recreational facility improvements will enhance customers' experience of using and enjoying Sheffield's great outdoors. The Sheffield Standard quality assessment tool aims to ensure sites remain or attain a safe, welcoming, accessible and clean standard.
 - **Climate change impact.** Projects to improve Green & Open spaces will aim to respond constructively to the climate emergency, either through the mitigation or adaption to climate change. A climate change impact assessment will be undertaken for individual projects. The range of projects supported will all improve site quality; and contribute to improving recreational, ecological and environmental value.

3. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?

- 3.1
- The approach and priorities for green space improvements is shaped through a range of consultations. Parks & Countryside Survey customer satisfaction survey is the primary consultation of note. Common themes in survey findings include those improvements to existing open space facilities rather than new provision is most needed, and provision of recreational opportunities for teenagers comes out as a clear priority. Most respondents suggested that in

general they were of average or better quality. However, for some types of green spaces there were notable levels of dissatisfaction with general levels of quality. For example:

- the overall quality of outdoor facilities for teenagers was considered as being either poor or very poor
- the quality of Multi-Use Games Areas was particularly identified as poor or very poor.
- Lack of toilet and/or café facilities was considered a significant barrier to use and duration of stay for some users
- More investment and better maintenance was considered important across most green spaces.

Community consultation on individual green space improvement projects will be undertaken as an essential element of the project delivery process, including with all relevant stakeholders. This will be undertaken throughout this four-year period as required.

4. RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

4.1 Equality Implications

4.1. The Equality Impact Assessment notes potentially positive benefits, including in relation to the protected characteristics of Age (children, younger people, and older people) and Disability covered by the Equality Act 2010.

4.1. Positive impacts on the wider scope of the Council's EIA are also recorded, including in relation to Cohesion and Poverty & Financial Inclusion.

4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

4.2. The Council continues to face significant financial challenges and must make difficult decisions about services that the people of Sheffield care deeply about.

The additional funds sought from the Public Health allocation to support Project Officer delivery capacity over the next 4-years will enable successful green space improvement projects to be delivered that meet community needs.

4.3 Legal Implications

4.3. Continuing the programme of investment will assist the Council in meeting its relevant statutory duties and exercising its legal powers. These are noted below.

Duty to improve public health – s.2B of the National Health Act 2006 (as amended) states that the Council must take such steps as it considers

appropriate for improving the health of the people in its area, which includes providing services or facilities intended to promote healthy living.

Public Sector Equality Duty – s.149 of the Equality Act 2010 states that the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have regard to the need to:

- a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, and victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- b) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
- c) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

4.4 Climate Implications

- 4.4.1 Due to the nature of this proposal (establishing the approach to green space public health funding expenditure) a full scored CIA is not required, however while there are initial minor impacts of materials use, products and installation in the short term there are climate related benefits from the provision of quality green space improvements. For each green space improvement related project a Climate Impact Assessment will be undertaken. Green space improvement projects will also seek, where appropriate, to improve ecological value (such as habitat enhancements) and environmental benefits (such as natural flood management, active travel and renewable energy schemes).

The proposal will enable us to continue to deliver good quality projects that improve green and open spaces for the benefit of people, wildlife and the wider environment. A clear benefit in relation to carbon relates to reducing the need for vehicle journeys for those wishing to access quality green spaces (if there are quality green spaces on their doorstep). This is in line with the one-year plan ('Our Sheffield: one year plan', helping Sheffield to be a sustainable city, and contributes to our ambition to be a net zero carbon city by 2030.

4.5 Other Implications

- 4.5.1 The map below shows the 30% most deprived wards in Sheffield, with an overlay of Sheffield's green and open spaces. Sites are shown with their Sheffield Standard site quality assessment. This picture clearly demonstrates the importance of continue to tackle green space quality issues for communities experiencing higher levels of deprivation.

- A new Parkour facility for the north of Sheffield at Colley Park.
- 5 Improved path network/access & connectivity schemes: Parson Cross Park, Shirebrook Valley and Ponderosa Park. Works currently underway at Parkwood Springs and Skye Edge.
- Renewal of 1 countryside visitor centre at Shire Brook Valley.
- Toilets and catering provision (procurement stage at Parkwood Springs and concept stage at Ecclesfield Park).

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 There is an option to not revise these principles, however, with a changing green space landscape, it is prudent to refresh these, particularly post pandemic.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The reason for the recommendation is to ensure public health funding for Sheffield's parks and green spaces continues to be focused on the priority needs of targeted communities – as defined by the spending principles and that specific project proposals will be discussed with local ward councillors and brought to committee in an annual brief.

This will enable the continuation of the work of the Parks and Countryside Service's green space investment supported by public health funding to tackle green space quality and access to quality outdoor leisure facilities for communities in the most deprived areas of Sheffield. The recommendations will allow the Parks and Countryside Service to be targeted in the use of public health investment, ensuring, where possible, that return on investment is maximised, and that investments are sustainable, and consequently that benefits such as the improved health and wellbeing of communities endure for years to come.