

# **BRIEFING REPORT - PART I**

Central Park Improvements Programme



## 1. INTRODUCTION

This proposal aims to deliver a programme of improvements to Central Park, Plymouth. It forms part of the growth of the city and aims to deliver significant health and well-being for communities. The proposal objective is part of the Joint Local Plan (PLY 19) to build a 'premier park for the people of Plymouth and outstanding venue of regional and national significance for active recreation and formal sport, culture, art and the natural environment.' The project will take a phased approach. This briefing report concerns delivery of Phase 1 and 2 of the project from April 2017-April 2020.

## 2. BACKGROUND

The overall ambition is identified in the Masterplan for Central Park that was adopted by the Council in March 2013 and approved by Cabinet on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

Assessments of the park carried out as part of the Joint Local Plan 2017 acknowledge the current poor state of the park, stating that 'sports and recreational facilities within the park require upgrading to deal with issues such as drainage, and new facilities developed to ensure the sport and recreational offer in the park is outstanding. Other facilities will also be developed within the park to complement its purpose, such as cafes and play areas. Any new facilities will be in-keeping with the purpose of the park and sensitive to its natural and heritage features.'

Phase 1 and 2 works consist of the following and will contribute towards the overall delivery of the agreed Masterplan.

### **General quality Improvements:**

- Path improvements
- Boundary and gateway improvements including vegetation management
- Natural improvements including arboretum, woodland, hedges, wildflower meadows
- Removal of damaged/redundant and enhancements to signage and Park furniture

### **Improvements to existing and creation of new infrastructure. This will include:**

- New Café with public toilets
- New tennis courts
- Improved play area and skate park/BMX/Parkour
- Improvements to the bowling pavilion to create a Community Sports Hub
- Enhancements to changing rooms
- Drainage improvements across the Park
- New football pitches
- Creation of a new sports plateau for rugby, cricket and football

## 3. CONSULTATION PROCESS

The Masterplan was created as a response to the need identified in the Central Park Area Action Plan (AAP) for a comprehensive strategy of improvement to ensure the park

achieves its potential as a key public space for the City. Throughout the process of developing the AAP the Council followed the statutory process of consultation that enabled the adoption of the AAP.

Since April 2017, PCC has consulted with the public and local stakeholders regarding new infrastructure and improvements (engaging over 8000 people on Facebook and receiving over 400 completed questionnaires). PCC will continue to engage stakeholders as well as the wider public and users/non-users of the Park as part of the development and delivery of improvements.

#### **4. EVALUATION METHODOLOGY**

Delivery of general development works will be carried out by PCC Street Services and Waste. Delivery of the path improvements and other infrastructure works will be carried out through our existing contract with South West Highways. All other works will be awarded in line with the Council's Contract Standing Orders.

#### **5. FINANCIAL ELEMENT**

There is a total of £9million of funding for the Park allocated within the budget. Phase 1 was initiated in April 2017 totalling £2m. This briefing relates to the additional amount requested for Phase 2 works at £3.9m.

Phase 1 and 2 total **£5.9m** funded by **£4.6m** of corporate borrowing and **£1.3m** of match funding:

- General quality improvements and path works: £1.5m
- Improvements to existing and creation of new infrastructure: £4.4m

#### **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The proposal as set out in the business case is one of many individual projects which will help to deliver the Masterplan for Central Park that was adopted by the Council in March 2013. Central Park Strategic Green Space Site is Policy PLY 19 in the draft Joint Local Plan and a key part of supporting the growth of Plymouth over the Plan period.

- It is recommended that Phase 1 and 2 delivery funding is approved.