



**AGENDA ITEM:**

**CABINET: 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

---

**Report of: Director of Leisure and Wellbeing**

**Relevant Portfolio Holders: Councillor Y. Gagen**

**Contacts for further information: Mr S. Kent (Extn. 5169)  
(E-mail: [Stephen.kent@westlancs.gov.uk](mailto:Stephen.kent@westlancs.gov.uk) )**

---

**SUBJECT: TAWD VALLEY PARK PROJECT**

---

Wards affected: All Skelmersdale Wards.

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To request funding to engage consultants to deliver a detailed master plan for the Council to progress the development of a programme of environmental and recreational improvements in Tawd Valley Park, Skelmersdale.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET**

2.1 That the allocation of up to £25,000 be approved to undertake the master plan process for the Tawd Valley Park Project.

2.2 That delegated authority be given to the Director of Leisure and Wellbeing to take all steps necessary to engage consultants to deliver the Tawd Valley Park master plan.

---

**3.0 BACKGROUND**

3.1 Tawd Valley Park is an area of public open space running along the line of the River Tawd from Skelmersdale Town Centre in a northerly direction for 2 km to the edge of the town at Ashurst. The park consists of open greenspace, woodlands, and meadows and is within easy access of most of the residential areas of Skelmersdale.

3.2 The park offers the potential to be a valuable recreational and environmental asset to the local community, however, realising this potential will require careful and co-ordinated planning and investigation to establish environmental improvements that are required to improve the health of the park, and

recreational facilities that are beneficial to the local community and are what local people want.

- 3.3 In the previous park development project at Coronation Park in Ormskirk, the process used was to initially develop a master plan for the park, created from an extensive consultation and planning process. This process proved to be very successful and the results for Coronation Park have been excellent. It is felt therefore that taking the same approach for Tawd Valley Park would be the best way to take the project forward.

#### **4.0 CURRENT POSITION**

- 4.1 In November 2016 an officer working group was established consisting of West Lancashire Borough Council, Environment Agency, Groundwork CLM, Douglas Valley Catchment Programme and Lancashire County Council. This group will initially oversee a master plan process which will create clear and justified proposals for the project, will give an idea of the level of resources required to implement the scheme, and where these resources could be realised.

- 4.2 The master plan would include:-

- Scoping Exercise - to establish facilities existing on and around the park.
- Environmental Appraisal – identifying where environmental improvements/protection are required.
- Options Appraisal – liaison with stakeholders to establish core improvements required.
- Public Consultation – extensive programme to consult on core improvements and others proposals from the community.
- Establishing Consensus – gathering all views and proposals and propose options for master plan.
- Draft Master plan – compilation of consensus proposals into overall plan for further consultation.
- Final Master plan – adoption of Master plan.
- Design Proposals – detail designs for all elements of improvement works.
- Costings – indicative prices for all improvement works.
- Sources of Funding – identify feasible and available sources of funding.

- 4.3 In addition to the master plan, and further into the process, the officer working group will seek funding required and will oversee the implementation of the project. It will also assist with developing the sustainability of the project through creating a means of on-going management of the park.

#### **5.0 PROPOSALS**

- 5.1 It is proposed that the Tawd Valley Park Working Group develop specifications for the Master plan contract and that the Council make revenue funds of up to £25,000 available to cover the cost of this contract.

## **6.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

6.1 The development of this master plan and the subsequent improvements to Tawd Valley Park would greatly increase the level of healthy outdoor activity available to the local community. It would involve the local community in decision making and would therefore foster local ownership and the involvement in on-going stewardship. The scheme would also protect and enhance the natural environment of the park.

## **7.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 A bid for £25,000 revenue funding has been made from the 2017/18 budget to allow the Master plan contract to proceed. Early and positive consideration of this bid would allow the tender process to start as soon as possible.

7.2 A bid for Community Infrastructure Levy funding has been made for £300,000 capital funds to help implement the Tawd Valley Park Project. Undertaking the Masterplan process during 2017 would help to justify the CIL bid and may provide a significant start to the implementation of the scheme.

## **8.0 RISK ASSESSMENT**

8.1 Should the £25,000 requested be allocated then a master plan could be developed. This would be a major step forward in the development of Tawd Valley Park but would not necessarily guarantee that the capital resources required to implement the scheme would be available. However, the early production of a master plan for the project would assist in the bid for C.I.L monies.

---

---

### **Background Documents**

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

There is a direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore an Equality Impact Assessment is required. A formal equality impact assessment is attached as an Appendix to this report, the results of which have been taken into account in the Recommendations contained within this report.

### **Appendices**

1. Equality Impact Assessment