



CABINET: 7 November 2017

Report of: Director of Leisure and Wellbeing

Relevant Portfolio Holder : Councillor Y. Gagen

Contact for further information: Mrs P.F. Campbell (Ext. 5144)
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SUBJECT: TAWD VALLEY PARK MASTERPLAN

Wards affected: All Skelmersdale Wards

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To present Members with a draft Tawd Valley Park Masterplan

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Tawd Valley Park Masterplan, attached as an appendix to this report, be approved, subject to resource availability, and the project proceeds to the next phase of design and costing of the proposals.

2.2 That the approved Tawd Valley Park Masterplan be circulated for a further short term public consultation, and the Director of Leisure and Wellbeing, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Leisure, be authorised to approve any further amendments.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1. Members will recall that in January 2017 a sum of £25,000 was approved to engage consultants to deliver a detailed Masterplan for the Council to progress the development of the Tawd Valley Park Improvement Project.

3.2 A 5 stage programme of works was established :-

Stage 1 : Consultation and Development of Masterplan – April to October 2017

Stage 2 : Detailed designs and costings – Oct 2017 to March 2018

Stage 3 : Programming – Jan to March 2018

Stage 4 : Funding - ongoing

Stage 5 : Implementation – April 2018 to 2023(nominally)

Groundwork Cheshire Lancashire and Merseyside were commissioned to undertake phases 1 to 3 of the programme

- 3.4 An extensive public consultation exercise was undertaken over the Summer including school and college workshops, public events and presentations, press coverage, a visioning event, and an on-line survey. A summary of the main findings of the consultation included :-

General improvements –	Better paths Themed paths/trails Play areas Seats and bins Artwork Sport and fishing areas
More ambitious improvements -	Visitor centre/café Ranger Service Amphitheatre re-furbishment Heritage park Nature reserve Nature trails
Activities required -	Family activities Park events Volunteer Maintenance days
Future park management- (options in priority order)	Council with Friends Group Council Trust/CIC Private sector

- 3.5 In addition to this consultation the Environment Agency undertook a study to identify and recommend suitable locations for Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS), in the form of ponds, which would contribute towards improving the quality of the water in the river.

4.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 The information from the consultation, augmented by stakeholder comments from local groups and organisations have been used to compile a draft Masterplan for Tawd Valley Park (See appendices 2 to 7 Tawd Valley Park Masterplan, Tawd Valley Park Masterplan Summary Report, Plan of paths,

Plan of signs and information boards, Plan of activity zones, Plan of geo location points)

5.0 KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 In developing the draft Masterplan various main issues have been taken into consideration. The quality and availability of existing provision, a good infrastructure and accessibility throughout the park, activities and provision for all, providing a park that will instil pride in the local community, recommendations on future management, and a facility that will significantly contribute to the health and wellbeing of Skelmersdale.

6.0 PROPOSALS

- 6.1 Stage 2 of the masterplan process involves the consultants producing detailed designs and costings for the new facilities and improvements in Tawd Valley Park. It is proposed that the current draft Masterplan be approved, with a further opportunity for a short-term consultation in order for the consultants to progress to the next phases of the project, to be reported back to Members in Spring 2018.
- 6.2 Sources of funding will be investigated and, depending on the bidding timescales involved, and the level of funding available, a phased programme of implementation will be produced and reported to Members in Spring 2018.
- 6.3 Current staff resources are being used to manage the initial stages of this project, however, once this scheme reaches implementation stages we would need to consider the on-going requirements. This is an extremely important project for the community of Skelmersdale and engagement with this community is vital. It is proposed, therefore, that park staffing is included in funding bids wherever possible.
- 6.4 It is also important that the local community has an active role in the management of the park and a "Friends" group of local volunteers should be established early in the process to support the initiative.

7.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 7.1. The proposals within the Masterplan will allow for a greater range and availability of healthy outdoor activities for the local community. Community engagement will allow local involvement in the on-going management of the scheme.

8.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Existing staff resources are being used to manage the initial stages of this project operating alongside a working group of key stakeholders. Consideration will need to be given to staffing levels once this scheme progresses to implementation stage. This will be considered within all funding sources that are investigated to implement the project proposals.
- 8.2 Stages 1 to 3 of the Masterplan process have been funded through a revenue allocation of £25,000

9.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 All proposals put forward within this Masterplan will be reliant upon securing sufficient funds to implement. Much of this funding will be from external sources and implementation will be dependent upon timescales and requirements of these funds.
- 9.2 Future management of Tawd Valley Park needs to be considered throughout the development process, and recommendations and resourcing will need to be assessed early in the process, to protect investment in the park.

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 Appendix 1 to this report, the results of which have been taken into account in the Recommendations contained within this report

Appendices

- Appendix 1 - EIA
- Appendix 2 – Tawd Valley Park Masterplan
- Appendix 3 – Tawd Valley Park Masterplan summary report
- Appendix 4 – Tawd Valley Park Plan - paths
- Appendix 5 – Tawd Valley Park Plan – signs and information boards
- Appendix 6 – Tawd Valley Park Plan – activity zones
- Appendix 7 – Tawd Valley Park Plan – geo location points

Equality Impact Assessment Form



Directorate: Leisure & Wellbeing		Service: Leisure
Completed by: Paula Campbell		Date: 09/10/2017
Subject Title: Tawd Valley Park		
1. DESCRIPTION		
Is a policy or strategy being produced or revised:	No	
Is a service being designed, redesigned or cutback:	No	
Is a commissioning plan or contract specification being developed:	Yes	
Is a budget being set or funding allocated:	No	
Is a programme or project being planned:	Yes	
Are recommendations being presented to senior managers and/or Councillors:	Yes	
Does the activity contribute to meeting our duties under the Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty (Eliminating unlawful discrimination/harassment, advancing equality of opportunity, fostering good relations):	Yes	
Details of the matter under consideration: To undertake ecological and recreational improvement work in Tawd Valley Park.		
<p><i>If you answered Yes to any of the above go straight to Section 3</i> <i>If you answered No to all the above please complete Section 2</i></p>		
2. RELEVANCE		
Does the work being carried out impact on service users, staff or Councillors (stakeholders):		
If Yes , provide details of how this impacts on service users, staff or Councillors (stakeholders): <i>If you answered Yes go to Section 3</i>		
If you answered No to both Sections 1 and 2 provide details of why there is no impact on these three groups: <i>You do not need to complete the rest of this form.</i>		

3. EVIDENCE COLLECTION	
Who does the work being carried out impact on, i.e. who is/are the stakeholder(s)?	Local communities in Skelmersdale, Ward Members, Council employees
If the work being carried out relates to a universal service, who needs or uses it most? (Is there any particular group affected more than others)?	n/a
Which of the protected characteristics are most relevant to the work being carried out? Age Gender Disability Race and Culture Sexual Orientation Religion or Belief Gender Reassignment Marriage and Civil Partnership Pregnancy and Maternity	Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes
4. DATA ANALYSIS	
In relation to the work being carried out, and the service/function in question, who is actually or currently using the service and why?	Members of the public
What will the impact of the work being carried out be on usage/the stakeholders?	Will create a more positive healthier environment. Has financial and resource implications
What are people's views about the services? Are some customers more satisfied than others, and if so what are the reasons? Can these be affected by the proposals?	Feedback through public consultation has been very positive. The improvement work will provide opportunity to all local communities to benefit in some way.
What sources of data including consultation results have you used to analyse the impact of the work being carried out on users/stakeholders with protected characteristics?	A wide spread inclusive consultation exercise has been undertaken to include workshops with schools, visioning event for local residents and promotion of the project at various venues. A survey was formulated using the results of the work as identified above.

If any further data/consultation is needed and is to be gathered, please specify:	n/a
5. IMPACT OF DECISIONS	
In what way will the changes impact on people with particular protected characteristics (either positively or negatively or in terms of disproportionate impact)?	The improvement work will have a positive effect.
6. CONSIDERING THE IMPACT	
If there is a negative impact what action can be taken to mitigate it? (If it is not possible or desirable to take actions to reduce the impact, explain why this is the case (e.g. legislative or financial drivers etc.).	n/a
What actions do you plan to take to address any other issues above?	No actions
7. MONITORING AND REVIEWING	
When will this assessment be reviewed and who will review it?	Annually, undertaken through Leisure Services.