



**URN: 22-182**

**Subject: Parks and Green Spaces Levelling Up Fund**

**Report to: Executive Leadership Team, Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**Policy and Resources Committee, Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**Report by: Kate Blakemore, Strategic Director**

## **SUBJECT MATTER**

This report provides Members of the Council's Policy and Resources Committee with proposals for the refurbishment of Diana Way Park in Caister, in response to the government's recent allocation of funding in relation to its Parks and Green Spaces Levelling Up Fund.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended to:

1. Note the content of this report
2. Agree to allocating £75,000 from the Council's section 106 monies from the Pointers East development (06/15/0309/F) to be spent on this Diana Way Park, Caister, as part of this project
3. Subject to the agreement of 2 above, approve the inclusion of £160,000 in the Council's capital programme to be funded from the Parks and Green Spaces Levelling Up Fund (£85,000) and allocated section 106 monies (£75,000)

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 As part of the government's Levelling Up agenda, designed to reduce inequality between places whilst improving outcomes for all places, a Levelling Up Parks Fund was announced in July 2022.

## **2. INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 In July 2022 the Council was notified that it had been selected as an area to receive monies as part of the Governments Levelling Up Parks Fund. This is fund has been developed specifically to improve parks and urban green spaces within cities and towns, Identifying the importance of providing spaces for communities to come together and people to have access to the outdoors and green spaces to support their physical and mental wellbeing.

- 2.2 Rather than competing for monies, the Council has been allocated £85,000 via an opt in process. We have now opted in to receive this money and have until the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 2022 to submit our proposals on how this money will be spent.

### **3. FUNDING DETAILS**

- 3.1 The funding allocation is split into three parts, £47,500 to be spent of capital works (can include paths, benches, play equipment etc), £18,500 to be spend on revenue (can include consultancy, project management resource, ongoing maintenance costs etc) and a £19,000 tree planting uplift (to only be spent on tree planting).
- 3.2 The project outcome is essentially the creation of a new park/green space or the enhancement of an existing one, with the objective of being able to achieve green flag status going forwards. There is an expectation that the Council will engage with community groups as part of the project and ultimately apply for green flag status. The funding is about providing access to good quality green spaces in urban areas, undertaking tree planting and creating pride in local places.

### **4. SITE IDENTIFICATION**

- 4.1 Looking at the recent work that both property services and strategic planning have undertaken in terms of our open spaces and need, officers reviewed 20 sites that require the most improvement going forwards, as detailed within the previous play and open spaces report received by both Environment and Housing and Neighbourhood Committees.
- 4.2 In considering which site would be able to meet these outcomes of this funding, we also needed to ensure that the site would have the available space on which trees could be planted. In doing this we considered which sites could receive additional funding to scale up the scope of the project.
- 4.3 In working through these considerations, Diana Way in Caister was identified. This site is also potentially eligible for an additional funding from section 106 monies secured from the Pointers East development (06/15/0309/F) to the north of the site. £215,023 is currently available to spend from this obligation towards improvements to open space within Caister and Ormesby. It is recommended that £75,000 of this money is released to be spent on this project increasing the total available budget to £160,000 for the Diana Way Park improvements.
- 4.4 The map below outlines this area. This Park is of a good size and will have space for tree planting to take place, alongside other capital works. We believe this is a site which could achieve Green Flag status once improvement works have been undertaken.



4.5 The table below provides further information regarding this site.

Site	Ward	Parish	Ownership	Tenure	Function Detail	Site Category	No of equipment 5 years or less	equipment detail	Inspection detail	Total pieces of Equip	SCORE	AGE RANGE AIM	PRIORITY RATING	R&M	REPLACE/ REDESIGN	Recommendation
Playground Recreation Ground Diana Way	Caister North	Caister	GYBC	Freehold	Recreation Ground	LEAP	3	Multi Play (Toddler), Spring Dolphin, Spring Turtle – 3-5 years	Multiplay perforated metal, timber rotted and chain net damaged/ molehill issues with ground levels	9	27	0-12	H		2023/2024	REDESIGN
Youth and MUGA Recreation Ground Diana Way	Caister North	Caister	GYBC	Freehold	Recreation Ground	OTHER			Some maintenance needed on skate park, muga and dog grids - refer to inspection detail for further item details	4	26	0-12	M	2022/23		R&M

## 5. PROJECT PROPOSALS

5.1 Proposals for this site have been developed using inspection information we have about the site, and in conjunction with site visits and discussions with Ward and Parish Councillors. As a result, it is proposed that the following works will form part of this project going forwards:

- The planting of a new woodland area, planting native semi mature trees
- The creation of a wildflower meadow area
- A new pathway around the site to connect with the existing pathway so that people can easily walk around the whole site, and access all site facilities
- Increase seating and picnic benches in the areas, along with increasing the number of bins on the site
- Improve the signage at three entrances to the site



5.4 Project proposals must be submitted by the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022. Works need to commence by the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, although full site completion is not required until October 2023.

## 6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

6.1 As already outlined in this report the levelling up monies are pre allocated to areas of spend. In addition to this, using the additional £75,000 from the section 106 monies, the final project breakdown is as follows:

Budget Areas	£ Spend Allocation
Tree planting	19,000
Pathway creation	40,000
Bins/benches/seating	10,000
Refurbishing existing equipment (skate, play area & MUGA)	20,000
New play equipment	17,500
Wildflower meadow creation	15,000
Signage	6,000
General repairs (damaged fencing etc)	5,000
Fees (masterplanning, project management etc)	12,000
Ongoing repairs & maintenance	7,500
Contingency @ 5%	8,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>160,000</b>

6.2 This budget breakdown is based on indicative costs and will need to be further refined as the project is further developed. However, these costings provide assurance that works specified in this report are affordable in terms of the overall budget allocation.

## 7. RISKS

All project management governance will be implemented as part of this project, which will include the development of a risk register, to be reviewed throughout the lifetime of this project. Key risks include budgetary pressure both in terms of the capital delivery of this project and also in terms of the ongoing revenue allocation to support this project in the longer term. Mitigation is in place, to include the 5% contingency allocation outlined in the financial section of this report.

### Background Papers

GYBC Environmental Sustainability Strategy

*Areas of consideration: e.g. does this report raise any of the following issues and if so how have these been considered/mitigated against?*

Area for consideration	Comment
Monitoring Officer Consultation:	At ELT

Section 151 Officer Consultation:	At ELT
Existing Council Policies:	Environmental Sustainability Strategy
Financial Implications (including VAT and tax):	Addressed in the report
Legal Implications (including human rights):	Addressed in the report
Risk Implications:	Addressed in the report
Equality Issues/EQIA assessment:	To be undertaken
Crime & Disorder:	n/a
Every Child Matters:	n/a