Board/Committee: Community Board
Date of Meeting: Wednesday 11th September 2019
Title: Gosport Borough Council Environmental Improvements
Author: Head of Streetscene
Status: FOR DECISION

Purpose

To seek the Board’s approval to support environmental improvement projects throughout the Borough of Gosport.

Recommendation

The board supports the inclusion of the projects outlined in this report within the draft capital programme for 2020-21 to 2022-23, to be considered by Policy and Organisation board and full Council as part of the 2020-21 budget setting process.

1 Background

1.1 The Government in 2018 published, A Green Future; 25 year Plan to improve the Environment. The document recognises key elements:-

i) Managing Land Sustainably
ii) Recovering nature and enhancing natural beauty
iii) Connecting people with the environment to improve health & wellbeing
iv) Increasing resources efficiency and reducing pollution and waste
v) Securing clean, healthy productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans
vi) Protecting and improving our global environment particularly in an urban context.

1.2 In essence the 25 year Plan sets out the Government’s action to help the natural world regain and retain good health. On a more local level the Council is looking at how these aims can be delivered through initiatives/projects so that Gosport is contributing towards making the right improvements and make a real difference for future generations within Gosport.

2 Report

2.1 The Council actively seeks opportunities to enhance community facilities and open spaces that support the natural and ecological
processes that are integral to the health and quality of life within Gosport.

2.2 The Council has identified the following improvement schemes with identified costs as shown in Appendix 1, to deliver quality services for the residents and or visitors to Gosport that contributes to a vibrant and sustainable future for the Borough.

It is envisaged that the schemes individually and collectively will be valuable assets to contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of the local community, the environment, and through their design work towards reducing the Council’s carbon footprint to mitigate climate change.

The contracts will be Design and Build based on the Employer’s recommendations for each of the proposed schemes, with the final designs being awarded through the evaluation process of the tenders received.

2.3 **Tukes Avenue Open Space – Play Zone (see Appendix 2 for more detail)**

The provision of Playground / Exercise equipment adjacent to the existing facility to include safety surfacing and fencing, that provides a focal area for the Younger generation to participate in activities that are designed to enhance their physical and mental health through socialisation and physical activity, within a safe environment.

2.4 **Stokes Bay – Gym Equipment (see Appendix 3 for more detail)**

The provision of individual items of gym equipment along Stokes Bay frontage, to complement the existing Golden Mile. The equipment to be a mixture of static and moving stations installed into the grass with appropriate safety surfacing required for the critical fall height. The layout currently shows the approximate location of one existing station (Pull Up bars) plus an additional 4 stations.

2.5 **Nobes Avenue Open Space – New Pavilion (see Appendix 4 for more detail)**

To demolish the existing sports pavilion and provide a new pavilion that makes use of the closed toilet building to provide a new purpose built facility to accommodate toilets and changing rooms for the community.

The design would be single story and finished in material to ensure durability from anti-social behaviour.

2.6 **Walpole Park Open Space – Play Zone (see Appendix 5 for more detail)**
The Council wants to provide additional play equipment for inclusive play, with a suitable safety surface to improve access for all user groups to link in with the improvements that the Discovery centre have provided with a changing place facility.

These proposals take the opportunity to relocate the gym station area, away from the Play facility for younger children and provide between 5 -7 items that can be used by teenagers and adults alike for a more intensive workout.

2.7 **Grange Farm – Office Refurbishment**

Grange Farm offers a practical work place environment for the Countryside Volunteer Group, that supports and assists in the development of the Alver Valley Country Park and are currently based within the Grange Farm Office

A recent building condition survey identified various health and safety issues that are required in order to conform to current building regulations.

Work to include: re-wiring, installation of lighting suitable for office based working, false ceiling to mitigate asbestos, and improved toilet facilities for the number of users.

3 **Legal**

3.1 The Board notes that either planning permission or a ‘Certificate of Lawful Use or Development’ may need to be obtained prior to progressing any of the proposed schemes.

3.2 If planning permission is not required due to the scheme being classed as permitted development the work could start once the project has been put out to tender in accordance with the Council’s procurement rules.

4 **Finance**

4.1 The schemes outlined in this report are not included within the current capital program approved by Full Council on the 6th February 2019.

4.3 Revenue maintenance costs for each of the schemes would be reflected in revised budgets.

5 **Risk Assessment**

5.1 In terms of risk it should be noted that unless the budget is committed there is a danger that funding may be reduced or lost and in terms of
opportunity there is risk to the level of Services that the Council provide for the residents and visitors alike for Gosport and the prospect of reduced health and wellbeing of the community through lack of services that create mechanisms for increased social and physical activity whilst enhancing the environment.

6 Conclusion

6.1 The report provides Board Members with information on schemes suggested as Environmental Improvements to increase the enjoyment of facilities and the council’s commitment to upgrading existing facilities as and when resources allow with an indication to the budget provision for delivery.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Services comments:</th>
<th>The schemes outlined in the report (total cost £685,000) are not included within the current capital programme approved by Full Council on the 6th February 2019.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legal Services comments:</td>
<td>Contained within the report.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime and Disorder:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equality and Diversity:</td>
<td>Improved provision for disabled access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Improvement Plan implications:</td>
<td>To provide new and improved facilities to enhance the Open Spaces within Gosport as per the Local Plan 2011-2029 LP34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate Plan:</td>
<td>To create a range of attractive and accessible Open Spaces/Facilities which focus on the five strategic priorities of the Councils Core values. (Plan on a Page)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk Assessment:</td>
<td>Refer to paragraph 3 of this report.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Background papers:</td>
<td>Plan on a Page (GBC) A Green Future: Our 25 year Plan to Improve the Environment (HM Government)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendices/Enclosures:</td>
<td>Indicative proposals with location maps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report author/ Lead Officer:</td>
<td>Stevyn Ricketts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>