

Decision Pathway – Report



PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 01 September 2020

TITLE	Bristol Future Parks Programme		
Ward(s)	All Wards		
Author:	Hayley Ash	Job title:	Future Parks Programme Manager
Cabinet lead:	Asher Craig	Executive Director lead:	Stephen Peacock
Proposal origin: BCC Staff			
Decision maker: Mayor			
Decision forum: Cabinet			
Purpose of Report:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To update Cabinet on Bristol Future Parks Programme, and appraise the Cabinet of the key changes to the Future Parks Programme. To seek approval to run a pilot to test the Future Parks Expressions of Interests processes and systems and the decision making framework matrix which is being developed to evaluate bids. To seek approval to pilot a parks and green space sponsorship model. To appraise Cabinet of the Future Parks bid (Project Extension Funding) being developed which will see additional funds being secured to enable the project to conclude a number of pieces work and develop new work streams. 			
Evidence Base:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> In 2008 when the Parks and Greenspace Strategy was adopted; it identified that circa £80 million of investment was required to enable the city's parks and green spaces to reach an excellent standard. Since 2008 the service has secured circa £13 million to invest in parks and green spaces. Following the period of austerity in 2010 this saw Local Government budgets being significantly impacted upon. The budget allocated to parks and green spaces service saw the budget reduced from £5.96 million to £4 Million approximately a 33% reduction. Through the quality of life survey we have seen the satisfaction in the quality of Bristol's Parks decline over this period from 83% in 2013 to 72% in 2019, with satisfaction only 53% in our 10% most deprived neighbourhoods (Data captured from the Quality of life report 2019/2020) A project team led by Bristol City Council secured funding in 2019 from the Future Parks Accelerator Fund (National Trust, Heritage Lottery and the Ministry of Housing, communities and Local Government) to pilot new approaches to sustaining the Cities Parks. The Covid 19 pandemic has impacted upon the project significantly and has caused time delays with the delivery of programme, our ability to engage with businesses, the voluntary and health sectors; through the soft market testing exercise (Expression of Interest) which was planned for this summer. The Future Parks Governance Board agreed on May the 13th 2020 to put the planned Expressions of Interest phase back from August 2020 to February 2021, in order to give the market an opportunity to recover. This delay still allows us to deliver the project within the timeframe agreed with our funders. To accommodate this with have had to go through a process of renegotiating with the funders and redefine milestones and budgets, which has seen the project secure an extension until the end of October 2021. The extension will not incur 			

any additional cost to the council as the funds have been found from within the existing Future Parks budget.

7. The project team are developing a bid to secure additional funding for the project, which will see the Future Parks Programme being given a further extension until March 2022. The extension and funding will enable the Council to conclude and implement a number of the work streams in train (the original project does not require some elements of the project to be fully implemented), bring about additional outcomes and benefits to the project and allow the us to invest into the creation of a Bristol Parks branding work stream. The extension will not require any additional match funding.
8. As part of the work in renegotiating the milestones with the funder, we have been asked to develop a pilot for the Expression of Interest, this offers us an opportunity to pilot the processes, trial sponsorship approaches and test the decision making framework on a small number of sites. This approach will allow us to implement any necessary changes prior to launching the full Expression of Interest in February 2021.
9. Sites to be piloted will be –
 - Sea Mills Rec – to test; Expressions of Interest back office systems, Community considerations hand book, Small direct sponsorship opportunities for individual community projects.
 - The Netham – to test a site that will have multiple interests from across different sectors such as health, community, business and sport – this site will potentially test the decision making framework which is under development but will also enable us to test our approach to working with local Anchor organisations to reach underrepresented groups.
10. We will develop a process to enable us to “stress test” our systems and processes prior to launching the pilot Expressions of Interests. This piece of work will be carried out at Eastville Park working with local stakeholders and interested parties; so that we can co-design our processes.
11. As part of the pilot Bristol Future Parks Team will develop an approach to test a series of ways to secure sponsorship which will be tested prior to the launch of the full Expressions of Interest phase. This will allow us to create clear principals and objectives in line with Bristol City Councils policies and procedures.
12. Due to the importance of Parks and Green Spaces during the Covid - 19 pandemic it is expected that when we embark on the full Expression of Interest phase, we anticipate that this will attract a significant interest from voluntary sector. This will provide substantial benefits to the Parks Service, and in order to grasp this opportunity it is necessary to develop a parks volunteer strategy as part of the Future Parks extension, so that we have the required structure to respond to the interest being received.

Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the work of the project team and changes to the Future Parks Programme.
2. Notes the agreed extension for Future Parks Programme funding agreement to October 2021 as set out in the report
3. Approves a “stress test” being undertaken at Eastville Park working with local stakeholders and interested parties prior to launching the pilot Expressions of Interests, to allow us to test our systems and processes.
4. Approves in principle a series of pilot Expressions of Interest for the Future Parks Programme in September/October 2020 and authorises the Senior Director Citizen Service to agree and implement a detailed plan in consultation with the Executive member for Communities, Equalities and Public Health
5. Approves the submission of an application for and acceptance of additional funding if successful, and a further extension to the project until March 2022, as outlined in the report.
6. Approve the carrying out of a pilot parks and green space sponsorship model and authorise the Senior Director Citizen Service in consultation with the Executive member for Executive member for Communities, Equalities and Public Health to take all steps required to agree and implement the pilot.

7. Note the development and implementation of a parks volunteering strategy.

Corporate Strategy alignment:

1. Empowering and Caring: Work with partners to empower communities and individuals, increase independence and support those who need it. Give children the best possible start in life.
2. Fair and Inclusive: Improve economic and social equality, pursuing economic growth which includes everyone and making sure people have the access to good quality learning, decent jobs and homes they can afford.
3. Wellbeing: Create healthier and more resilient communities where life expectancy is not determined by wealth or background.

City Benefits:

1. By piloting the approach we will test and if necessary change our systems for the main EOI phase
2. Bristol’s current Future Parks Programme will, through the prospectus approach, enable Bristol City Council to gain a comprehensive picture of all opportunities within the city’s greenspaces. We will test the market to explore opportunities across a range of sectors, including volunteering, community projects, different sponsorship models and opportunities for partnerships with corporate bodies.
3. Development and implementation of a twenty five year Parks and Greenspace strategy.
4. By submitting an application for an extension of time and further funding, will give Bristol a chance to secure an additional £238,050 investment and allow us to conclude and a number of the work streams which are in train and develop additional work streams. This will enable us to follow through on the opportunities identified as part of the current project, build a pipeline of sponsorship arrangements, showcase volunteering opportunities (both individual and corporates) and create a solid identity for Bristol’s parks.
5. The investment into volunteering will increase the amount of volunteers BCC Parks Service can work with as well as improve the volunteer experience for those taking part, this will result in additional input into our parks, contributing to the One City Plan: ‘everyone has access to an excellent quality green space within 10 minutes’ walk from home’ by 2036.

Consultation Details:

1. The Bristol Future Parks Team have carried out 19 community events, 4 face to face (pre-Covid 19) and 15 virtual discussions. At these events we informed citizens about Bristol Future Parks, we asked people what was special about their park, what opportunities they see in their parks, what risks and challenges they saw, and started discussions as to how they might want to take up the opportunity to do more in their parks.
2. Working with our project partners Natural History Consortium we have a live Survey asking people about their parks usage, both before and during Covid 19. 1824 surveys have been returned and the analysis has just begun
3. Further engagement in parks is being planned for the summer holiday period

Background Documents:

Appendix A1: Future Parks revised milestones for October 2021 extension.

Appendix A2: Application for project funded extension to March 2022.

Appendix D: Risk assessment

Appendix E: Equality Impact Assessment.

Revenue Cost	£933,257.00	Source of Revenue Funding	External grant funding and contribution from BCC
Capital Cost	£0	Source of Capital Funding	NA
One off cost <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/>	Income generation proposal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:**Finance Advice:****1. Finance Advice:**

The report notifies Cabinet of the extensions both granted and further extensions sort to the Future Parks Programme. Both extensions will not require any additional match funding, nor incur any additional costs to the council. As part of the second extension sort, the project team are developing a bid to secure additional funding for the project, which will see the Future Parks Programme being given an extension until March 2022. The report is seeking approval to submit a bid for £238050 and accept/spend any grant funding offered.

The report is also seeking approval to pilot some expressions of interest as requested by the funder (National Trust, Heritage Lottery and the Ministry of Housing, communities and Local Government). The pilot will help inform a formal EOI process in the future, and it will help the Council gauge the level of interest that exists in Parks operations, sponsorship, health consideration and volunteering amongst other things.

With a net cost to the council of c£4m, funding is a critical part of Parks operations now and in the future, it will be vital to test if there are workable options that can encourage more volunteering and sponsoring of local parks and their activities in a way that supports the community and reduces the financial burden moving more parks to a sustainable level.

The decision in this report does not constitute any additional funding pressure to the Council.

Finance Business Partner: Kayode Olagundoye 7th August 2020

2. Legal Advice: Detailed legal advice should be sought by the relevant officers prior to carrying out any pilots to ensure that all relevant legal considerations are taken into account (e.g. intellectual property in any ideas submitted is dealt with appropriately, whether the Public Contracts Regulations will apply to any pilot or subsequent EOI process, any sponsorship arrangements are appropriately governed etc).

Legal Team Leader

Legal Team Leader: Sinead Willis, Commercial and Governance Team, comments provided on report 3 August 2020

3. Implications on IT

No anticipated impact to IT Services, as long as the Expressions of Interest back office systems' remain aligned to current IT Strategy

IT Team Leader:

Comments received from Simon Oliver on 27th July 2020

4. HR Advice:

The report provides an update on Future Parks, and seeks approval to pilot the expression of interest and a sponsorship model. The report does not identify any current HR issues or implications

HR Partner: Celia Williams 06/08/2020

5. Procurement Advice:

Procurement will continue to work closely with the Project board to deliver the chosen route to market. The intention is to run the pilot which will help to determine how the tender will be designed and packaged. A two staged OJEU Open Tender process is recommended so that an expression of interest stage can be conducted to ensure a shortlisting exercise is included. The procurement process will be supported by an allocated Category Specialist or Business Partner. The chosen Procurement Route to market will comply with BCC Procurement Rules and Procurement Regulation 2015.

Category Manager:

Niotia Ferguson – Category Business Partner, Services & Resources

EDM Sign-off	[Patsy Mellor]	22 nd July 2020
Cabinet Member sign-off	(Councillor Asher Craig]	23 rd July 2020
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off		3 rd August 2020

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal A1. Future Parks Draft Reprofile Outcomes to October 2021 A2. Application for project funded extension to March 2022.	YES
Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	NO
Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny	NO
Appendix D – Risk assessment	YES
Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal	YES
Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal These proposals amend a previously agreed report. They do not include any changes that will have an environmental impact beyond those originally agreed, so no new environmental assessment is required. Giles Liddell, Climate Change Team.	NO
Appendix G – Financial Advice	NO
Appendix H – Legal Advice	NO
Appendix I – Exempt Information	NO
Appendix J – HR advice	NO
Appendix K – ICT	NO
Appendix L – Procurement	NO