

Lancaster City Council | Report Cover Sheet

Meeting	Cabinet	Date	06.10. 2020
Title	Covid-19 Pandemic- Policy for decision making and spending delegations within the Budget and Police Framework.		
Report of	Director for Communities and Environment		
Purpose of the Report			
To seek authorisation to commit expenditure in accordance with the 'Covid-19 Pandemic-Policy for decision making and spending delegations within the Budget and Policy Framework'			
Key Decision (Y/N)	N	Date of Notice	N/A
			Exempt (Y/N)
			N

Report Summary
<p>Seeking approval through COVID19 financial regs to spend in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Williamson Park – Mini zoo upgrade Car Parking – Machine replacement Happy Mount Park – Footpath replacement (capital)

Recommendations of the Director for Communities and Environment	
That Cabinet authorises the officers to proceed with the projects set out in this report	
Relationship to Policy Framework	
Under the Council's priority of Healthy and Happy Communities, these projects would fall under the following theme:	
Keeping our districts neighbourhoods, parks, beaches and open space clean, well-maintained and safe.	
Conclusion of Impact Assessment(s), where applicable	
Climate- NA	Wellbeing & Social Value – as outlined
Digital – the new replacement car parking machines will allow electronic payment	Health & Safety – the replacement parking machines can be operated without the need for customers to use cash. The replacement footpath in HMP is needed because the existing one is in need of extensive repair
Equality- replacement of the footpath in HMP will ensure it remains accessible	Community Safety-
Details of Consultation	

N/A

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications stemming from this report. Legal services will need to be engaged in relation to any contracts for works.

Financial Implications

Appendix 1 – Williamson Park

The amount required to complete the works is earmarked to be funded from the 'Invest to Save' Reserve with initial payback being met from increased admission numbers and sales volume. Once paid back the additional receipts are included in the base budget for the Council and will offset the future amounts needed to be collected by Council Taxpayers.

Appendix 2 – Car Park machine replacement

The amount required to replace the machines identified is £85K and is requested to be funded from the 'Renewals' Reserve. The amount available for car parking related renewals is £111K so this request can be managed from within this. It is expected that cash collection costs will reduce as a consequence and these will be reviewed/monitored once the new machines are in position for a short period of time.

Appendix 3 – Happy Mount Park footpath replacement

Cabinet at its meeting of 15th September 2020 [minute (42)(3) refers] approved capital slippage as part of the provisional outturn report. This request was covered as part of that overall request and this report now seeks the commencement of the project, where any further delays could potentially lead to health and safety issues and ultimately possible closures which are hoped to be avoided.

Other Resource or Risk Implications

Section 151 Officer's Comments

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments to add

Monitoring Officer's Comments

The Monitoring Officer has no further comment to make

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Links to Background Papers

Appendix 1 – Williamson Park

Appendix 2 – Car Park machine replacement

1.0 Introduction

The COVID policy for spending delegations within the budget were set out and agreed by cabinet on 9th June 2020.

- 1.1 The 'Covid-19 Pandemic- Policy' for decision making and spending delegations within the Budget and Policy Framework' states all decisions on the use of reserves, the commencement of new capital projects or re-commencement of capital projects halted by the pandemic will require approval of cabinet irrespective of the financial level. In the area of Public Realm there are currently 3 projects that were previously agreed and budgeted for that now need Cabinet approval to commence or recommence.
- 1.2 **Williamson Park** was allocated £30,000 to deliver an invest to save project to add an additional animal attraction in the mini-zoo. The project commenced and so far £6,000 of this has been spent. To complete the project approval is requested to spend the remaining £24,000 allocated to the project. It is expected that the additional attraction will generate additional net income of £10,000 per annum.
- 1.3 **Happy Mount Park** has an allocated capital budget of £112,000 to replace footbaths within its boundary. The project scope has been drawn up and quotations have received from local companies.
- 1.4 **Replacement of 20 pay and display machines** was stopped at the start of the pandemic. The cost of this project is £85,000 and includes infrastructure that would allow residents and visitors to use additional contactless payment options. Without replacement the machines will continue to break down and thus the Council will lose income.

2.0 Proposal

- 2.1 To delegate officers to complete the tasks highlights above

3.0 Options and Options Analysis

- 3.1 Option 1- To support the spend for the outlined revenue and capital schemes
- 3.2 Option 2 – Not support the spend for the outlined revenue and capital schemes

4.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

Option 1: Support the spend

Advantages:

Help to maintain and generate additional income

Ensure the standard of the public realm is well maintained, clean and safe

Disadvantages: Additional spend of revenue during pandemic
Risks: Levels of income estimates may not be achieved
Option 2: Spend is not supported
Advantages: Finances can be reallocated to other areas
Disadvantages: Income streams within the public realm will not be met Standard of the public realm will deteriorate
Risks:

4. Officer Preferred Option (and comments)

- 4.1 The officer preferred option is Option1 on the basis that the outlined tasks need to be addressed to ensure facilities and operations can achieve income levels and corporate priorities.