

# COVID19 – Financial Delegation Decision Log

## Public Realm

<b>Date:</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> October 2020
<b>From:</b>	Head of Public Realm
<b>To:</b>	Cabinet

<b>Request:</b>	To seek approval for the continuation of spend to develop the mini- zoo in Williamson Park to enable the high standard of the facility ready for re-opening.
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<b>Recommendation:</b>	<p>To agree that officers are given the authority to incur expenditure to continue the development of the zoo at Williamson Park to enable the previously agreed and started projects to be completed to prepare for opening in line with government guidelines.</p> <p>An investment of £30,000 was authorised to develop the small mammal area further, to improve the standard and increase the attraction for our visitors. The completion of the development will see the inclusion of a new exhibit, of which would house animals within the squirrel family. Specifically an endangered, studbook species named Prevost squirrels which is part of a European breeding program. This would continue to increase the reputation of the collection within the zoo world, BIAZA (British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquaria), EAZA (European Association of Zoos and Aquaria) and ZSL (Zoological Society of London) . It would also be a popular addition to the visiting public.</p> <p>The funds were also allocated to be used to further improve interpretation, lighting, and interactive displays for visitors. Further to this we are in the process of developing the disused habitat trail area by building a raised wildlife pond that will contribute to educational sessions and assist in income generation for the park.</p> <p>This investment will assist the facilities in achieving the targets set as part of the Council Ambitions:</p> <p>Keeping our districts neighbourhoods, parks, beaches and open space clean, well-maintained and safe</p> <p>The amount allocated to the project was £30K. Prior to COVID £6K was spent The project is part delivered and needs a further £24K to complete.</p> <p>The agreement of this will enable the completion of projects already in progress and will ensure the standard is high for opening and generating income.</p> <p>It is estimated the new attraction will generate additional net income of £10K per annum.</p> <p>Government rulings prevent the zoo facility from opening currently due to the indoor nature of the attraction but the team hope to be ready for when sanctions lift.</p>
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