

# Executive Decision Report

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## **Victoria Park Centenary Walk (Phase 2)**

Decision to be taken by: City Mayor

Decision to be taken on: 26 November 2015

Lead director: John Leach

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**City Mayor**

## **Useful information**

- Ward(s) affected: Castle
- Report author: Brian Stafford, Project & Development Manager
- Author contact details: x37 4943
- Report version number: 1.2

### **1. Summary**

The purpose of this report is to approve the second phase of the Victoria Park Centenary Walk project commencing in 2015/16 - the creation of a new processional route linking the London Road park lodges and the War Memorial and improved landscaping and amenity improvements to both existing car parks.

### **2. Recommendations**

That permission is given to proceed with the second phase of the project, with a total value of £1.86m, made up of £1.268m from the Local Economic Action Plan and the balance from a combination of prudential borrowing, developer contributions and revenue contributions.

This includes works to the tennis courts along with the creation of the new processional route and associated landscaping around the existing car parking area.

That permission is given to commence Phase 3 of the works, investigating funding options for the development of the skate park area and basketball court.

### **3. Supporting information including options considered:**

In January 2014, an Executive Decision Notice and associated report paper was signed by the City Mayor committing resources to the first phase of the Victoria Park Centenary Walk project. As a result of this, a new toilet block has been constructed at the park as Phase 1 of the works, with the building completed in December 2014.

This second phase of works will see the continuation of the project delivery with works due to take place to the tennis courts, the main car park areas and also the creation of the new processional route to link the park lodges with the War Memorial.

Once again works will take place either side of the main summer event programme on the park, in order to minimise any disruption to these.

#### **4. Details of Scrutiny**

The Centenary Walk project was presented to the Heritage, Culture and Sports Scrutiny committee on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

This followed a period of public consultation for the project, which ran for 5 weeks from late July to the end of August 2013.

#### **5. Financial, legal and other implications**

##### 5.1 Financial implications

Total Economic Action Plan funding of £1.5m for Victoria Park was approved in principle by the City Mayor in January 2014, of which £240k was released for phase 1, leaving a balance of £1.26m.

This report proposes capital expenditure of £1.86m for phase 2, to be funded by the balance of £1.26m from the Economic Action Plan provision and £600k from a combination of prudential borrowing (to be repaid by additional car parking income), developer contributions and revenue contributions.

- Colin Sharpe, Head of Finance, ext. 37 4081

##### 5.2 Legal implications

Victoria Park and Granville Road Car Parks are contained in the Leicester (Off-Street Parking Places) Consolidation Order 2014. This Order details the terms and conditions of their use, should the project proceed and the car parks changed or the conditions of use changed then we would have to make an amendment to that Order follow the statutory procedures for doing so. Traffic Operations team should be advised of this project if not done so already so as they can instruct Legal Services on any changes that will need to take place prior to completion.

Procurement of any contractors required to carry out the works should be in accordance with the Contract Procedure Rules and, if applicable, the Public Contract Regulations 2015. Advice and guidance should be sought from procurement and (dependent upon value) legal services.

- Emma Horton, Principal Solicitor (Commercial, property and Regulatory).

### 5.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

A scheme of this kind can generate one-off carbon emissions from the materials required and the construction works. It can also affect city carbon emissions and climate resilience when completed through impacts on travel, energy or water demand, tree cover and drainage.

These issues have been considered in the proposed scheme and measures will be included to address them, including:

- Reuse of waste aggregate where possible on site.
  - Inclusion of new cycle parking facilities.
  - Specifying energy efficient LED lighting for the new tennis court floodlighting and replacement of lighting at De Montfort Hall with LED. Also controls on the tennis court floodlighting so that it goes off when the courts aren't in use.
  - Diversion of rainwater run-off from the car parking into the tree pits as part of the Sustainable Urban Drainage scheme for the site.
  - Planting of new trees, which will partly offset the loss of existing trees.
- Duncan Bell, Senior Environmental Consultant, Environment Team. Ext. 37 2249.

### 5.4 Equalities Implications

*Not applicable*

### 5.5 Other Implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

*Not applicable*

## **6. Background information and other papers:**

Executive Decision Notice and Briefing report dated 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

## **7. Summary of appendices:**

None

## **8. Is this a private report (If so, please indicated the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?**

No

**9. Is this a “key decision”?**

Yes

**10. If a key decision please explain reason**

Capital expenditure exceeding £1m is to be committed on a scheme not specifically authorised by Full Council.