

# Report of the Parks & Green Spaces Service to the meeting of the Bradford South Area Committee to be held on 25 September 2014

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**Subject:**

**Parks and Green Spaces Service - Project Prioritisation**

**Summary statement:**

**This report presents details of potential projects within Bradford South to allow members to confirm the priority order for delivery utilising the Service's Technical Unit**

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**Overview & Scrutiny Area:**



City of Bradford  
Metropolitan District Council



## 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Council's Executive on 9 October 2012 identified the Parks & Green Spaces Service to report to Area Committees through the devolution agenda.

During consideration of the Parks and Green Spaces Annual Report on 26 June, the Area Committee asked that further details of potential 'capital' projects be made available to allow a priority order to be established for future delivery by the Service's Technical Unit..

## 2. BACKGROUND

### 2.1 The Parks & Green Spaces Service (PGSS)

Currently sits in the Sports and Leisure Service, which is part of the Environment & Sport Department and the main function is the management and maintenance of the district's parks and green spaces. The area of land managed by the section totals over 1,000 hectares of parks/grassed areas and around 850 hectares of woodland.

In total, utilising its 95 permanent gardeners, the service manages, develops and maintains 36 parks, of which 5 have achieved Green Flag status, 115 recreational spaces (which include football, rugby, cricket, tennis and bowls facilities) and 276 play areas. Property responsibility is also held for over 50 pavilion/changing rooms, 20 lodges and 5 cafes.

### 2.2 The Technical Unit

The PGSS has an ongoing programme for delivery of new projects and refurbishment of existing facilities, overseen by the 6 staff that constitute the Technical Unit.

The Technical Unit is also responsible for the project management of a number of strategic District wide projects including:

#### **Wyke Community Sports Village**

Cliffe Castle Heritage Lottery Bid

Doe Park Extension and High Ropes

Charitable Trusts and Section 106 Recreational Allocations

Playing Pitch and Open Space Strategies

Play Area Management and Maintenance

Bereavement Service Strategy

However, remaining resources currently allow for an average of 2 projects to be delivered in each area annually.

Over the last 12 months eight projects listed within section 2.2.1 have been completed whilst there is one ongoing and listed in section 2.2.2.

The seven potential future projects currently identified within Section 2.2.3 for

Bradford South await prioritisation to receive future design & project management resources when available.

Outline details of the projects including likely funding options and any known issues which may effect delivery dates have been included to further inform the process of prioritisation.

### 2.2.1 **New Facilities Completed**

The following projects have been delivered over the last year;-

#### **Play Area at Wibsey Park ( Wibsey Ward)**

£ 101,000 (section 106 / Wren Funding)

Removal of existing equipment from the play area and replacement with more exciting and challenging equipment. Worked with the Friends of Wibsey Park and ward Councillors to establish and achieve the project aims.

#### **Refurbish Play Area at Gleneagles Close and Hopefield Way (Tong Ward)**

£ 19,500 (section 106 Funding)

Refurbishment of play areas to return them to acceptable standard.

#### **Fitness equipment Odsal Village Green ( Wyke Ward)**

£ 9,500 (section 106 Funding)

New fitness equipment installed, working with ward Councillors and local residents

#### **Tip Top at Wilson Road Landfill Site (Wyke Ward)**

£ 20,000 (section 106 Funding)

Environmental Project to bring the former Wilson Road 'tip top' into use for recreation. Working in partnership with the in house Landscape Design Unit.

#### **Black Carr woods (Tong Ward)**

£ 10,000 (section 106 Funding)

Woodland Improvements, paths and access working with Friends group

#### **Wyke Recreation Ground Changing Unit (Wyke Ward)**

£ 185,000 (Sport England/section 106 and Biffa land fill tax credits)

Brand new changing unit and community facility at Wyke Recreation Ground. Working with the local club, Sport England and the RFL in providing a state of the art changing facility for the village.

#### **Farfield Recreation Ground**

£ 86,000 (section 106 and Wren funding)

New play equipment installed at the existing play area. Some existing play

equipment has been removed and replaced with new, whilst some items have been retained. Additionally, an 8 item trim trail, a fitness station and new benches and bins are installed. The project was delivered by Bradford Community Environment Project (BCEP).

### **Dane Hill Drive**

£ 40,799 ( section 106 funding )

New play equipment and safer surfacing installed at the existing play area. Some existing play equipment removed and replaced with new, whilst some (better condition) items have been retained.

## **2.2.2 New Facilities Ongoing**

The following projects are ongoing in Bradford South:

### **Collinfield Rise / Woodside play Area Refurbishment**

£ 76,381 (section 106 Funding)

New play equipment to be installed at existing play areas Collinfield Rise and Woodside. The majority of the work is to be undertaken at Collinfield with replacement equipment being installed whilst there is a single replacement at Woodside together with safer surfacing as this was a new play area constructed recently under the Playbuilder scheme. The project is being delivered by BCEP.

## **2.2.3 Potential New Facilities**

Members are asked to consider the following list of possible projects and agree the priority order for delivery in the future. The options, in the priority order currently suggested. are:

### **1 Brackenhill Park (Great Horton Ward)**

£ 25,000 (Section 106 funds committed)

Refurbishment of elements of the Toddler and Junior play areas and being overseen by the Council's Landscape Design Unit

**Status** – Due to commence on site within the next month

### **2 Scholemoor Cemetery Garden of Remembrance - New Entrance (Great Horton Ward)**

£30-40,000 (Revenue Funded through Bereavement Service)

New access to garden of remembrance for both maintenance and visitor access with closure of existing access point through Muslim burial section. Design and management through Council's Landscape Design Unit

**Status** – Funding identified and due for completion this year as part of the new Muslim Burial Ground Lease.

### **3 Harold Park Improvements (Royds Ward)**

£ 22,000 (Section 106 Funding)

Improvements and refurbishment agreed with the Friends of Harold Park, to include new toddler play units and fitness equipment.

**Status** – Funding committed awaiting final confirmation of works from Friends group

### **4 Spinney Rise (Tong Ward)**

£ 45,000 (Section 106 Funding)

Proposed new play area off Holme Lane, Holmewood.

**Status** – Scheme at inception stage awaiting land transfer from the developer.

### **5 Judy Woods (Royds/Wyke Ward)**

£5-7,000 (Section 106 Funding)

Improvements to, and creation of, new access points to woodland.

**Status** – Total funding of £9,000 allocated by Royd's councillors between this scheme and another to provide additional item of play equipment at Woodside Road play area. Balance of funds remaining yet to be confirmed before agreeing scope of works with the Friends group.

### **6 Wyke Village Green (Wyke Ward)**

Cost and funding to be confirmed

Proposed listing as a 'Commemorative Field' with the provision of a new bandstand, war memorial and seating area.

**Status** – scheme at inception stage

### **7 Wibsey Park Sports Pitches (Wibsey Ward)**

Cost and funding to be confirmed with Community Sports Fund / Sport England

Proposal to drain and level the existing winter sports pitches in the park.

**Status** - scheme at inception stage

## **3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

3.1 The programming of the agreed project list for Bradford South will be influenced by:-

- Resolution of any scheme specific issues (funding, planning etc)

- The requirements of the Strategic Project list
- The delivery of the project lists for the other 4 Areas
- Retention of the current staff levels

#### 4. FINANCIAL APPRAISAL

##### 4.1 Technical Unit Projects

The projects included within this report are primarily funded by third party grants or capital contributions from developers through Section 106 agreements. The PGSS contributes through allocation of its technical and project management staff resources together with financial contributions, where required, from the reducing revenue budget held for this purpose.

##### 4.2 2014/15 Parks & Green Spaces Service Budget

- The net controllable budget for Parks and Green Spaces is £4.24m
- The total budgeted spend is £7.24m with a challenging income target (£3m) representing over 40% of total spend.
- Almost £3m of the £4.24m net parks budget is allocated to constituency based working (including the 1m spend on fleet that is monitored and controlled centrally but mainly deployed in the devolved area operations)

##### 4.3 Overview of Section 106 Monies

The table below shows the Ward totals of section 106 monies held for both revenue and capital spend. Currently almost 70% of capital available has been allocated in consultation with local members. Revenue contributions are held to fund maintenance of capital projects for 20 years.

Ward	Revenue Funding	Capital Allocated	Capital Unallocated	Ward Totals
Tong	162,538	101,205	41,398	305,141
Great Horton	42,213	25,000	0	67,213
Queensbury	225,274	0	55,440	280,714
Royds	90,899	162,571	0	253,470
Wibsey	55,993	0	27,315	83,308
Wyke	0	20,000	9,560	29,560
<b>Total by Constituency</b>	<b>576,917</b>	<b>308,776</b>	<b>133,712</b>	<b>1,019,405</b>

## **5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

- 5.1 The financial risks posed are limited by the nature of the expenditure delegated. However, there is potential to reduce efficiency and overall quality of the service in specific areas if any proposed change is not considered for the wider implications. It will be important to establish a financial governance regime to devise and ensure sound stewardship of the limited resources available. This is work in progress and must be in place to support effective devolution.

## **6. LEGAL APPRAISAL**

- 6.1 The contents of this report are in accordance with the decisions of the Executive on 9 October 2012 and 16 April 2013.

## **7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

### **7.1 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY**

Area Committee decisions will need to be made in line with Equal Rights legislation. This will require Area Committees to assess the potential equality impact of any decisions they make.

### **7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

Increased local decision making has the potential to create more sustainable solutions to local issues.

Contact the Sustainability Co-ordinator (Policy), on Bradford 434123 or e-mail [jamie.saunders@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:jamie.saunders@bradford.gov.uk) for further guidance.

### **7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS**

The Parks and Green Spaces service provides a pro-active approach in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through the local deployment of its maintenance teams. Teams are based in areas in an effort to reduce travelling times with its fleet/plant resulting in reduced fuel consumption. In addition to this parks and recreation grounds/trees/woodlands provide communities with 'green lungs' which can naturally assist with the filtering of polluted air.

### **7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no Community Safety Implications arising from this report.

### **7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

There are no Human Rights Act implications arising from this report.

**7.6 TRADE UNION**

There are no Trade Union implications.

**7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS**

The information in this report is relevant to all Wards in the area.

An increased level devolution of the services will allow the Area Committee to further address local priorities for those services within wards.

**8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

There are no not for publication documents.

**9. OPTIONS**

**9.1 For Information Only**

Members may wish to receive this report for information only

**9.2 Capital Projects**

Members are asked to consider the suggested priority order for future schemes as listed within 2.2.3 and determine the priority order to be followed by the Technical Unit.

**10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Bradford South Area Committee:

Notes the content of this report.

Approves the priority order for 'capital' projects as listed in section 2.2.3 as amended in accordance with the decisions of the meeting and recorded in the formal minute.

**11. APPENDICES**

None

**12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None