

AGENDA ITEM X

REPORT TO:		Cabinet	
DATE:		18 July 2018	
PORTFOLIO:		Cllr Paul Cox – Environmental Services	
REPORT AUTHOR:		Craig Haraben (Deputy Head of Environmental Services)	
TITLE OF REPORT:		Mercer Park Skate Boarding Facility	
EXEMPT REPORT (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A)	No	Not applicable	
KEY DECISION:	No	If yes, date of publication:	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To ask Cabinet to support the proposal to submit a funding bid(s) to a number of funding bodies to refurbish the skate boarding facility at Mercer Park in Clayton le Moors

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet supports the proposal to submit a funding bid(s) to a number of funding bodies for the refurbishment and improvement of skate boarding facility in Mercer Park as outlined in the report (“the Project”)
- 2.2 Cabinet agrees to the Council being joint applicant with Proffitts CIC in respect of the proposed application(s) for funding in accordance with the funding bodies terms and conditions in connection with the Project. The amount of funding to be applied for has not yet been finalised but is expected to be in the region of £150,000.
- 2.3 Cabinet notes the proposal to appoint Proffitts CIC as project manager for the Project in the event of the funding bid being successful, as set out in paragraph 3.7 of the report
- 2.4 Cabinet agrees in principle to allocate £25,000 to the Project from the Council’s 2019/20 capital programme as match funding , subject to approval of the Council’s budget for 2019/20.

- 2.5 Cabinet gives delegated authority to the Deputy Head of Environmental Services to take all reasonable steps to progress the funding bid (s) for the Project, including obtaining all necessary permissions and consents;
- 2.6 Cabinet requests a further report be presented to Cabinet once the outcome of any funding bid(s) is known.

3. Reasons for Recommendations and Background

- 3.1 The Friends of Mercer Park are the longest standing Friends Of group in the Borough associated with a park. Over the years the Friends of Mercer Park have worked with the Council to undertake numerous community projects and fund raising events which have benefitted the park.
- 3.2 The outcome of a consultation undertaken by the Friends of Mercer Park showed that local residents would like to see the refurbishment of skate park facilities in Mercer Park.
- 3.3 Proffitts CIC are a community interest company who have expertise in green space improvement projects and audience development.
- 3.4 Proffitts CIC have offered to undertake the work necessary to secure funding for this project at no cost to the Council. This is because the mechanism used by the funding bodies allows any fees for time spent on developing a funding bid to be claimed directly from them during the delivery phase of the project. Securing grant funding for a project of this size can take up to 200 hours work and undertaking the grant funding applications via this method offers a saving to the Council of approximately £5000.
- 3.5 Applying for funding to refurbish the skate facility in Mercer Park requires the organisations bidding for funding to outline their project proposal and work up a more detailed submission when required by the funding bodies.
- 3.6 It is anticipated that funding bids will be submitted between June and December 2018, the exact date will be determined by the grant submission deadlines.
- 3.7 Should the project be approved for funding, it is proposed that the Council appoints Proffitts CIC to act as project manager for the delivery phase of the Project. This will require the Council to waive the tendering requirement in its Contract Procedure Rules but this appears to be a sensible approach given Proffitts will be very familiar with the project at that time having worked up the bid(s) in partnership with the Council.
- 3.8 In addition not for profit organisations (in this case a CIC) provide best value in relation to project management fees as they only need to cover costs rather than include a profit margin, which releases more of the grant funding to undertake construction work relating to the project. This is why this way of working is being recommended to Cabinet.

4. **Alternative Options considered and Reasons for Rejection**

- 4.1 Do not apply for funding and leave the skate park facility in Mercer Park in its current condition. This has been rejected as the size of skate facility is quite small and the additional funding means the refurbished skate park will be a larger facility with more play value for the children and young people who use the site.

5. **Consultations**

- 5.1 Portfolio holder, FO Mercer Park, local residents, local councillors, Mercer 1842 and Parks & Cemetery service have been consulted in relation to this project.

6. **Implications**

Financial implications (including any future financial commitments for the Council)	<p>On-going maintenance will be contained within existing parks & cemetery service budgets. Match funding is required to draw down project funding.</p> <p>Applications will be submitted to external funders for some of the match funding, however it is anticipated that the Council will need to provide £25,000 capital funding towards this project.</p>
Legal and human rights implications	<p>If the bid is successful the Council will need to enter into an agreement with the funding body on their standard terms and conditions.</p>
Assessment of risk	<p>There is a risk that project funding will not be secured, but this is minimised by engaging specialists for necessary areas of work.</p>
Equality and diversity implications	<p>A customer first analysis will be undertaken as part of a subsequent report, should the funding bid be successful.</p> <p>The recommendations of this report do not in themselves have equality implications.</p>

7. **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985: List of Background Papers**

- 7.1 No background papers are available to this report

8. Freedom of Information

- 8.1 The report does not contain exempt information under the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A and all information can be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.