

	REPORT TO CABINET TO BE HELD ON 17 MAY 2016	
	Key Decision	No
Corporate Priority Safe and Healthy Inclusive and Vibrant	Forward Plan Ref No	
	Cabinet Portfolio Holder	Cllr. Michelle Donohue Moncrieff Cllr. Andrew Backhouse

REPORT OF: DIRECTOR (TW) – 16/120

WARDS AFFECTED: STREONSHALH

**SUBJECT: EASTSIDE COMMUNITY AND OPEN SPACE
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME**

RECOMMENDATION (S):

The Council has already agreed in principle approval for the use of capital receipt monies and s.106 from Eskdale Park to support the delivery of the Eastside Community and Open Space programme, subject to further approvals and permissions as schemes develop.

Cabinet is recommended to:

- i) Approve the undertaking of surface improvement works to the **Abbey Footpath** at a total cost of £27,000.
- ii) Approve the use of £24,000 of capital receipt funding for the Abbey Footpath scheme, with £3000 match funding being provided by Whitby Town Council.
- iii) Note the increase in match funding for the **Calla Beck** Improvement Scheme from £500 to £3915 from North Yorkshire County Council (Stronger Communities), with a total scheme value of £20,015.
- iv) Approve a revised and larger scheme to create a play and seating area on the **Green Lane Field**, to a total value of £57,000, subject to planning permission and appropriate maintenance arrangements being agreed.
- v) Note the increase in match funding secured for the Green Lane scheme from £2500 to £39,254 (inclusive of maintenance and Yorwaste contribution).
- vi) Delegate to the Director (LD) the authority to agree appropriate maintenance arrangements with Whitby Town Council for a 10 year period for the Abbey Footpath and Green Lane Field.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION (S):

To enable improvements to community and open spaces within the Eastside of Whitby to be progressed.

HIGHLIGHTED RISKS:

- Loss of external funding to support improved facilities in East Whitby, an area of significant disadvantage.
- Planning permission not granted for the Green lane scheme, this would result in some delays whilst the scheme is reworked to address any concerns.
- Maintenance arrangements are still to be formally agreed for Green Lane and the Abbey Footpath. Initial discussions regarding maintenance arrangements are positive, however, in the event that funding and agreements cannot be secured the works will be delayed and additional funding sources explored.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Council has previously supported the delivery of the Action Eastside Action Plan 2013-2018 and granted “in principle” approval for the use of capital receipt and s.106 funding to support delivery of the Eastside community and open space improvement programme. In June 2015 first phase proposals were agreed by Cabinet. This report sets out further details of these first phase schemes and seeks further approvals necessary now schemes are further advanced.

2. CORPORATE AIMS/PRIORITIES AND THE COMMUNITY PLAN

- 2.1 The improvements set out in this report will support delivery of the “Inclusive and Vibrant” and “Safe and Healthy” aims of the Corporate Plan and Community Strategy.

3. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

- 3.1 On 18 June 2013 Cabinet approved the adoption of the Action Eastside Action Plan 2013-2018 as an aspirational vision for the future of East Whitby and to support delivery of the Plan, through using it to influence the planning and delivery of Council Services in East Whitby
- 3.2 The Plan was developed through a partnership between the local community and organisations that deliver services in the area. Organisations involved included Groundwork North Yorkshire, Eastside Community Centre, The Borough Council, Yorkshire Coast Homes, Whitby Town Council, North Yorkshire County Council, Coast and Vale Community Action, Age UK and the Gateway Group.

- 3.3 Since the Plan was published the Action Eastside Group has worked to implement the Plan. A significant theme of the plan concerned the improvement of community and open spaces. In particular to address the need for improvements to existing spaces, to offset the loss of green spaces through development and respond to an increase in the resident population as a result of new housing developments.
- 3.4 As part of its support for the implementation of the plan on 17 February 2015 the Council agreed “in principle” approval for the use of s.106 and capital receipt money generated within East Whitby to support the programme. This was subject to further permissions and approvals being granted as the schemes were developed in more detail.
- 3.5 The schemes are being developed and progressed in phases. In June 2015 Cabinet gave further approvals for the first phase of schemes specifically:
- Eastside Park Feasibility and Planning Work
 - Calla Beck Improvement Works
 - Green Lane Play Area
 - Cinder Track Feasibility Study
- 3.6 This report seeks updated approvals in relation to revised schemes for Green Lane and Calla Beck schemes, following the securing of additional match funding. It also seeks approval for a new scheme to improve the Abbey Footpath, this was included in the Action Eastside Plan, however, was not initially included in the open space programme for which “in principle” approval has already been granted.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The Action Eastside Plan was undertaken following extensive consultation and set out a vision and priorities for East Whitby. This was approved by Cabinet in June 2013. The proposals in this report are all contained within the Action Eastside Plan.
- 4.2 Individual, initial consultations in relation to each scheme have already been undertaken as outlined below.

Calla Beck

- 4.3 This site is valued by local people and volunteering days have been supported by local people and organisations. The aim is to build on this, with “hands on” consultation through volunteers days and events for people to get involved in, with a view to this hands on management of the site continuing once the improvements are completed.
- 4.4 The most recent volunteer event was the construction of 90 planks of boardwalk to celebrate the Queen’s 90th birthday in April 2016. The Gateway

Group helped to organise the event, which gained some excellent publicity and local interest in the scheme.

Green Lane Fields

- 4.5 There is already a growing, local community group established to drive this project forwards and this group will continue to oversee its development and delivery, and to support the ongoing consultation activity.
- 4.6 The group have been fundraising and local support has helped in achieving additional funding for the scheme. One of the highlights for the group was winning the public vote in the Tesco Local Community Scheme, which secured £12,000 for the project and positive publicity.
- 4.7 The design brief was developed by local residents who were also involved in selecting the contractor.

Abbey Footpath

- 4.8 The need for general improvements to pedestrian infrastructure on the east side of Whitby, including the Abbey area was identified in the Eastside Action Plan. The need for improvement was also identified in the consultation undertaken for the Whitby Town Plan. Whitby Town Council are supportive of the project and has agreed £3000 of match funding and has agreed to undertake the ongoing maintenance of the path, once the resurfacing work is completed.
- 4.9 The improvements have strong support from local residents and specific support from local organisations and community groups including the Green Lane Community Group, Captain Cook Museum, Eastside Community Centre and the Coastal Communities Team for Whitby.

5. ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The proposals set out form part of a comprehensive package of community and open space improvements in East Whitby. Residents and local organisations are already working together to develop and implement plans, through the Action Eastside Group and this provides a solid base from which to capture local enthusiasm and increase community engagement.
- 5.2 The programme as a whole represents a good use of capital receipt and s.106 funding generated in the area and brings added value through match funding from a variety of sources.

Calla Beck

- 5.3 This important wildlife and natural green space has seen a variety of small scale improvements over recent years and provides valuable habitats, being the only example of saltmarsh between the Tees and Humber.

- 5.4 The proposals aim to provide low ley improvements and repairs through local resident and volunteer involvement. Following earlier approvals work has already commenced to improve drainage, repair paths, clear litter and flytipping and prune back overgrown vegetation. A new boardwalk was recently constructed as part of the Queen's birthday events. The Community Payback Team has also assisted in undertaking some of the heavier tasks.
- 5.5 Community feedback has been good and interest in the area is growing. Local residents are now interested in learning more about wildlife in the area so a nature trail leaflet is being developed.
- 5.6 The original budget for this scheme was £16, 600, which included £500 match funding. The scheme value has now increased to £20,015 following the securing of a grant from NYCC (Stronger Communities). Much of the work will be delivered by volunteers and so the majority of the budget is being used for materials, equipment and volunteer supervision and development.
- 5.7 Volunteer activities will continue from May – August 2016 and the nature trail will be developed by August 2016. During September – March 2017 work will be ongoing to build ongoing sustainability of the community group and complete the project.

Green Lane Field

- 5.8 This open space and playing field is the only accessible green space for the community around The Ropery and St Mary's Crescent but is lacking in facilities other than two goalposts installed by Whitby in Bloom. For many years local residents have been asking for play facilities in this area. A community group has been established to drive this project forward and consultations have been carried out with families.
- 5.9 The proposed improvements will create a natural play area and seating. The design brief was developed by local residents, who also voted on the design proposals received from the tender process. Planning permission has been submitted and a decision is expected in mid May 2016.
- 5.10 The original budget for the scheme was £25, 000, including match funding of £2500. Significant additional match funding has been secured as set out in section 6 below, to enable a larger capital scheme to a value of £57,000 to be developed.
- 5.11 The annual maintenance cost of the new play area has been calculated at £1200 per annum. Officers have advised this can be undertaken by the Council subject to a £12,000 maintenance fund being established (£1200 per annum over 10 years). Almost £3000 has already been secured and Whitby Town Council has indicated they would be willing to underwrite the remaining costs, subject to fundraising efforts from the community group. Approval for the scheme is sought subject to formal agreement of maintenance arrangements, with authority for agreeing the maintenance delegated to the Director (LD).

- 5.12 Subject to planning permission being granted construction will take place in July and August 2016, with additional landscaping undertaken to complete the project in November and December 2016.

Abbey Footpath

- 5.13 The proposal is to improve the path from the Abbey Car Park to Caedmon Trod using a non slip surface for the main part of the path with Yorkshire stone flags on the bottom section, adjacent to the old Abbey wall and links to the Caedmon Trod. This is well used by visitors and residents and has strong local support. The total value of the scheme is £27,000, with £3000 of match funding from Whitby Town Council. Whitby Town Council has also indicated their agreement to the ongoing maintenance of the path for a period of 10 years.
- 5.14 In addition there are two further schemes in the first phase programme:
- **Eastside Park** - £9,000 was approved in June 2015 for design work. The design process is progressing and has been well received by local residents during consultations. Detailed designs and submission of planning permission is scheduled for May – July 2016. Match funding will be sought during August – November 2016, with construction anticipated in early 2017. Further reports will be presented to Members as the detail of this scheme and the funding arrangements are developed.
 - **Cinder Track Feasibility Study** – Sustrans have completed the draft proposals and a final report is expected in June 2016. Additional significant funding through the Coastal Revival Fund has enabled larger scale feasibility work along the entire track (Scarborough to Whitby) and it is hoped this will increase opportunities for funding the works identified.

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Policy

- 6.1.1 The content of this report is in accordance with the Council's policy framework.

6.2 Legal

- 6.2.1 Groundwork North Yorksire are project managing the Calla Beck and Green Lane schemes under an agreement approved in November 2015. Delegated authority is sought for appropriate legal agreements to be drawn up with Whitby Town Council in relation to the ongoing maintenance for the Green Lane and Abbey Footpath schemes.

6.3 Financial

- 6.3.1 The Council agreed "in principle" approval for the use of s.106 and capital receipt money generated within East Whitby to support the programme in

February 2015 and approvals for the first phase schemes in June 2015. The land sale in relation to Helredale and St. Peter's Road was completed on 29 May 2015 and the capital receipt to a total value of £380, 000 has been received by the Council.

6.3.2 The total value of each scheme and sources of funding are shown below.

Abbey Footpath

Capital receipt Helredale	£24,000.00
Whitby Town Council	<u>£3000.00*</u>
	<u><u>£27,000.00</u></u>

*Whitby Town Council have agreed to undertake ongoing maintenance of the path for a period of 10 years.

Calla Beck

Capital receipt Helredale	£16,100.00
NYCC Stronger Communities	<u>£3915.00</u>
	<u><u>£20,015.00</u></u>

Green Lane

Capital Receipt Helredale	£22,500.00
Yorventure	£18,000.00
Tesco Local Community Scheme	£12,000.00
Coastal Communities Team	£4000.00
Whitby Town Council	£2000.00
NYCC Locality Grant (Cllr Plant)	£2000.00
Green Lane Community Group	£1254.00
	<u><u>£61,754.00*</u></u>

*The capital build cost is £57,000. Costs in addition to this are £1800 third party liability reimbursement to Yorwaste and £12,000 maintenance fund. Whitby Town Council have indicated they would be willing to underwrite the additional funding required for the maintenance fund, subject to ongoing fundraising from the Green lane Community Group.

6.4 Crime and Disorder

6.4.1 The schemes will be designed to minimise crime and nuisance from the facility, with low maintenance equipment. The programme as a whole should help to reduce crime and disorder by providing enhanced public and open space, additional community involvement and more positive activities for young people.

6.5 Environmental

6.5.1 The proposals will improve the appearance of green and open spaces in the East Whitby area.

6.6 Planning

6.6.1 Planning permission has been submitted for Green Lane Play area and a decision is expected in May 2016.

6.7 Staffing

6.7.1 The schemes will be project managed by Groundwork North Yorkshire, under the existing agreement (updated in November 2015). The work is supported by staff from the Customers and Communities Unit. Liaison with relevant staff from other departments will take place as required. Ongoing maintenance will be undertaken by staff from the Parks Service, subject to the necessary agreements being drawn up.

6.8 Equalities and Diversity

6.8.1 The Green Lane scheme will improve facilities in an area of disadvantage and will improve provision for children and young people. The resurfacing of the Abbey Footpath will improve the accessibility of the path.

7. ACTION PLAN

7.1 A timetable for the undertaking of works is as follows:

Calla Beck	
Continue volunteer activities, develop nature trail leaflet	May – Aug 2016
Build sustainability of community group and complete project	September 2016 – March 2017
Green Lane Field	
Maintenance Agreement Agreed	May/June 2016
Construction of the park	July/August 2016
Opening event	September 2016
Landscaping	Nov/December 2016
Abbey Footpath	
Maintenance Agreement Agreed	May/June 2016
Works undertaken	July/August 2016



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Background Papers:

None

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES ABOUT THIS REPORT OR WISH TO INSPECT ANY OF THE BACKGROUND PAPERS, PLEASE CONTACT Jo Ireland ON 01723 384315, e-mail jo.ireland@scarborough.gov.uk