

	<p>REPORT TO CABINET TO BE HELD ON 18 JULY 2017</p>	
	<p>Key Decision</p>	<p>YES</p>
<p>Corporate Aims All</p>	<p>Forward Plan Ref No</p>	<p>18A</p>
	<p>Cabinet Portfolio Holders</p>	<p>Councillors M Cockerill, A Jenkinson and H Mallory</p>

REPORT OF: Director (LD) – 17/167

WARDS AFFECTED: All

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF THE PARKS NURSERY (OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD)

PURPOSE OF REPORT: To present the findings and recommendations of the Review of the Parks Nursery, as endorsed by the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 5 July 2017. Report reference 17/160 attached.

RECOMMENDATION (S):

The Cabinet and full Council are recommended:

- (i) To approve the closure and disposal of the Manor Road Nursery, and to outsource the supply of plants for the Nursery Service;
- (ii) To approve the ring-fence of the capital receipt from the sale of Manor Road Nursery to ensure the redevelopment of Dean Road Depot to a suitable condition, the construction of a new holding facility on this site as well as the construction of an educational hub to facilitate the delivery of a range of services in the future.
- (iii) To adopt transitional arrangements for the Nursery Service until the opening of the new holding facility, and commence a procurement process with a view to buying in finished plants from spring 2018 and utilising the existing nursery as a temporary holding facility; and
- (iv) To approve development work including public consultation to establish

horticultural community and educational facilities and activities in Peasholm Park with the necessary staff support.

And more specifically in respect of the Task Group's recommended disposal of Manor Road Nursery and capital works:

- (v) To approve, in principle, the freehold disposal of land and buildings that form the existing Manor Road Nursery, Scarborough as edged red on the attached plan (Appendix 3);
- (vi) To approve a disposal and marketing budget of £10,000 to be funded from the Capital Development Reserve;
- (vii) To note that a further report will be presented to Cabinet following the completion of the marketing campaign for the sale of Manor Road Nursery;
- (viii) To approve a budget of £550,000 for the redevelopment of Dean Road depot and community hub in Peasholm Park in advance of the relocation of the Manor Road Nursery functions;
- (ix) To authorise Officers to appoint an architect to obtain the necessary permissions for the development works at Dean Road depot and Peasholm Park;
- (x) To authorise Officers to tender for the necessary works to Dean Road depot and in Peasholm Park in compliance with the Council's Constitution;
- (xi) To delegate to Director (NE) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Project Leadership, Harbours and Flood Protection to enter into relevant contracts for the development works at Dean Road depot and in Peasholm Park;
- (xii) To note that the Council will be undertaking the development of Dean Road depot and the community hub in Peasholm Park at financial risk as the works will need to be completed prior to obtaining a capital receipt for the freehold disposal of Manor Road Nursery.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION (S):

- To deliver the Council's plant requirements in the most cost effective way in sufficient quantity and within product specification.
- To rationalise the Council's assets and realise efficiencies in the Council's operations by disposing of the Manor Road Nursery site and by locating the Nursery service in the form of a new plant holding facility at Dean Road Depot
- To continue to provide support to local volunteer groups and educational and community activities in respect of the Council's parks and green spaces including through the creation of a new community hub in Peasholm Park, subject to further consultation and feasibility work

HIGHLIGHTED RISKS:

There are risks in respect of ensuring both plant quality is maintained and also a high level of community engagement in the maintenance of the Council's parks and green spaces. Both are addressed in paragraphs 4.5-4.7 of the Task Group's report.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This review chaired by Councillor Tony Randerson was commissioned by the Overview and Scrutiny Board initially to test a proposal put forward by officers that the Council's Parks Nursery Service could re-locate to Dean Road Depot to make better use of the Council's assets and to realise efficiencies in the Council's operations by co-locating services on a single site. In Phase 2 the review broadened its scope to consider the future of the Parks Nursery Service itself focusing specifically on the location for the delivery of service and whether to grow or purchase quality plants. This more ambitious and technical phase of the review necessitated the engagement of horticultural consultants, RSK ADAS Ltd, who provided invaluable expertise and experience to support the Task Group's investigation (see Appendix 1). Further, as part of Phase 2, the Task Group, consultants and Friends Groups all met to consider the latter's views on the future of the Nursery Service (see Appendix 2).

2. ASSESSMENT

- 2.1 Since the Overview and Scrutiny Board approved the Task Group's report on 5 July for submission to the Cabinet and full Council, officers have met to consider how the Task Group's broad recommendations in respect of the disposal of Manor Road Nursery and undertaking of capital works in Dean Road Depot and Peasholm Park can be broken down into the necessary actions with appropriate costings to bring these recommendations into effect.
- 2.2 The Cabinet (and full Council) is therefore asked to adopt in addition to the Task Group's recommendations, the following more precise recommendations in respect of the disposal of Manor Road Nursery and related capital works, to bring the scrutiny review's recommendations into effect.
- To approve, in principle, the freehold disposal of land and buildings that form the existing Manor Road Nursery, Scarborough as edged red on the attached plan (Appendix 3);
 - To approve a disposal and marketing budget of £10,000 to be funded from the Capital Development Reserve;
 - To note that a further report will be presented to Cabinet following the completion of the marketing campaign for the sale of Manor Road Nursery;

- To approve a budget of £550,000 for the redevelopment of Dean Road depot and community hub in Peasholm Park in advance of the relocation of the Manor Road Nursery functions;
- To authorise Officers to appoint an architect to obtain the necessary permissions for the development works at Dean Road depot and Peasholm Park;
- To authorise Officers to tender for the necessary works to Dean Road depot and in Peasholm Park in compliance with the Council's Constitution;
- To delegate to Director (NE) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Project Leadership, Harbours and Flood Protection to enter into relevant contracts for the development works at Dean Road depot and in Peasholm Park;
- To note that the Council will be undertaking the development of Dean Road depot and the community hub in Peasholm Park at financial risk as the works will need to be completed prior to obtaining a capital receipt for the freehold disposal of Manor Road Nursery.



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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 ST JOHN HARRIS (SEE CONTACT DETAILS ABOVE)