

INFORMATION NOTE: BANCROFT RECREATION GROUND

THE HEAD OF CUSTOMER SERVICES

BACKGROUND**Cabinet**

At its meeting of the 16th December Cabinet considered a range of options for Bancroft Recreation Ground and made the following resolutions:

- (1) That a phased approach to deliver incremental affordable improvements to Bancroft Recreation Ground based on the principles outlined in the most recent version of the master plan set out in the report to Cabinet on 28 January 2014 (Appendix A) be agreed, using Section 106 and other limited internal and external financial resources;
- (2) That, subject to the approval of a revenue growth bid of £15,000 per annum, the inclusion of a water splash park and associated toilet/baby changing provision for Bancroft Recreation Ground in the Capital Programme for 2015/16 be agreed; and
- (3) That the limited incremental improvements for Bancroft recreation ground be incorporated into the Green Space Management Strategy Work Programme and, in consultation with relevant Portfolio Holders, be managed by officers without the need of a Project Board.

Council

The capital and revenue expenditure required to develop and maintain a water splash park and associated toilet/baby changing provision for Bancroft Recreation Ground will be included in part of the Councils budget setting proposals which will be reported to Council on the 12th February 2015 for approval.

CURRENT SITUATION

Subject to Council's approval, the maximum budget for the works to provide the water splash park will be £160K & up to £30K for the provision of the toilet/baby changing facility.

In order to have the facility completed at the earliest opportunity in advance of the meeting of Council on the 12th February 2015, officers are already developing a tender specification for a water splash park at Bancroft Recreation Ground, Hitchin. Part of the specification will require the tenderer to demonstrate level of play value and appropriateness of theme, layout and design. The final draft specification will be subject to public consultation and comments from Ward and Area Committee Members.

Whilst it would be desirable to have this facility and a similar facility at Royston open ready for the school holidays the works need to be tendered and there are set timeframes that need to be adhered to. In view of this if the works can not be completed prior to the school holidays it would be preferable to delay the start until the autumn to maintain public access during the busy summer period with a view to having the facility fully operational for the following spring.

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