



Author/Lead Officer of Report: Michelle Gane
Tel: 0114 20 53860

Report of: Simon Green
Report to: Cabinet
Date of Decision: 30/11/16
Subject: The Graves Park Improvement Project ref 94503

Is this a Key Decision? If Yes, reason Key Decision:-	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
- Expenditure and/or savings over £500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>	
- Affects 2 or more Wards	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Which Cabinet Member Portfolio does this relate to? Culture, Parks and Leisure		
Which Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee does this relate to?		
Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given?	897	
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If YES, give details as to whether the exemption applies to the full report / part of the report and/or appendices and complete below:-		
<p><i>"The (report/appendix) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (insert relevant paragraph number) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)."</i></p>		

<p>Purpose of Report:</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to seek approval to spend funds from the Graves Park Charitable Trust (registered charity number 510841), in line with the charity's trusts and objects.</p>
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Recommendations:

For the reasons set out in this report it is recommended that the Council, in its capacity as trustee of the Graves Park Charity, approve spending £115,643 from the Charitable Trust account, which includes the income from the sale of Cobnar Cottage, for the purposes listed below.

Background Papers:

(Insert details of any background papers used in the compilation of the report.)

Lead Officer to complete:-		
1	I have consulted the relevant departments in respect of any relevant implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist, and comments have been incorporated / additional forms completed / EIA completed, where required.	Finance: Paul Schofield
		Legal: David Hollis
		Equalities: Beth Storm
<i>Legal, financial/commercial and equalities implications must be included within the report and the name of the officer consulted must be included above.</i>		
2	EMT member who approved submission:	Simon Green
3	Cabinet Member consulted:	Councillor Mary Lea
4	I confirm that all necessary approval has been obtained in respect of the implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist and that the report has been approved for submission to the Decision Maker by the EMT member indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1.	
	Lead Officer Name: Michelle Gane	Job Title: Project Officer
	Date: 17/11/16	

1. PROPOSAL

(Explain the proposal, current position and need for change, including any evidence considered, and indicate whether this is something the Council is legally required to do, or whether it is something it is choosing to do)

- 1.1 An opportunity has arisen to invest in Graves Park, for the benefit of the people of Sheffield. Graves Park is a major visitor attraction located 3 miles south of Sheffield City Centre, and at 87 hectares it is the City's largest public park. In addition to its designation as a City Park, it is also on the Local Register of Historic Parks and Gardens; contains the Grade II Listed Lodge Gates and Boundary and has an area of ancient woodlands.

Much of its popularity stems from the diverse leisure and recreational facilities contained within the Park. The Graves Park Animal Farm is home to rare breed livestock, including the charismatic Highland Cattle. Graves Park contains two playgrounds; wildlife and fishing ponds; sporting facilities (three sports pavilions, bowling greens, football, tennis, cricket and pitch and putt); woodland and nature areas and formal landscaping.

It is proposed that funds held by the Graves Park Charitable Trust (registered charity number 510841) are invested in the improvement of the Park. The object of the charitable trust is to ensure that: "The park is held on trust for the recreation of the public as public walks pleasure grounds or as an open space within the meaning of the Open Space Act 1906." A package of works have been developed which are in line with these objects:

Item	Estimated cost
Improvements in toilet provision	£27,000
Two new field shelters for the animal farm set on concrete pads	£8,600
Play improvements to Rose Garden Play area and Cobnar Road Play area	£30,000
Refurbish entrance gates and improve planting	£5,000
Footpath improvements	£24,000
Signage various	£5,000.00
SCC Commercial services fees	£1,000.00
SCC Fees (engineering etc).	£8,000
Contingency	£12,043

Total £120,643

Please note the costs above are estimates only. The fees cover specialist services i.e. procurement specialists, architects and engineers.

The project will be funded by the following:

Income source	Amount
Funds from the charitable account	£115,643
SCC Car parking income	£5,000
Total	£120,643

Approval is requested to use £115,643 of the funds held by the Graves Park Charitable Trust for these works. In accordance with the aims of the Graves Park Charity these improvements will enhance the recreational and uplift the

quality of the Park. The funds held by the charity include £152k generated on 26th January 2016 resulting from the sale of Cobnar Cottage. The remaining funds from the sale of the cottage (£36,357) will be invested in cricket and tennis at Graves Park, as part of another project.

2. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE?

(Explain how this proposal will contribute to the ambitions within the Corporate Plan and what it will mean for people who live, work, learn in or visit the City. For example, does it increase or reduce inequalities and is the decision inclusive?; does it have an impact on climate change?; does it improve the customer experience?; is there an economic impact?)

- 2.1 The project supports the delivery of the Corporate Plan Priority Thriving Neighbourhoods and Communities', in relation to sustaining high quality parks and green spaces. The improvements to the park will improve the experience of visitors to the park.

3. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?

(Refer to the Consultation Principles and Involvement Guide. Indicate whether the Council is required to consult on the proposal, and provide details of any consultation activities undertaken and their outcomes.)

- 3.1 The Council is not required to consult on the proposal however in the 2015 Parks and Countryside Customer Satisfaction Survey Graves Park was identified as the 2nd most often visited park. The survey offered a number of options which apply to all of the parks in Sheffield (and this therefore did not include the animal farm specifically). The results show that people visit Graves Park for following top 10 activities:

1. Fresh air
2. To go walking
3. To bring the children out.
4. Exercise
5. To enjoy the trees (for example looking at the trees of the park).
6. Café
7. Relaxation
8. Playground
9. Family day out
10. Wildlife watching

The project will support the ongoing popularity of the park and continuation and development of the activities enjoyed by customers.

In addition an independent study of 400 park users in Graves indicated 85% supported investing the Cobnar Cottage proceeds into park improvements.

4. RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

4.1 Equality of Opportunity Implications

- 4.1.1 An equality impact assessment has been carried out. The project will deliver

benefits to all users of Graves Park. Improved toilet facilities at the Charles Ashmore Road end of the Park will encourage new users to this part of the Park. Improvements to the paths will replace the loose gravel surface with tarmac, improving the accessibility. Improvements to the playground will benefit children and families. The works will benefit the local and wider community and continue the commitment to quality green space.

The improvements in this proposal should be of universal positive benefit to all local people regardless of age, race, faith, gender, sexuality, disability, etc. No negative equality impacts have been identified resulting from the proposals.

4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

- 4.2.1 The project aims to have a positive business impact. It is hoped that improving the toilets will increase encourage more people to take part in the sports and increase the income generated. Improvements to the animal farm will support the continued use of the animal farm car park. All income generated will be ring fenced in the charitable trust accounts.

4.3 Legal Implications

- 4.3.1 Graves Park is held on charitable trust (registered charity number 510841) for the recreation of the public as public walks or pleasure grounds or as an open space within the meaning of the Open Spaces Act 1906. Its governing document is the Conveyance of Graves Park to the Council made on 2nd December 1925. The proceeds of the sale of any part of the land conveyed must be used to support the use of the remaining land for the purposes of the charity. Cabinet acting as Charity Trustees in their decision of 18 March 2015 resolved that the capital receipt from the sale of Cobnar Cottage (subject to a scheme from the Charity Commission confirming the power to dispose) would be invested in improving the facilities in Graves Park, rather than holding it as a permanent endowment and just applying the income to the charitable objects. The proposals set out in this report for recycling the proceeds of the sale of Cobnar Cottage into a package of improvements intended to benefit all users of the park supports the charitable purposes and is consistent with the decision of Cabinet acting as the Charity Trustees.

4.4 Other Implications

(Refer to the Executive decision making guidance and provide details of all relevant implications, e.g. HR, property, public health).

- 4.4.1 Social impact- The works will have a positive social impact and improve the leisure and recreational facilities at Graves Park.

Environmental impact- The project will make the park more welcoming.

Heritage- Graves Park is on the Local Register of Historic Parks & Gardens; it contains a Grade II Listed Lodge (Norton Nursery), Gates and Boundary and an area of Ancient woodlands. All works in the project are intended to enhance the built and natural heritage of the site.

Reputation- The project aims to have a positive reputational impact. The project aims to reinforce the reputation of SCC as custodian of the Park and

demonstrate the ongoing commitment to continuing to manage the park for the benefit of the people of Sheffield.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

(Outline any alternative options which were considered but rejected in the course of developing the proposal.)

5.1 Option 1: Do nothing option

The funds held in the charitable account can only be spent at Graves Park. The funds could be left in the account and generate interest for use in the future. However the Council made a commitment to local people that the funds generated by the sale of Cobnar Cottage would be used to benefit the park and there is an expectation that there will be visible improvements to the site. This is therefore not the preferred option.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

(Explain why this is the preferred option and outline the intended outcomes.)

6.1 Option 2: Deliver the project as described in this report– this is the preferred option. This option delivers a range of improvements aimed at meeting the needs of all users of the park. The project will deliver the following benefits:

- Improvements to the path network and entrances will ensure that the park is accessible and welcoming.
- Improved toilet facilities in the sports area (Charles Ashmore Road entrance) will support the development of the tennis area as a Lawn Tennis Association priority site and encourage use new users to the bowling greens, pitch and putt and cricket pitch.
- The project will deliver improvements to the play value of the park.
- Investments in signage will encourage visitors to make full use of all of the activities available and improve the visitor experience.
- The works will benefit the local and wider community and continue the commitment to quality green space.