

Report to Wednesbury Levelling Up Partnership Board

18 December 2023

Subject:	LUP Greenspaces Project Update Report
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1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To set out the progress of the LUP Greenspaces Project

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To approve that project delivery commence for the following greenspaces projects: Wyntor Road Open Space, Balls Hill Playing Fields, Norbury Rd and Lakeside Open Space subject to S151 Officer sign-off
- 2.5 To note the project risk around increased costs and the controls in place

3. Background

- 3.1 The greenspaces project aims to improve safety measures, quality scores, accessibility and provide additional activities. This will make a



contribution to improve the wellbeing in Wednesbury and will improve the connectivity of walking and cycling routes.

3.2 The project comprises improvements to 4 greenspaces in Wednesbury. The greenspaces were selected based on their low quality scores.

3.3 An outline of the proposed works and budget per scheme is provided below:

Hydes Road Playing Fields	Refurbished changing rooms, resurfaced car park, improved football pitch, improved furniture and infrastructure, improved green infrastructure and a new planting scheme	£1.225m
Balls Hill Open Space	Refurbished play area, improved furniture and infrastructure, improved green infrastructure and a new planting scheme	£0.112m
Wyntor Lane Open Space	New community garden, improved furniture and infrastructure, new footways, signage, improved green infrastructure and a new planting scheme	£0.149m
Lakeside and Norbury Road Open Space	Improved furniture and infrastructure, new footways, signage, improved green infrastructure and a new planting scheme	£0.164m
	Total	£1.65m

3.4 The project work to date has included preparation of designs for the first round of schemes and obtaining quotations (Balls Hill Open Space, Wyntor Lane Open Space and Lakeside and Norbury Road Open Space). A tendering process has commenced ahead of work commencing on site early in the new year.

3.5 Work has commenced to prepare designs for the Hydes Road scheme. The Hydes Rd scheme is a more complex scheme with detailed designs due to be produced by March 2024 ahead of submitting for planning approval.

3.6 Following a capital appraisal undertaken by the Council as part of project assurance arrangements, the Council's S151 Officer has approved that



project spend can commence subject to a final review of cost estimates, which will be obtained through the tendering process.

- 3.7 Any actual or forecast overspend on the total project budget will be reported to the WLUP Board as part of ongoing monitoring.

Consultation and Engagement

- 3.8 Consultation is being undertaken with Ward Members on 04/12 on the designs for the first round of schemes (Balls Hill Open Space, Wyntor Lane Open Space and Lakeside and Norbury Road Open Space). Input will be sought from the WLUP Board during the meeting.
- 3.9 The Hydes Road project will be undertaken in April 2024. Plans will be shared with ward members at the earliest opportunity and subsequently distributed to local community groups, residents and regular users following this.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- 3.10 Project output measures were submitted to DLUHC as part of a return made prior to the Grant Funding agreement being issued. The measures were proposed but were not quantified.
- 3.9 Based on the designs produced for the first phase of schemes the expected outputs are from the first phase are:
- 500 M2 of improved green space
 - 200 M2 of improved play areas
- 3.10 The outputs from the Hydes Rd scheme will be added to these following the initial design phase.
- 3.11 The greenspaces projects are expected to contribute to the LUP Programme outcome measures of:
- Resident satisfaction with their local area as a place to live
 - Residents' perception of crime and antisocial behaviour
 - Quality score for greenspaces

9. Implications



Resources:	<p>£1.65m has been granted for the greenspaces project. A capital appraisal has been undertaken and project spend approved by the Council's S151 Officer subject to a final review of costings.</p> <p>The LUP Grant includes the requirement for all spend to be made by March 2025.</p> <p>Based on appointing contractors by end 2023, all works for Norbury Road, Wyntor Lane Open Space and Balls Hill Playing fields are due to commence on site in early 2024 with completion by April 2024.</p> <p>All works on site for the Hydes Road project are due to be completed by end March 2025 in line with the grant conditions. 6 weeks of contingency has been included within the delivery plan.</p>
Legal and Governance:	<p>Procurement for the greenspaces project will be in accordance with Sandwell MBC's Financial Regulations and Standing Orders for Contracts. Landscape works will be procured via the Birmingham City Council Landscape Tender framework, with any additional procurement to be tendered via the open market.</p>
Risk:	<p>A project risk register is in place and this has been reviewed as part of the project capital appraisal.</p> <p>A significant project risk identified is of increased costs. An allowance for contingency of 5%, along with an allowance for 5% inflation have been included in the project costs.</p> <p>The Council's S151 Officer has approved that project spend can commence subject to a final review of cost estimates, which will be obtained through the tendering process.</p>
Equality:	<p>The planned improvements to pathways, lighting and new furniture at Balls Hill Open Space, Wyntor Lane Open Space and Lakeside and Norbury Road Open</p>



	<p>Space will make a positive impact on improving the accessibility of greenspaces. This will benefit all residents including those with disabilities and/or older people. The footpath network will be designed to DDA standards, and the new activities associated with the improvements will encourage new audiences to visit the Greenspaces for active and passive recreation.</p> <p>An EqIA screening will be undertaken as part of the design process for the Hydes Road project.</p>
Health and Wellbeing:	<p>The underpinning objective of the LUP is to ‘level up’ and reduce inequalities. The proposed interventions focus on tackling health inequalities in a multi-faceted way and compliment public health programmes. Improvements to the quality of greenspaces provides further opportunities for health and wellbeing activities.</p>
Social Value	<p>The proposed interventions will be delivered in accordance with the Council’s Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules and will deliver social value in line with the council’s requirements.</p>
Climate Change	<p>Improvements to the quality of green spaces in Wednesbury makes a contribution to biodiversity.</p> <p>Green Technology will also be utilised as part of Hydes Road Changing Room Refurbishment project. Further details of this is currently being designed.</p>
Corporate Parenting:	<p>Young peoples’ views and opinions (voice of the child) are captured through the annual Safer 6 campaign and SHAPE young people’s survey which informed the inclusion of this project within the LUP. These findings emphasised the need for activities for young people. This intervention will help address this by improving green spaces for the local community.</p> <p>Young people’s views and opinions (voice of the child) will be sought as part of the consultation on the Hydes Rd project and through WLUP Board oversight of all proposals.</p>



