

Report to Wednesbury Levelling Up Partnership Board

18th April 2024

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| Subject: | Hydes Road Playing Fields |
| Report Author | John Satchwell – Green Spaces Projects Manager Rebecca Jenkins – Levelling Up Partnership Programme Manager |

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update board members of the latest proposals and consultation plan for Hydes Road Playing Fields Project.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To receive draft designs and proposals for the Hydes Road Playing Fields Project
- 2.2 To approve consultation plans for Hydes Road Playing Fields Project

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:

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| 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 In December 2023, WLUP Board provided approval to commence delivery on the first 3 schemes (Balls Hill Open Space, Wyntor Lane Open Space, and Lakeside and Norbury Open Spaces). Work is due to commence during April on Wyntor Lane and Lakeside and Norbury Open Spaces. Balls Hill is in currently in procurement.

3.5 Work to date on the Hydes Road Playing Fields scheme has involved site investigations, surveys and preparation of draft designs.

3.6 Draft designs are now available to start consultation with residents. They will be presented to the WLUP Board during the meeting.



3.7 The draft designs will be reviewed following the consultation findings and conclusion of final surveys.

3.8 Draft designs set out proposed works at Hydes Road Playing Fields as follows:

- Refurbish changing rooms
- Resurface car park
- Improve football pitch
- Improved furniture and infrastructure
- Improved green infrastructure
- New planting scheme

Consultation and Engagement

3.9 An initial consultation plan was received by the WLUP Board in February 2024.

3.10 Further details of consultation have been developed and the plan for consultation for the LUP Green Spaces project is attached at appendix 1. This sets out engagement for Hydes Road Project from April 2024 to March 2025. Highlights include

- WLUP Board – April 2024
- Ward Member engagement – May 2024
- Public drop in session – June 2024
- Written correspondence to key stakeholders – June 2024
- Photo Opportunity / Press Release on Project Commencement – September 2024
- Photo Opportunity / Press Release on Project Completion – March 2025

3.10 The WLUP Board Communication and Engagement Sub-Group will consider the details of the consultation plan and feedback will be provided during the WLUP Board meeting.

Monitoring and Evaluation

3.11 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.



3.11 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

3.12 Based on the draft designs for Hydes road, the draft outputs are:

- 6.3 hectares of improved green space
- 1 x Changing Room Pavilion Refurbished

3.13 The outputs for Hydes Road Playing Fields will be confirmed once final designs are produced after the consultation period.

3.14 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

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| 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>Current cost estimates for the Hydes Road project are that the designs will be achievable within the project budget. Cost estimates will be updated as part of the production of final designs.</p> <p>The LUP Grant includes the requirement for all spend to be made by March 2025.</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.</p> |
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| <p>Legal and Governance:</p> | <p>Procurement for the greenspaces project will be in accordance with Sandwell MBC's Financial Regulations and Standing Orders for Contracts.</p> <p>A subsidy control screening has been undertaken and no subsidy control issues have been identified.</p> |
| <p>Risk:</p> | <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> |
| <p>Equality:</p> | <p>The planned improvements to Hydes Road Playing Fields will make a positive impact on improving the accessibility of greenspaces. This will benefit all residents including those with disabilities and/or older people.</p> <p>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 during the design process for the Hydes Road project and provided to the WLUP Board as part of the approval to commence delivery.</p> |
| <p>Health and Wellbeing:</p> | <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> |



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| Social Value | 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. |
| Climate Change | Improvements to the quality of green spaces in Wednesbury makes a contribution to biodiversity. Green Technology will also be utilised as part of Hydes Road Changing Room Refurbishment project. Further details are currently being designed. |
| Corporate Parenting: | 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. 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. |

Appendices

1. Greenspaces Communication and Engagement Plan April 2024

