



Portfolio Holder Report

The portfolio holder will make a decision on this item after seven days have elapsed (including the date of publication).

Report of:	Portfolio Holder	Date of publication
Mark Billington, Service Director People and Places	Councillor David Henderson, Leader of the Council and Street Scene and Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder	25 January 2018

Improvements to King George's Playing Field and open space north of Royles Brook in Thornton

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To seek approval to develop and deliver improvement proposals for King George's Playing Field and the open space north of Royles Brook in Thornton.

2. Outcomes

- 2.1 Improvements to the site to encourage greater use by the local community and visitors.
- 2.2 Improved health and wellbeing of our communities.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That the Council develop and implement proposals to improve the site and the Service Director People and Places be authorised to approve the scheme prior to implementation.
- 3.2 That a phased approach be adopted in delivering the proposals to co-ordinate with approved grant funding.
- 3.3 That the Council's 2017/18 and 2018/19 Capital Budgets be amended to include improvements to King George's Playing Field using monies received by the council via a S106 agreement and external grants.
- 3.4 That the Council accept a £30,000 contribution from the Lancashire Environmental Fund to implement the first phase of the proposals to create a 'play, fitness and habitat trail'.

4. Background

- 4.1** The site forms a vast area of public open space at the heart of Thornton and includes the following features:
- Floodlit pitch with licences granted for training and playing rugby;
 - Children's play area;
 - Forestry Commission funded areas of Urban Woodland Planting;
 - Royles Brook;
 - Marsh Mill Miniature Railway; and,
 - Pavilion (disused).
- 4.2** In August 2016 the council received £51,685 Section 106 funding for the improvement of open space in the vicinity of Ashdell Nurseries and the former council depot in Thornton. The s.106 funding must be spent before August 2026 allowing significant time to develop a project and secure external funding.
- 4.3** A broad range of users and stakeholders were consulted in 2017 to allow the community to engage in the development of the proposals for the site.
- 4.4** Subsequently, a masterplan was designed for the site with the following features identified:
- A trail round the site with a new main entrance off Fleetwood Road North;
 - Installation of seating, picnic tables and bins;
 - Areas for play and outdoor gym equipment at intervals along the trail;
 - Drainage of the sport pitches;
 - Environmental improvement of Royles Brook; and,
 - Planting trees, shrubs, meadow areas and bulbs.
- 4.5** An application to the Lancashire Environmental Fund was approved on 12 December 2017 for a project to undertake the first section of the trail, a new entrance and to create some of the areas for play and gym equipment, seating and planting.

5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1** To accept the grant of up to £30,000 from the Lancashire Environmental Fund which requires a contribution from the s.106 funding of £36,300 (inclusive of a contribution to the landfill operator of £3,300 in order to release the grant).

6. Delegated functions

- 6.1** The matters referred to in this report are considered under the following executive function delegated to the Open Spaces Portfolio Holder (as set out in Part 3 of the council's constitution): To consider matters relating to parks, open spaces, playing fields, playgrounds and allotments.

Financial and legal implications	
Finance	The initial phase will cost £66,300, funded from the s.106 monies (£36,300) and LEF grant (£30,000). In 2017/18 a contribution of £3,300 is to be paid to the landfill operator with the remaining £63,000 cost of the works being incurred in 2018/19. Additional external funding is to be sought for further improvement works forming later phases of the masterplan. A balance of £15,385 s106 monies will remain as potential match funding for these future works.
Legal	A formal agreement with the Lancashire Environmental Fund will be entered into and the contract(s) for goods, works or services to deliver the improvements will comply with the Council's Financial and Contract Procedure rules and if applicable the European procurement regulations.

Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
sustainability	x
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	✓
climate change	x
data protection	x

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List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
None	-	-

List of appendices

None

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