

## Report of the Senior Projects Manager

## Report to the Chief Parks and Countryside Officer

**Date: 21/08/2014**

## Subject: Groundwork Leeds – Project Support Fund 2014/2015

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## Summary of main issues

The Project Support Fund (PSF) is a contribution to Groundwork Leeds from Leeds City Council for the development, design and implementation of a range of community based environmental improvement schemes across Leeds. It consists of £70,000.00 capital funding for the delivery of a range of projects. In addition, a further revenue grant is provided to support Groundwork's core costs and those associated with delivery of the PSF programme.

This report provides an update on the £70,000.00 of capital funding for a list of schemes outlined in Appendix A which are included within the Groundwork Delivery Plan 2014/2015.

## Recommendations

The Chief Parks and Countryside Officer is asked to:

- Provide authority to spend for £70,000 within Capital Scheme 83831, as identified in the Council's Capital Programme for 2014/2015, from Parent Scheme 92469 to support greenspace and environmental improvement projects;
- agree that individual projects are considered for approval by the Senior Projects Manager once details are finalised;
- agree that if any of the project does not proceed for any reason, that alternative projects which meet the funding criteria can be progressed once approved by the Senior Projects Manager;
- note the proposals to refocus the emphasis of those projects supported through this fund moving forward.

## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the £70,000.00 Project Support Fund for the 2014/2015 financial year and early stage proposals on how projects will be determined moving forward.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1 The PSF represents Leeds City Council's contribution to Groundwork Leeds and is used as match funding to support the development of a wide range of community based environmental capital projects. .
- 2.2 The value of this fund is £70,000.00. The capital allocation for 2014/2015 will be matched by additional funding from a variety of sources.

## **3 Main issues**

- 3.1 The following programme of work has been drawn up by Groundwork Leeds to utilise the 2014/2015 PSF funding:

Stonegates Skate Park	£ 6,000.00	Inner North East
Norma Hutchinson Park Fitness Trail	£ 6,250.00	Inner North East
Hovingham CATCH Sports Zone (Phase 2)	£ 6,000.00	Inner North East
Beckett Park Improvements	£11,000.00	Inner North West
Sutton Park Playground	£ 8,000.00	Outer East
Great Preston Wildflower Meadow	£13,565.73	Outer East
Garforth War Memorial	£ 5,000.00	Outer East
Hemingways Open Space	£ 6,434.27	Inner South
Bulb Bonanza 2014	£ 2,750.00	City Wide
Wildflower Initiative (Bramley Fall)	£ 2,000.00	Inner West
NPS Site Inspections	<u>£ 3,000.00</u>	City Wide
	<u>£70,000.00</u>	

- 3.2 An outline of each scheme is listed in Appendix A of this report. Once individual projects are ready to proceed, a detailed application will be submitted which will include information regarding the design, cost breakdown, timescale and community consultation. Approval will then be sought from the Senior Projects Manager prior to implementation of the scheme.
- 3.3 All the projects are identified and prioritised through the Groundwork Steering Group and are included within the Groundwork Delivery Plan 2014/2015. The group, which includes officers from LCC City Development, Parks & Countryside, and Groundwork Leeds, guides the development of Groundwork's work programme and monitors its implementation.
- 3.4 At the inception of the project support fund, a number of criteria were established and applied to those projects that are to be taken forward. Any project supported through the PSF must be a priority for local communities, contribute to achieving the Council's priorities, aims and objectives and compliment Strategic, Area and Neighbourhood plans. They must also be match funded from other sources and maintenance arrangements must be fully agreed and evidenced prior to submission.
- 3.5 If any of the proposed 2014/2015 schemes are unable to proceed, alternative projects which meet the criteria outlined in paragraph 3.4 and are supported by the

Groundwork Steering Group, will be brought forward and submitted to the Senior Projects Manager for approval.

- 3.6 In order to ensure that future use of the project support fund is being utilised to address city wide priorities in terms of green space investment, a working group has been established to identify future priority schemes. It is proposed that the Senior Project Manager bring a quarterly report to Parks Management Team to provide an update on these schemes and the programme of work.

## **4 Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

- 4.1.1 Consultation and engagement with Groundwork has been on-going as part of the continued improvement of the grant programme.
- 4.1.2 Consultations have taken place between Groundwork and Ward Members, Area Management Teams, LCC Departments, Housing Leeds, voluntary organisations and members of the local community with regard to the design and implementation of all the projects included in the Delivery Plan.

### **4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

- 4.2.1 Groundwork is required within their delivery plan to consider any equality, diversity and cohesion implications for their service delivery and to establish monitoring and analysis arrangements. This includes the submission of equality monitoring information.

### **4.3 Council policies and City Priorities**

- 4.3.1 The PSF themes are compatible with the aims of the Vision for Leeds 2030 and City Priority Plans 2011-15. The grant to Groundwork will enable them to address neighbourhood problem sites, improve cleanliness, access to and quality of green spaces and engage young people through skills and volunteering activities.

### **4.4 Resources and value for money**

- 4.4.1 The PSF capital is funded from the 2014/2015 approved capital programme and there are no additional budgetary requirements.
- 4.4.2 The funding enables additional resources to be secured for Leeds.
- 4.4.3 Groundwork has expanded its select list of local contractors and suppliers to ensure even greater economic benefit is gained in Leeds from its work in 2014/2015.

### **4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

- 4.5.1 Once the delivery plan has been agreed, a signed funding agreement will be released.
- 4.5.2 Due to the annual amount of the grant, this is not a major decision and will not be subject to 'call-in'.

## **4.6 Risk Management**

- 4.6.1 Groundwork Leeds is required to submit an annual delivery plan as a condition of the grant which includes financial, output and outcome target information for 2014/2015. This is monitored on a quarterly basis through the provision of quarterly performance returns and discussed at the Groundwork Steering Group meetings.
- 4.6.2 The projects supported by the fund are only to be implemented when fully funded and it should be clear that the only contribution from Parks and Countryside is the commitment made from the PSF. No additional contributions will be made to supplement PSF funding.

## **5 Recommendations**

- 5.1 The Chief Parks and Countryside Officer is asked to:
- § Provide authority to spend for £70,000, as identified in the Council's Capital Programme for 2014/2015 from Parent Scheme 92469, to support greenspace and environmental improvement projects;;
  - agree that individual projects are considered for approval by the Senior Projects Manager once details are finalised;
  - agree that if any of the project does not proceed for any reason, that alternative projects which meet the funding criteria can be progressed once approved by the Senior Projects Manager;
  - note the proposals to refocus the emphasis of those projects supported through this fund moving forward.

## **6 Background documents**

- 6.1 Groundwork delivery plan, project application forms, quarterly returns, funding agreements.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Stonegates Skate Park**

(Inner North East)

Anticipated value: £73,450.00

PSF: £6,000.00

A phased project to provide leisure and recreational facilities on open space off Stonegates Approach. Phase 1 of the project involves the construction of a concrete skate park, drainage and short bitmac footpath to connect it to the existing footpaths around the site. Phase 2 includes the installation of new toddler/junior play equipment, exercise equipment and a covered seating area. Artwork elements, such as mosaic tile mow strips, an entrance feature and giant steel 'graffiti easels' will be designed by the local community and incorporated on the site.

Partners include Leeds Federated Housing Association (LFHA), Mondegreen and the Inner North East Community Committee.

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### **Norma Hutchinson Park Fitness Trail**

(Inner North East)

Anticipated value: £34,280.00

PSF: £6,250.00

The installation of resistance type exercise equipment in four strategic locations around the perimeter of the football pitch. These fitness stations will add a cardio-vascular exercise element to the existing Outdoor Gym which was created in April 2014.

Partners include LCC Parks & Countryside, the Locality Management Team, Leeds Housing Concern and the Chapeltown Creative Physical Training (CCPT) Group and Mondegreen.

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### **Hovingham CATCH Sports Zone (Phase 2)**

(Inner North East)

Anticipated value: £14,990.00

PSF: £6,000.00

Phase 1 involved the creation of a football and games facility on land behind Hovingham Primary School. Phase 2 includes grading out an area for cricket nets, installing ball stop fencing, constructing railway sleeper steps up the embankment and 3 raised planter beds for a growing initiative involving the adjacent Youth Hub.

Partners include Community Action To Change Harehills (CATCH), LCC Parks & Countryside, City Development, Hovingham Primary School, Gipton & Harehills Neighbourhood Police Team and the Locality Management Team.

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### **Beckett Park Improvements**

(Inner North West)

Anticipated value: £71,000

PSF: £11,000.00

Installation of gym equipment, boundary improvements and signage.

Partners include LCC Parks & Countryside, City Development and Ward Members.

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**Sutton Park Playground**

(Outer East)

Anticipated value: £112,900

PSF: £8,000.00

Upgrading and extending the existing play area by providing more modern and exciting play equipment for 3 – 13 year olds, including junior and toddler climbing frames, roundabout, seesaw, springer, rotator, swings, talk tubes, seating and rubber safety surfacing.

Partners include Affinity Sutton, Jimbo's Fund, LCC Outer East Area Community Committee and Mondegreen.

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**Great Preston Wildflower Meadow**

(Outer East)

Anticipated value: £23,565.73

PSF: £13,565.73

Creation of wildflower meadow including access improvements, seating, litter bins, signage, interpretation, tree and wildflower planting.

Partners include LCC Parks & Countryside, City Development and Ward Members.

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**Garforth War Memorial**

(Outer East)

Anticipated value: £15,000.00

PSF: £5,000.00

Construction of stone war memorial to commemorate those lost in all wars on land outside the Gaping Goose pub, Garforth.

Partners include LCC Parks & Countryside, Garforth in Bloom, Garforth Lions and Ward Members.

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**Hemingways Open Space**

(Inner South)

Anticipated value: £146,434.00

PSF: £ 6,434.27

Environmental improvements to land in the Hemingways estate, Hunslet. Work to include resurfacing and re-routing pathways, installation of seating, planters, trellising, a pergola and timber cladding for some of the perimeter walls, tree and shrub planting.

Partners include Housing Leeds, Hunslet Tenants & Residents Association (TARA), LCC Parks & Countryside, Ward Members and the Locality Management Team.

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**Bulb Bonanza 2014/2015**

(City Wide)

Anticipated value: £5,500.00

PSF: £2,750.00

The project involves the purchase of 100,000 spring flowering bulbs which will be distributed to schools and community groups across Leeds ready for planting out in Oct/Nov 2014.

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**Wildflower Initiative (Bramley Fall)**

(Inner West)

Anticipated value: £4,800.00

PSF: £2,000.00

Creation of mixed annual and perennial wildflower meadow at the Pollard Lane Recreation Ground, adjacent to Bramley Falls Wood.

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**NPS Site Inspections**

PSF: £3,000.00

(City Wide)

Inspections of the sites before, during and after the work to ensure contract compliance, quality control and best value.

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