

## DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTORATE	TOURISM AND LEISURE COMMITTEE	3 SEPTEMBER 2020	8
<b>ACCESS CONTROL MEASURES</b>			

### PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

### SUMMARY

The report sets out the details of a scheme to provide access control measures for two parks – Blackpool Road North Playing Fields and Ramsgate Road, St Anne's. Within the council's agreed capital programme in 2019/2020 there is budget for installing access controls for Blackpool Road North Playing Fields and King George V, St. Annes. The works include the installation of bollards and secure access for Council maintenance vehicles on Ramsgate Road and Blackpool Road North Playing Fields, St Anne's, where recent occurrences of Travellers have been experienced

The report advises members of an emergency decision that has been taken by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairman of Tourism & Leisure Committee together with the Leader of the Council to commence works at two sites in St Annes.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Members of the Tourism and Leisure Committee are requested:

1. To note that the Chief Executive has taken an emergency decision to approve expenditure in respect to the scheme as outlined in this report in consultation with the Chairman of Tourism & Leisure Committee together with the Leader of the Council. The approved Capital Programme for 2020/21 includes funding for a scheme for access controls in the sum of £15,000. The decision was made to progress the work in response to three recent unauthorised encampments on these sites.

### SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

#### Tourism and Leisure Committee – 08 November 2018

Following detailed consideration of this matter it was RESOLVED:

1. To support the Capital bids relevant to this Committee's Terms of Reference as detailed in Appendix A of the report for further consideration by the Budget Working Group.
2. That the Budget Working group be advised that the Committee's preference regarding the order of priorities is as follows: *(Priority 1 - Scheme 4)* Coastal Explorers Public Art Project (2020/21); *(Priority 2- Scheme 1)* Ashton Gardens - Adventure Playground Improvements *(Priority 3- Scheme 2)* Ashton Gardens Nursery Depot Improvements; *(Priority 4 - Scheme 5)* Coastal Signage Improvements; *(Priority 5- Scheme 3)* Access Control Measures at Blackpool Road North Playing Fields and King Georges V Playing Fields, Heeley Road.

#### Budget Council – 05 March 2019

The proposal was carried, and it was thereby RESOLVED:

1. To approve and adopt the recommendations of the Finance and Democracy Committee as follows: (c) The Capital Strategy 2019-22, including Prudential Indicators and Limits, set out in Appendix G; which incorporates the Treasury Management Policy, the Capital Programme, the Treasury Management Strategy, the Investment Strategy and the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement;

#### **Tourism and Leisure Committee – 05 September 2019**

General fund revenue budget monitoring report 2019/20 – position as at 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019 - to provide an update on the General Fund Revenue Budget of the Council as at 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019 and specifically for those areas under the remit of the Committee.

<b>CORPORATE PRIORITIES</b>	
Spending your money in the most efficient way to achieve excellent services ( <b>Value for Money</b> )	✓
Delivering the services that customers expect of an excellent council ( <b>Clean and Green</b> )	✓
Working with all partners ( <b>Vibrant Economy</b> )	
To make sure Fylde continues to be one of the most desirable places to live ( <b>A Great Place to Live</b> )	✓
Promoting Fylde as a great destination to visit ( <b>A Great Place to Visit</b> )	✓

## **REPORT**

### **BACKGROUND**

1. The Council has a duty to manage its assets and capital resources in order to best deliver its objectives as set out in the Corporate Plan.
2. In March 2019 Council agreed a capital scheme for the installation of access control measures at Blackpool Road playing fields and King George V playing field (Heeley Road) St Annes.
3. Blackpool Road North Playing Fields, bordering the south side of Blackpool Airport is a popular park within Fylde Council's portfolio and is used by St Annes Football Club, residents and visitors alike. There is currently initial work underway by Officers to work towards a masterplan for the site for future development.
4. King George V Park (Heeley Road) is a popular park in a residential area in St Anne's, and has play equipment and open space.
5. In September 2019 an update on the capital scheme was presented to the Tourism and Leisure Committee. It stated; *Consultation with ward members and relevant 'friends groups' are currently being undertaken to confirm the details of what access controls are required at Blackpool Road North Playing Fields and King George the V Playing Field (Heeley Road). Once the requirements are agreed a report will be presented to the November meeting of the Tourism and Leisure Committee detailing the procurement process and requesting approval to award the contract. It is anticipated that the physical works will be completed by 31st March 2020.*
6. In November 2019, a survey was carried out among 90 residents living close to King George V playing fields in relation to installing bollards to provide access control measures. The survey had only 16 recipients, of which 12 were in favour and 4 against. Given the low positive response rate out the numbers consulted it was concluded that access controls were not required at this site at this time and a watching brief be kept monitoring any future issues. At this point, none have arisen.
7. Meanwhile at Blackpool Road playing fields the Friends of Blackpool Road North Playing Fields (FBRNPF) wished to see consideration of the scheme to control access be undertaken as part of the development of the site masterplan. As a result, the access control measures have not been implemented.

## CURRENT SITUATION

8. In recent weeks, there have been instances of unauthorised encampments at both Blackpool Road North Playing Fields (one occasion by Travellers) and Ramsgate Road (on two occasions by two separate groups of Travellers). While there are instances of unauthorised encampments in other areas of Fylde Council controlled space such as car parks, plus on private land, concern has been expressed by residents and elected members that, BRNPF and Ramsgate Road offer insufficient measures to properly limit access.
9. Ramsgate Road Park in St Anne's is surrounded by residential dwellings backing on to the park on three sides and is bordered by a residential road on the fourth side. There is currently very limited play equipment – a swing and two low level goal posts.
10. The details of the Capital bid that was agreed at the meeting of the Tourism and Leisure Committee on 8 November 2018 is shown below:

Capital cost plan:

Cost Heading	Description	Total £
<b>Blackpool Road North</b>		
Site Perimeter Bollards	Provide and install 90 timber bollards along the perimeter of the site	£4,140
Site Access Bollards	Provide and install 2 metal, drop down lockable bollards to one access	£1,050
<b>King Georges Field</b>		
Site Perimeter Bollards	Provide and install 180 timber bollards along the perimeter of the site	£8,280
Site Access Bollards	Provide and install 2 metal, drop down lockable bollards to three accesses	£1,050
Contingency for both above sites		£480
<b>Total Project Costs</b>		<b><u>£15,000</u></b>

### Outputs (i.e. details of what the investment will specifically deliver):

- Upgrade the security arrangements at these open spaces
- Restrict / stop access to these open spaces by unauthorised vehicles

## REVISED PROPOSAL AND URGENCY

11. Given the recent incursions onto Ramsgate Road and Blackpool Road playing fields and the previous inconclusive consultation at King George V playing field the Chief Executive has taken an emergency decision to implement access control measures at both Ramsgate Road and Blackpool Road playing fields using the agreed capital budget having consulted with the Chairman of the Tourism & Leisure Committee together with the Leader of the Council.
12. If a need is identified in the future for access control measures at King George V playing fields then a bid for funding will be submitted.

## PROCUREMENT

13. The scheme being installed involve wooden bollards, plus drop-down lockable metal access posts for Council vehicles for maintenance purposes. This has been previously installed on Frobisher Road Open Space and no instances of Traveller access have since been subsequently experienced. Officers from the Tourism and Cultural Services Team have undertaken procurement, following the 'quick quote procedure'.

14. Three suppliers were invited to quote, and two suppliers returned completed submissions. Two tender prices were returned as follows:

Fintec	£19,500
Garry Carr	£13,335

15. As a result, an order has been placed with Garry Carr to the value of £13,335 with work currently about to start on site. It is anticipated that both sites will be completed by October 2020, with Ramsgate Road as the priority site to completed in September 2020.

#### FUTURE REVENUE BUDGET IMPACT

15. There are no additional revenue implications to this proposal as these control measures will be provided through monies already identified through the Capital programme. Any overspend will be absorbed by the Parks Development budget.

#### VALUE FOR MONEY AND DETAILS OF PROCUREMENT PATH

16. In order to ensure that value for money is achieved a procurement exercise has been undertaken in accordance with the Council's contract procedure rules. Selection of the successful tenderer has been on the basis that value for money is a key consideration as well as the suitability of the new facility.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	This report notes the approval of expenditure in respect of the Blackpool Road North Playing Fields and Ramsgate Road as outlined in this report. The approved Capital Programme for 2020/21 includes funding for a scheme for this purpose in the sum of £15,000.
Legal	None arising from this report
Community Safety	Provision of access controls to prevent Travellers from accessing parks and to provide reassurance to residents
Human Rights and Equalities	None arising from this report
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	The proposals represent the installation of new access controls, the design seeks to incorporate low maintenance materials and to provide reassurance to residents in the provision of community facilities.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None arising from this report. Contractors will work to required standards of health and safety.

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Tim Dixon	<a href="mailto:tim.dixon@fylde.gov.uk">tim.dixon@fylde.gov.uk</a> , 01253 658436	12 August 2020

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Tourism and Leisure Committee	08 November 2018	<a href="#">Minutes and Agenda</a>
Council	05 March 2019	<a href="#">Minutes and Agenda</a>