

## DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTORATE	TOURSIM AND LEISURE COMMITTEE	9 SEPTEMBER 2021	5

### ASHTON GARDENS LIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS

#### PUBLIC ITEM

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

#### SUMMARY

A request to approval improvements to the lighting in Ashton Gardens was brought to this Committee on 7 January 2021. The works are currently underway following a slippage in bringing this report to the scheduled June Committee date.

#### RECOMMENDATION

- To approve the retrospective draw-down of £25,000 already approved in the Council's 2021/22 capital programme.

#### SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

##### Tourism and Leisure Committee 7 January 2021

##### 6. Budget Setting – Prioritisation of Capital Bids 2021/22

Following consideration of this matter it was RESOLVED: To support the capital bids relevant to the Committee's Terms of Reference (in the order of priority as detailed below) for further consideration by the Budget Working Group. 1. Access Control Measures 2. Ashton Gardens Lighting Improvements 3. Park View Drainage Improvements 4. Fairhaven Operational Boathouse Refurbishment 5. Improvements to Children's Play Areas and 6. Open Space Improvements at School Lane, Newton.

#### CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	√
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	√
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	√
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	√

## REPORT

### BACKGROUND

1. Ashton Gardens is lit by a range of lighting units located throughout the Gardens. The majority of the lighting units are columns with the main drive, war memorial and St George's Road Lodge House illuminated by underground uplighters. Bollard lighting was originally installed as part of the Restoration of Ashton Gardens in 2011 and these have been subsequently vandalised on numerous occasions.
2. A detailed survey of the park lighting was undertaken and as a result the following work was proposed -

Location/Description	Item	Total £
21 Lighting Columns	Installation of new internal wiring and cut-outs to the lighting columns	6,000
17 Uplighters	Excavation of the in-ground up lights, isolation, IR testing and renewal if faulty	8,000
10 Bollard Lights	Renewal of vandalised bollards with a more robust vandal resistant bollard	3,000
Rose Garden	Introduction of new lighting to rose garden	4,500
St Georges Sq. side	Install new lighting to the footpath	3,000
	Contingencies	500
	Total Scheme Cost:	<b>£25,000</b>

### PROCUREMENT AND VALUE FOR MONEY

3. The proposal was initially offered to 6 companies, with just 4 companies wishing to tender against the specification.

In all there were 3 compliant tenders received with tenders ranging from £19,647 to £24,106. The contract was offered to the lowest tenderer at £19,647.

### RETROSPECTIVE APPROVAL

4. The works are nearing completion at the time of writing this report, having been undertaken during the summer months prior to this formal draw-down report to take advantage of the drier weather, particularly when working on new and replacement underground uplighting ahead of the autumn.
5. There have been a number of additional and unforeseen works which amount to £3,087. One particular unforeseen item arose during the replacement of the 19No. large inground up lights, when it was discovered that the original in ground lights had been installed into a large amount of concrete both around and below the existing lights, thus preventing the drainage of water and resulting in each light being permanently submerged in water below ground level, the result is that over time the fittings have filled with water and failed. One other was the variation to the provision of 19 uplighters from the original specified 16.
6. With the additional works the overall cost of the works amounts to £22,762 against the approved £25,000 capital sum.
7. Consequently, this report seeks retrospective approval to the draw-down of funds as set out in the Constitution which permits expenditure being incurred on an agreed scheme if under £100,000 providing this is reported to the committee at the next available opportunity.

## CONCLUSION

8. The Committee is requested to recommend retrospective approval for the draw-down of funds amounting to £22,762 against £25,000 as approved as capital spend at the Tourism & Leisure Committee on 7 January 2021.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	The report requests that retrospective approval to draw-down approved capital funds for the lighting project in Ashton Gardens.
Legal	None arising from this report.
Community Safety	Improved lighting will directly improve the safety of the community.
Human Rights and Equalities	Improvements in illumination will enhance the visibility for those who experience sight impairment.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	The new lighting will reduce the energy required by the installation of new efficient LED lighting.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	Improvements in the lighting will mitigate vandalism and anti-social behaviour as well as reduce the damage and break-ins previously experienced within Ashton Gardens.

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
None		

Attached documents

Appendix 1 – Capital Bid