

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROFORMA**

Cabinet Meeting .....21st July 2008

1. Title of Item/Report

The Regeneration and Development of Stockton's Parks

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report on the Regeneration and Development of Stockton's Parks. In September 2007 Cabinet approved the commitment of £500,000 capital funding towards the regeneration of four key parks in the Borough:

- John Whitehead Park (Billingham)
- Newham Grange Park (Stockton)
- Romano Park (Ingleby Barwick)
- Wynyard Woodland Park (Thorpe Thewles)

The report summarised progress made to date, including consultation work, details of external funding secured, and project delivery. The report outlined the next stages in the development and delivery of the schemes, including a breakdown of estimated project costs and information on external funding.

The report also provided a summary of four other current or potential schemes which had not been funded directly through the above £500,000 capital allocation:

- Village Park (Thornaby)
- Harewood Pleasure Gardens (Thornaby)
- Preston Park and Hall
- River Tees Park

Finally reference was made to three externally funded initiatives which would compliment and add value to the park regeneration programme:

- Play Builder
- Active Outdoors
- Playing Out

RESOLVED that:-

1. The contents of the report be noted.
2. Officers be authorised to enter into initial negotiations with landowners within the River Tees corridor with a view to reporting back to Cabinet at a later date on the opportunities and potential costs of land acquisition, as part of a wider report on the proposed development of a River Tees Park.
3. A programme of publicity be devised to highlight the major investments in the borough's parks and play areas.

3. Reasons for the Decision

The report provided an update on the delivery of current schemes, approved by Cabinet in September 2007. No additional Stockton Borough Council funding was sought at this stage, although a request for such funding may be brought before Cabinet in the future.

The acquisition of additional land within the River Tees and/or the River Leven corridors would provide Stockton Council with the opportunity to develop a new 'Country Park', as identified in the current Local Plan and other existing strategies. Such a development would also compliment other major projects in this area including the 'Connect2' cycle network and the regeneration of Preston Park and Hall. Through some initial negotiations with landowners it would be possible to assess the feasibility of this proposal and identify the likely costs involved.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not Applicable

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Not later than Midnight on Tuesday 29th July 2008

Proper Officer

23 July 2008