

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**ASSET MANAGEMENT, CULTURE AND HOUSING
CABINET MEMBER**

NORMANBY HALL COUNTRY PARK – NEW PLAY FACILITIES

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To approve further investment by the council towards new play facilities at Normanby Hall Country Park.
- 1.2 The key points in this report are as follows:
- The council has recently invested in improvements at Normanby Hall Country Park.
 - We have looked at other ways to improve the 'offer' for customers.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The council has made a number of improvements to the visitor experience at Normanby Hall Country Park in recent years. These include the purchase of a new tractor train, provision of new woodland paths, new outdoor cafe furniture, new website, provision of a woodland reading area, improvements to the existing play area, the new Changing Places facility and the Normanby at War exhibition.
- 2.2 We have regular feedback from customers about the services and ways to improve the offer at Normanby Hall Country Park. Officers and elected members continually discuss possible further ways to improve the park facilities for the benefit of customers. We have looked at the possibility of introducing a water play feature aimed at children.
- 2.3 **Water 'Splashpad' Play Facility**
- 2.3.1 Officers have explored the possibility of providing a water splashpad play facility. These are available in a range of different designs.
- 2.3.2 One of the key advantages of a 'splashpad' feature over a more traditional paddling pool type facility is that out of season, the facility can be utilised as an additional dry play area, making all year round use of the various elements of play equipment

possible with or without the added attraction of using the water features.

2.3.3 In keeping with the rural nature of the country park and its links to farming and agriculture, a facility based on a farming theme is favoured. It is suggested that a budget of around £300,000 would be required to deliver this project.

2.3.4 The area suggested for locating a water play facility is shown on the attached plan.

3 **OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

3.1 The following options are available for the Cabinet Member to consider.

3.1.1 Option 1 – Agree to take forward the project set out at paragraph 2.3 during the current financial year.

3.1.2 Option 2 – Agree to consider taking forward the project set out at paragraphs 2.3 during a future financial year.

3.1.3 Option 3 - Defer taking forward progress of the project in question.

4. **ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

4.1 **Option 1**

4.1.1 Taking forward the project during the current financial year would ensure that sustained progress is maintained in improving the range of visitor facilities for customers at Normanby Hall Country Park. It is likely that the splashpad could be available in readiness for the start of the 2015/16 season. Officers and members believe that the new facilities would prove popular with visitors, potentially leading to a boost in visitor numbers to the country park and day visits from outside the North Lincolnshire area.

4.2 **Option 2**

4.2.1 This would delay the delivery of the project, thereby deferring the potential benefits for park visitors. It is unlikely that the facilities could be available in readiness for the start of the 2015/16 season.

4.3 **Option 3**

4.3.1 This would prevent the delivery of the development project in question.

5. **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)**

5.1 **Financial** – Taking forward the project in question is likely to require capital expenditure of around £300,000. This is not included for in the current approved capital programme. However there are a number of approved capital projects that are forecast to underspend against budget in the current financial year. The total level of underspending against these projects will likely prove more than sufficient to fund the project. These underspends will not be required to be slipped into future years. As such it is proposed that they are used to finance the enhancements outlined in this report and that the capital programme be altered to reflect this. Additionally, annual revenue costs of around £35,000 associated with the project are estimated. This would provide for ensuring the safe operation of the facilities. However, these would likely be offset in full by additional income.

5.2 **Staffing** – Any staffing implications will be given further consideration and be subject to future reports for consideration by the Cabinet Member.

5.3 There are no other resource implications requiring consideration.

6. **OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

6.1 Not applicable.

7. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

7.1 We have consulted users of Normanby Hall Country Park and they have told us they would like to see more play facilities for children. We have carefully considered this request. We have looked at the previous popularity of water facilities at the site and have recommended the development of a splashpad.

7.2 The Director of Policy and Resources is happy to see the suggested project taken forward as long as any expenditure is contained within the limits of the approved capital programme.

7.3 Officers have consulted the Normanby Estate Company. They have no objections to the proposal set out in this paper.

7.4 Feedback from customers at Normanby Hall Country Park suggests that they value the ongoing efforts by the council to improve the range and quality of visitor facilities.

7.5 There are no apparent conflicts of interest to highlight.

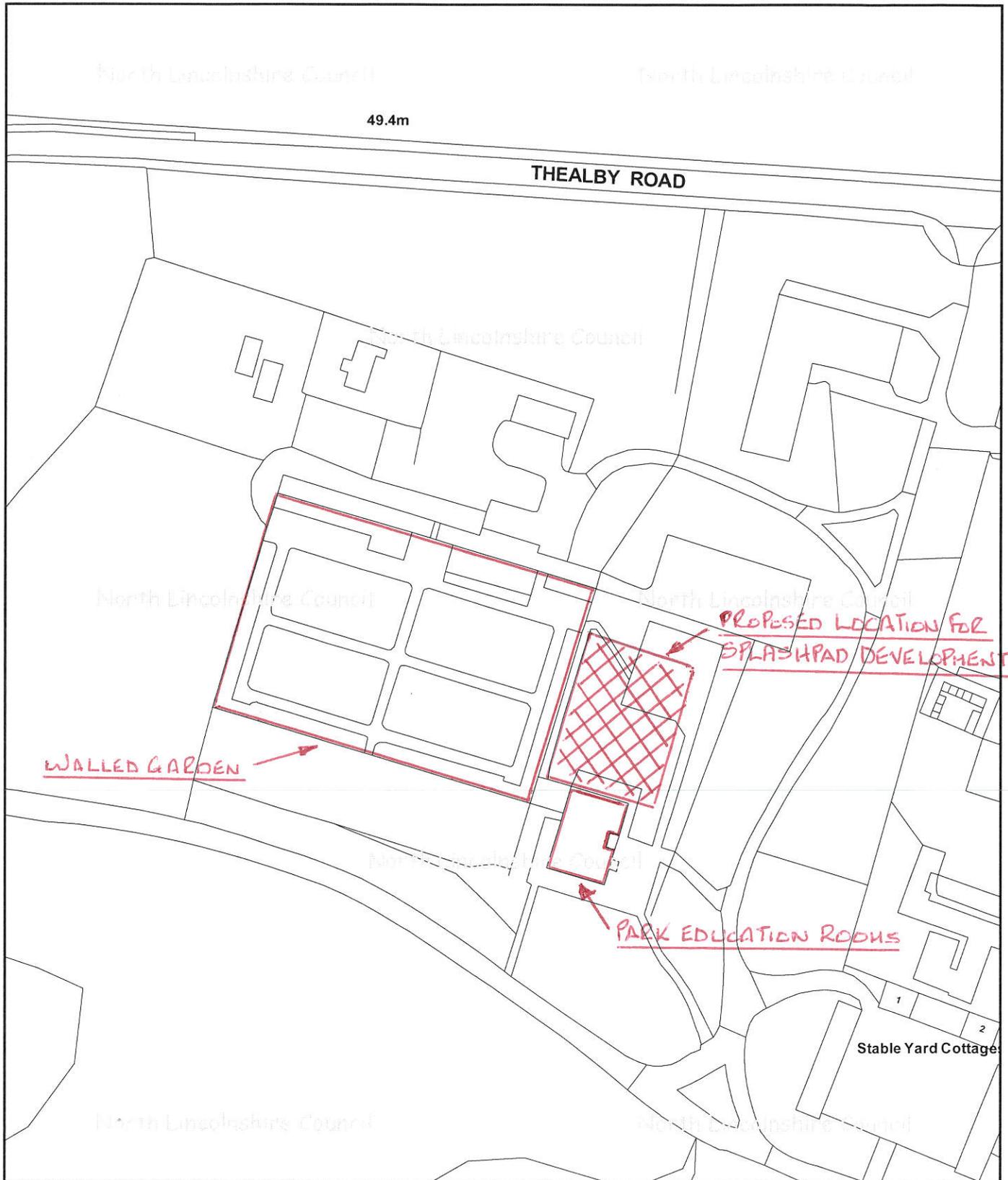
8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That the Cabinet Member agrees to take forward the project set out at paragraph 2.3 during the current financial year.
- 8.2 That the Cabinet Member agrees to use underspends within the current approved capital programme to fund the project in question.
- 8.3 That the Cabinet Member agrees to consider the revenue implications of providing the new facility as part of the forthcoming budget process.

DIRECTOR OF PLACES

Civic Centre
Ashby Road
SCUNTHORPE
North Lincolnshire
DN16 1AB
Author: Peter Williams
Date: October 2014

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: None



 <p>NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL www.northlincs.gov.uk</p> <p>Director of Places Peter Williams BSc,DMS,CEng,MEI,MCMI,AMIMechE</p>	REVISIONS			<p>Normanby Hall, Normanby Village Burton upon Stather</p> <p>Drawing No: Property DB site: 88721654</p> <p>FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES ONLY</p> <p>OS grid ref: SE88631676 Date: 16/10/2014 Drawn By: Brian Davison Scale @A4 1:1250</p>	
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