

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**SAFER, GREENER AND CLEANER SPACES
CABINET MEMBER**

HEALEY ROAD PLAYING FIELD

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval to draw £18,000 from the Scunthorpe Special Expenses Reserves (SSER) to be used as matched funding for works to upgrade Healey Road Playing Field into Healey Road Community Park.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The council is responsible for maintaining a number of children's playgrounds and playing fields in Scunthorpe via the Scunthorpe Special Levy, including the Healey Road Field. It was previously an allotment site. The field was poorly drained, thereby restricting its use. To resolve this, a new drainage scheme was successfully installed in 2016 funded via an allocation of £80,000 from the Scunthorpe Special Expenses Reserve (SSER).
- 2.2 Local community representatives have formed the Warley Road Community Group. They have indicated that they would like the field to be upgraded and made into a Community Park, accessible for everyone to use. A phased approach is suggested to achieve this, initially focussing on improving access, upgrading play equipment for young people and providing an outdoor fitness facility.
- 2.3 To help towards achieving this initial phase of work, it is proposed that the council bids for funding support totalling £87,936 via WREN, the administrator for the Landfill Communities Fund. For the bid to be successful, third party contributions of £9,953 are required. It is proposed to achieve this and part fund the outdoor fitness equipment via a contribution of £18,000 from the Scunthorpe Special Expenses Reserve Fund (SSER).
- 2.4 The funding bid will include a commitment by the Warley Road Community Group to take an active voluntary role in the day to day operation and maintenance of the Community Park. It is suggested that we regularly monitor the effectiveness of this arrangement with a view to eventually transferring the full responsibility for operating the Community Park to them in the future.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 The recommendation is that the Cabinet Member approves an allocation of £18,000 from the SSER to support the further development of the Healey Road Playing Field to a Community Park.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 The recommendation would enable the upgrading and development of the Healey Road Field to become a Community Park at little expense to the council. This would provide a significant benefit to local residents and the wider community, creating an opportunity for the community to become more involved with the future maintenance and ownership of the community park.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, I.T.)

5.1 **Financial** – A maximum sum of £18,000 would be required from the SSER. The reserve has sufficient funds available to support the proposal.

5.2 There are no resource implications to consider in connection with this report.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

6.1 Not applicable.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED

6.1 Local residents, the Warley Road Community Group, Ward Councillors and the Scunthorpe Charter Trustees Group were all consulted. They support the proposals detailed in this paper.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That the Cabinet Member approves an allocation of £18,000 from the Scunthorpe Special Expenses Reserve to support the further development of the Healey Road Playing Field to a Community Park.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Civic Centre
Ashby Road
SCUNTHORPE
North Lincolnshire
DN16 1AB
Author: Andy Tate, Ken Wardman
Date: 13/08/18

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: None