

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 15 JUNE 2011

CAPITAL PROGRAMME FUNDING FOR PARKS 2011/12

Report by Depute Chief Executive / Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval to allocate capital programme funding to a range of projects in the Council's main public parks.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council has approved a programme of capital investment in improvements to major parks. To date, funding has been allocated by Cabinet to Kay Park and Howard Park in Kilmarnock and Morton Park in Darvel.
- 2.2 A sum of £200,000 is available for allocation in 2011/12, in previous years £170,000 has been approved for a major project with £30,000 used to address routine health and safety issues in parks as they have arisen throughout the year.

3 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 Following detailed consideration of the current condition of major parks in East Ayrshire and taking into account feedback from local members, local residents and organisations, it is proposed that the available funding is allocated as follows:
- £100,000 To Cunningham-Watt Park in Stewarton for work to improve paths, steps and lighting making the park and its public paths more attractive and safer to use in response to local concerns regarding safety and working in conjunction with Stewarton Woodland Area Trust;
 - £30,000 To Annanhill Park, Kilmarnock for work to include measures to reduce speed on the main entrance road, in response to local residents concerns, repair the existing cycle track and improve security at the walled garden.
 - £5,000 For work to address issues with football pitch lines across East Ayrshire. Over time the practice of burning out pitch lines has created furrows and these need to be filled and/or re-turfed to improve pitch quality;
 - £35,000 To demolish the vacant Kay Park Cottage which is in poor condition, is not viable or economic to repair and which will become a potential target for vandalism if it is not demolished, and create additional car parking space for the Burns Monument Centre, with the estimated cost supplied by the Asset Improvement Service; and

- £30,000 For health and safety issues as they arise through the year; in past years this has included repairs to paths, safety and security features as well as including major arboriculture works.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 A capital budget of £200,000 has been approved for investment in parks in 2011/12.

5 COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Investment in public parks supports both the Community Regeneration and Health and wellbeing themes of the Community Plan.

6 POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Council has a duty to ensure that its public parks are safe for public use.
- 6.2 A number of the Council's Parks including the Kay Park are held on the Council's Common Good Account. Common good assets are divided into two distinct categories; those considered inalienable where court authority to dispose or potentially demolish may be required and those considered alienable where no such authority is required. Given that the Kay Park Cottage has never been in public use but has been used exclusively for residential purposes it is considered to be alienable and accordingly it is considered that there is no legal restriction to its demolition. Following demolition the ground on which the Cottage sits will remain on the Common Good Account as part of the land in the curtilage of the Kay Park.

7 RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Investing in the fabric of public parks and addressing any issues which may affect the safety of people using the parks assists in reducing the risks associated with allowing public access to these important facilities.

8 CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE PROPOSALS

- 8.1 The proposals in this report have been put forward to address the priorities for investment in the Council's parks. The proposals involve several sites and will improve the condition and attractiveness of parks for local residents and visitors. The proposals have been agreed in conjunction with the spokespersons for Community Regeneration.

9 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:
- (i) approve the capital investment programme for parks in 2011/12 detailed in Section 3 of this report; and
 - (ii) otherwise notes the content of the report.

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EM/JAG/AF

8 June 2011

Background Papers: Nil

For further information please contact John Griffiths, Head of Leisure Services at Council HQ, London Road, Kilmarnock on (57) 6160.