

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CABINET – 3<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER 2008**

### **PARK DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

#### **Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Cabinet on the programme of improvements planned for Kay Park, Kilmarnock.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 At its meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2008 Cabinet approved expenditure of £200,000 on a Parks Development Programme, with £170,000 initially allocated to Kay Park in Kilmarnock and £30,000 to be used to address health and safety issues in other parks.
- 2.2 An independent survey of the park was commissioned to highlight strengths and weaknesses and assist in developing a programme of investment and improvement. The survey identifies the significant potential of the park as a community and visitor attraction and provides ideas for the future enhancement, maintenance and use of the park with a focus on the areas history and heritage. A prioritised programme of work has been developed in consultation with the Spokespersons for Environment and Regeneration.
- 2.3 Work on the Burns Monument Centre is continuing and should be complete in November. The works in the park will compliment the new facility and will be carried out in the Autumn and Winter to minimise disruption for park users.

#### **3. KAY PARK PROGRAMME OF IMPROVEMENTS**

- 3.1 The playpark and sports wall will be removed and replaced with new equipment at an improved site closer to the car park and entrance. The new playpark will be similar to those installed in other areas and will have a safety surface and fence.
- 3.2 The gateway to the park on Strawberry Bank will be improved with new features installed.
- 3.3 The tree lined avenue from the lake up to the Burns Monument Centre will be upgraded with a heel kerb edge and new surface. At the top of the avenue new floral beds will be created and the fountain will be repainted and its plinth repaired.
- 3.4 New litter bins and benches will be installed in the park.
- 3.5 In addition to this work Cabinet also agreed in January that the £50,000 Public Art Fund which is included in the Capital programme would be spent on artwork in Kay Park. The selection process for suitable artists for the Public Art programme is

currently underway and nominations are sought for two elected members to join a small panel to select a bank of artists to deliver the Public Art Programme and select the artist and work to be installed in Kay Park in Spring 2009.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Funding for the Parks Development Programme (£200,000) and Public Art (£50,000) is included in the 2008/09 Capital Programme.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no legal implications attached to this progress report.

#### **6. CONCLUSIONS**

6.1 The planned programme of improvement works in Kay Park will enhance the attractiveness of the park, add to the facilities on offer and compliment the works being carried out at the Burns Monument Centre.

6.2 For further information of Members a copy of the background paper "Kilmarnock Parks: An assessment of other role and options for improvement – Volume 1 Setting (includes Kay Park)", has been placed in the Members' Information Point.

#### **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

7.1 It is recommended that Cabinet

- i. Approve the priority programme of work in Kay Park shown in section 3 of the report
- ii. Agree that Council considers the appointment of two elected members to sit on the selection panel for the Public Art Programme
- iii. Otherwise note the content of the report

William Stafford  
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/JAG

26<sup>th</sup> August 2008

#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**Kilmarnock Parks: An assessment of other role and options for improvement –  
Volume 1 Setting (includes Kay Park)**

Implementation officer – [john.griffiths@east-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:john.griffiths@east-ayrshire.gov.uk)