

BRADBOURNE LAKES UPDATE

Cleaner & Greener Advisory Committee - 5 January 2022

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive & Chief Officer, Finance & Trading

Status: For Decision

Key Decision: No

Executive Summary: This report updates Cleaner & Greener Advisory Committee Members on the progress to date in implementing the agreed vision for Bradbourne Lakes.

This report supports the Key Aim of; a green and healthy environment

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Recommendation to Cleaner & Greener Advisory Committee:

To note the progress of the Bradbourne Lakes vision implementation in trying to attract and apply for external funding.

Reason for recommendation: The agreed Bradbourne Lakes vision produced by LUC (Land Use Consultants) produced a design that will cost an estimated £1,262,000 to implement. This is outside the Council's 10-year budget and therefore requires a range of external funding sources to be delivered. The Cleaner and Greener Advisory Committee agreed the vision on 29 October 2019. A bid to the Council's CIL Board was agreed on the 9 December 2019 for £252,400, subject to external funding being secured.

Introduction & Background

- 1 At the meeting of the Direct and Trading Advisory Committee on 9 October 2018 (and agreed by Cabinet on 11 October 2018), it was agreed that:-
 - a. The results of the public consultation be noted and that Land Use Consultants (LUC) be commissioned to develop a full vision costed plan and to explore funding opportunities and to submit various grant applications to fund the proposed improvement and restoration works, and

- b. To fund this consultancy works, a one-off, Invest to Save, growth item for the 2019/20 budget be considered as part of the 2019/20 budget setting process.
- 2 A £60,000 budget was agreed, available from 1 April 2019, and LUC were duly commissioned to create the vision.
- 3 The priorities identified from the consultation were: de-silting of the lakes; repair of lake edges; repair of broken structures; repair/improvement of eroded paths; removal of overgrown vegetation, ecological enhancements and biodiversity improvements.
 - a. The initial desilting works were completed in October 2021
- 4 In order to prepare a fully costed plan various surveys have been undertaken, by LUC. These are:
 - a. Tree survey - (446 trees surveyed, 25 trees identified for removal)
 - b. Ecology survey - (Tree reductions, marginal and aquatic planting, connectivity planting of hedges and trees, which will improve bats, birds, invertebrates populations and to dissuade populations of water fowl causing damage)
 - c. Sediment (Silt) survey - (It is calculated that there is currently 5627m³ of in-situ sediment in the 5 lakes, with approximately 5080 tonnes for removal and disposal. Permits were needed to remove silt and some material was contaminated by road run and required disposal at a suitable licenced site.
 - d. Structure survey - (High priority works include sidewall repairs for Lake 4 and overflow pond, steel supported concrete bridge repairs, and sidewalls of the overflow stream.
- 5 Please refer to the Cleaner and Greener [Advisory Committee on 29 October 2019](#) for each full survey.
- 6 Many of the structures within the park require general repairs to ensure the longevity of the lake banks and improve the general aesthetics of the park.
- 7 The following identified actions will be required:
 - a. The draining and dredging of Lake 4 and its overflow pond facilitating further investigation and remedial works.
 - b. Trial pits dug at key locations to determine the current construction and condition of the sidewalls and base of Lake 4, and the sidewalls of the overflow stream.

- c. Developing solutions in areas where trees add to the complexity of repair details.
- d. Repair costs are optimised concerning aesthetics, robustness and longevity.

Landscape Proposals

- 8 From these surveys LUC produced a Vision and can be seen in Bradbourne Lakes Outline Specification (Background papers) and included:
 - a. Nature play. (Trim trail type) utilising wooden equipment.
 - b. Improvement to existing paths and edges.
 - c. Improvement to park threshold
 - d. Creation of circular walking path with deck bridge and stream stepping stones.
- 9 This Vision is estimated to cost £1,262,000 to implement
- 10 The vision and cost was taken to the Cleaner and Greener Committee on the 29 October 2019 and support was given in proceeding to source external funding.

External Funding

- 11 LUC submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI) application to the HLF requesting £535,500 in December 2019. This EOI was not successful and was rejected by the Heritage Lottery Fund, following a change to their funding criteria due to the pandemic.
- 12 A revised EOI matching the funding criteria and in partnership with Kent Wildlife Trust was submitted on the 12 November 2021. On the 8 December 2021 our EOI was considered by the HLF panel for our London and South Area and we have been invited to submit an application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for this project.
- 13 £252,400 of the Council's CIL fund was applied for and was approved on 9 December 2019, subject to external funding and relevant planning permission. A decision from the HLF funding panel has now been given and our EOI will now proceed to a full application.

Key Implications

Financial

The funding for the priority works identified in the vision for Bradbourne Lakes is outside the Council's ten-year budget and therefore external funding will need to

be applied for to wholly or partially fund the required works to implement the vision.

On-going maintenance liabilities for the Council also need to be fully taken into account in any improvement programme.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

Without assistance from external funding the vision cannot be implemented for the lakes, however, priority works, such as de-silting, has been completed, to ensure the correct functioning of the lakes, and again, the estimated cost of these works are outside the Council's ten-year budget.

There is no guarantee, however, that any application for funding will be successful, and this is a significant risk to the implementation of the vision.

Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Net Zero Implications

Members are reminded of the Council's stated ambition to be Net Zero with regards to carbon emissions by 2030. The decisions recommended in this paper directly impact on this ambition. The impact has been reviewed and there will be a decrease on carbon emissions produced in the district as a result of this decision.

The restoration and renovation of Bradbourne Lakes will ensure they operate more effectively, positively effecting flooding and surface flooding in the area. The agreed vision for Bradbourne Lakes sets out the extensive positive impacts on habitats, biodiversity, ecosystems and wildlife all of which positively contribute to lowering carbon emissions.

Conclusions

Securing funding to wholly or partially carryout the improvement and restoration works identified in the vision will be the greatest opportunity to deliver the desired outcomes. The Council in partnership with Kent Wildlife Trust and LUC have started to apply to different organisations to provide the necessary funding to deliver the desired outcomes identified through the vision consultation. There is no guarantee of success.

Appendices - none

Background Papers - Bradbourne Lakes - [A Vision for the Future - prepared by LUC - August 2018](#)

[Tree Survey, Ecology Survey, Sediment Survey](#)

[Structural Survey](#)

Adrian Rowbotham

Deputy Chief Executive & Chief Officer Finance & Trading