

## REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE



<b>DATE</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> July 2012</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>Leisure and Culture</b>
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	<b>Simon Goff</b>
<b>TEL NO</b>	<b>01282 664614</b>
<b>EMAIL</b>	<b>sgoff@burnley.gov.uk</b>

**Capital Programme 2012/2013: Brun Valley Forest Park****PURPOSE**

1. To seek approval to the release of the capital programme budget that is allocated in the 2012/2013 programme for the Brun Valley Forest Park.

**RECOMMENDATION**

2. That the Executive:
  - a. Approves the release of the capital programme budget of £50,000 for the Brun Valley Forest Park.
  - b. Authorises the Head of Green Spaces and Amenities to procure the proposed works in accordance with Standing Orders.
  - c. Authorises the Head of Green Spaces to progress an application for a Woodland Improvement Grant of £85,000 from the Forestry Commission.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

3. Approval of the Executive is required to release budgets that are identified in the Council's capital programme.

**SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS**

- 4 The Council has allocated £50,000 in the 2012/13 capital programme to progress the implementation of the Brun Valley Forest Park. It is proposed that this budget is allocated as follows:

#### **4.1 Resurfacing of Rowley Lane: £20,000**

Rowley Lane provides the main access to Rowley Lake car parks at the Eastern end of the Forest Park and also provides access to residential properties. The condition of the road is very poor and it is proposed that it will be resurfaced. The work will be procured by competitive tender as part of the same contract as the resurfacing of Towneley Holmes Road in Towneley Park.

#### **4.2 Rowley Lane Car Park Barriers: £5,000**

The car park on Rowley Lane has been subject to occupation by travellers and the installation of height control barriers at the entrance will prevent a re-occurrence. The supply of the barriers will be competitively tendered and installation will be undertaken by Green Spaces staff during the winter period.

#### **4.3 Queen Victoria Rd Entrance: £15,000**

The existing entrance to the former Rowley landfill site will form the main entrance to the Forest Park. Re-design of this entrance will provide safe access for pedestrians and cyclists and installation of height barriers will prevent access by travellers. A new pedestrian cycle access to Queens Park, opposite the Queen Victorian Road entrance will allow pedestrians and cyclists access from Queens Park into the Forest Park.

Alterations to the entrances will be competitively tendered to suitable firms on the Council's select list of contractors.

#### **4.4 Multi-User paths: £10,000**

Development of multi-user paths linking the main entrance to the former landfill site. Supply of materials will be competitively tendered and construction of the paths will be undertaken by Green Spaces staff during the winter period.

### **5. Other Grant Funding**

A Woodland Improvement Grant application of £85,000 will be progressed with the Forestry Commission and, if approved, this funding will be used to develop the path network and contribute to the costs of constructing a new bridge crossing of the River Brun to create a new link between Netherwood Road and Rowley Lane.

Lancashire County Council is submitting a similar Woodland Improvement Grant in respect of the woodlands that owns at Rowley which will be used for the purposes described above.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION**

6 There is funding of £50,000 in the Council's Capital Programme 2012/2013.

If the Council is successful in obtaining further external grants, these will be reported to the Executive and the Capital Programme will be amended as required and further authority to release funds will be sought.

There are no significant revenue implications arising from this project. The land that forms the Forest Park is currently owned and maintained by the Council.

#### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

7. The schemes outlined in this report will enable the Council to progress the second phase of the Brun Valley Forest Park.

#### **DETAILS OF CONSULTATION**

8. Councillors have been briefed on the Brun Valley Forest Park, relevant ward Councillors for have been consulted and a Friends group has been established to encourage community involvement in the improvements at Rowley. A public consultation meeting was held at Burnley Youth Theatre on 16th July 2012 to discuss the proposals contained in this report.

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Forest Park project files held in the Forest of Burnley Office, Cemetery Office, Rossendale Road, Burnley BB11 5DD.

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

**PLEASE CONTACT:**

**Simon Goff**

**ALSO:**

**Keith Wilson**