



TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE

REPORT AUTHOR	Colin Hill – Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)
TEL NO	01706 548135
EMAIL	townclerk@todmorden-tc.gov.uk
Date	22nd January 2020
SUBJECT	Wheelspark Project Update

PURPOSE:

1. To provide an update to Members on this project.
2. To remind Members that the Earmarked Reserve of £10,000 has a high element of risk when used, in that it does not guarantee that we would be successful in levering in grant funds to be able to take this forward to delivery stage.
3. To inform Members that there may be a need to contribute further sums depending upon funders contribution requirements – estimated project cost at this early stage up to c£150k depending upon specification and or additions to scheme arising out of present need.
4. To inform Members that given the long delays in this project it will be necessary to understand both current demand/support for such a scheme as well as what the scheme should now consist of, given that trends may have changed since initial consideration back in 2012.

BACKGROUND:

5. Members delegated taking this project forward to the Town Clerk on 16th October 2019

6. The Town Clerk in reviewing the files wrote to Calderdale MBC on 4th December 2019 - Appendix 1.
7. The Town Clerk subsequently met with Andrew Pitts of Calderdale MBC on 12th December 2019 where broad agreement was reached in terms of Calderdale MBC support for the project and it was agreed that a formal letter of support would be sent to Todmorden Town Council once some of the underlying lease clauses have been clarified.
8. Given this broad agreement, The Town Clerk and Cllr D Skelton met with a representative from Groundworks and line management from Calderdale MBC on the 8th January 2020, in order to discuss how to take this forward in terms of consultation, as well as the practicalities of grant funding submissions, noting it is anticipated that a number of potential funders may be needed to make this financially feasible to deliver.
9. The next stages are:-
 - a. Obtain Formal agreement from Calderdale MBC including lease clause amendments/agreements.
 - b. Groundwork to quote for providing costs for acting on our behalves in technical specifications, consultation and funding applications.
 - i. Groundwork would provide services including,
 1. Funding applications,
 2. Landscape architecture design
 3. Contract administration services
 4. Project management of the funding and the contract budget.
 5. Tendering of the works and act as client to the main contractor or multiple contractors if warranted.
 - c. Current Scheme to be reassessed by user groups and stakeholders
 - i. Consultation into schools and local interest groups
 - ii. Groundworks to provide some guidance on content to be consulted upon.
 - iii. Calderdale MBC have offered support of the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator to help take forward elements of this consultation.
 - d. Groundwork to look at other sources of funding.
10. Calderdale MBC have recently been awarded Government funding which may present an opportunity to access funds of a Capital investment nature, should it transpire that contribution levels of applicants required by potential funders are outside of the financial means of Todmorden Town Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

11. That the Town Clerk seek a formal quotation from Groundwork to provide the core elements of Consultation advice, Technical specification and applications for funding.
12. That on receipt of these quotations, depending upon the amount and complexity/specialist knowledge, consideration be given by the Town Clerk as to whether Standing Order 18d be waived.
13. That once all three elements of consultation, Groundwork quotation and proposals and formal agreement from Calderdale are all in place, that a report be taken to Full Council to confirm use of this Earmarked Reserve and if likely to be required consideration given to future Capital contribution.
14. That on approval by Full Council, consultation be commenced to identify current user needs and for the Town Clerk to then drive the project forward to the stage of applications being made.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

15. To confirm next stages in this project.
16. To authorise release of Earmarked Reserve and commencement of submitting applications for funding.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

17. The Town Council seeks to lever in funds for projects of benefit to Todmorden Precept Payers provided there is no ongoing financial risk attributed to such involvement.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION:

18. None at this stage.

SUPPORTING PAPERS:

- 19 Appendix 1 – Baseline considerations

FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: Colin Hill