



Democratic Services

Location: Phase II
Ext: 0636
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CMD No:1032

**To: COUNCILLOR MARTIN GODDARD
CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE**

**COUNCILLOR EDDIE LAVERY
CABINET MEMBER FOR RESIDENTS' SERVICES**

c.c. All Members of the Residents' Services Select Committee
c.c. Dragana Knezevic - Place Directorate
c.c. Ward Councillors for South Ruislip

Date: 09 February 2024

Non-Key Decision request

Form D

CAPITAL RELEASE REPORT

DEPARTMENT: Resident Services

SERVICE AREA / PROGRAMME: Environmental & Recreational Initiatives: Spider Park / Bridgwater Open Space River & Wetland Enhancement Scheme

Dear Cabinet Member,

Attached is a report requesting that a decision be made by you as an individual Cabinet Member. Democratic Services confirm that this is not a key decision, as such, the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 notice period does not apply.

You should take a decision **on or after Monday 19 February 2024** in order to meet Constitutional requirements about publication of decisions that are to be made. You may wish to discuss the report with the Corporate Director before it is made. Please indicate your decision on the duplicate memo supplied and return it to me when you have made your decision. I will then arrange for the formal notice of decision to be published.

Amy Helps
Senior Technical Support Officer

Title of Report: CAPITAL RELEASE REPORT

DEPARTMENT: Resident Services

SERVICE AREA / PROGRAMME: Environmental & Recreational Initiatives: Spider Park / Bridgwater Open Space River & Wetland Enhancement Scheme

Decision made:

Reasons for your decision: (e.g. as stated in report)

Alternatives considered and rejected: (e.g. as stated in report)

Signed Date.....

Cabinet Member for Finance / Cabinet Member for Residents' Services

CAPITAL RELEASE REPORT

DEPARTMENT: Resident Services

SERVICE AREA / PROGRAMME: Environmental & Recreational Initiatives: Spider Park /
Bridgwater Open Space River & Wetland Enhancement Scheme

Cabinet Member(s)	Councillor Martin Goddard Councillor Eddie Lavery
Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Cabinet Member for Finance Cabinet Member for Residents' Services
Officer Contact(s)	Dragana Knezevic, Place
Papers with report	Appendix A, with capital release requests for approval
Summary	To seek release of £159K funds towards Spider Park/Bridgwater open space river enhancement project
Putting our Residents First	This report supports the following Council objectives of <i>Our Natural Environment</i> and <i>Strong financial management</i> .
Financial Cost	This report seeks the release of £159K for Bridgwater open space river enhancement project, £100K funded by Crane Valley Grant and £59K funded by HS2 The Community and Environment Fund.
Relevant Select Committee	Residents' Services
Relevant Ward(s)	South Ruislip

RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Cabinet Member for Residents' Services approve the capital release request of £159K for Bridgwater Open Space, river enhancement scheme, £100K funded by Crane Valley Grant and £59K funded by HS2 Community and Environment Fund (Appendix A).

Reasons for recommendation

London Borough of Hillingdon and the Zoological Society of London are working with Smarter Water Catchment project partners Cartographer and Metis Consultants to develop a river enhancement project to improve the section of the Yeading Brook West that flows through Spider Park (Bridgwater Open Space).

Yeading Brook has unnaturally steep banks with little habitat diversity. The river enhancement project will reprofile / recontour riverbanks to create key habitats and improve the diversity of the environment and its species. Yeading Brook water levels respond very quickly to rainfall due to its urban catchment. This project will contribute to reducing the peak levels and in turn, reduce

the flood risk to local residents. Proposed improvement works will increase the ability of the river to adapt and cope with the likely impact of increased intense storms resulting from climate change. The project will provide more space for water and slow the flow of water to the Yeading Brook, further helping to protect people, species and habitats by making them less vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

This project will create a tranquil spot for observing nature, such as dragonflies, butterflies and birds and amphibians, attracted to these new and enhanced habitats.

Development of the site will attract more volunteers who want to help shape and transform their local landscape and work with others as a community on a regular basis. This will provide not only social wellbeing benefits but also improve nature connectedness of participants and promote pro-nature conservation behaviours.

Alternative options considered / risk management

The Cabinet Members may agree to fund the scheme and / or suggest alternative projects to which funds could be allocated within the terms of the relevant legal agreements.

Select Committee comments

None at this stage.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

This report is seeking the allocation of funding for Bridgwater Open Space River Enhancement Project.

The works will be undertaken as follows:

- Design - Specialist Contractor
- Construction - Specialist Contractor
- Project Consultation - Zoological Society of London (ZSL), a charity devoted to the worldwide conservation of animals and their habitats

The table below provides a breakdown of the costs:

Cost Plan

Item	Lead	Cost
Design	Specialist Contractor	£18,000
Construction	Specialist Contractor	£120,000
Management Fees	Green Spaces, LBH	£14,000
Project Consultation	ZSL	£7,000
Total		£159,000

Timeline

Spider Park Restoration Timeline															
Activity	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar_2025
Catch ups															
Request quotations for detailed design															
Receive quotation for detailed design															
Raise Purchase Order for detailed design															
Detailed design complete															
Submit FRAP															
FRAP signed-off (8weeks minimum)															
Tendering process (1 to 2 months)						Start		Finish							
PO ready for build															
Restoration/Construction (4-6weeks)									Start	Finish					
community planting															
Consultation meeting (scout hut)															
Posters/Information boards up															
MorphBlitz and RMI training - set up CS monitoring															

Financial Implications

(Bridgwater Open Space river & wetland enhancement project Budget £159k, Previously Released Nil, Capital Release Requested £159k) – Appendix A

In February 2024, a recommendation is being presented to Cabinet to accept two grants. The first grant is for £100k from the Smarter Water Crane Valley Fund and the second grant is for £59k from HS2; both grants are to be used towards the Spider Park and Bridgwater Open Space, river and wetland enhancement scheme. No match funding is requested.

The report seeks the release of £159k for the Spider Park and Bridgwater Open Space, river & wetland enhancement project. The release request includes quotations from Green Spaces term contractors and consultants and includes internal fees at 10%.

The project will be reported as part of the Environmental and Recreation Initiatives Programme once capital release is approved.

RESIDENT BENEFIT & CONSULTATION

The benefit or impact upon Hillingdon residents, service users and communities

The Council and its partners are committed to making the Borough a cleaner, greener and safer environment. Feel PROUD aims to make residents aware of how they can join forces with the Council and have their say on improving the area they live in and boosting their pride in being a Hillingdon resident.

Improving existing habitats in this narrow Site of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINC) section and restoring Yeading Brook will increase the wildlife value of the site and benefit the whole corridor. The project will create a more varied and positive use of the land, increasing the site's

overall biodiversity and ecological resilience whilst retaining a peaceful place for people to relax and enjoy.

This project is consistent with Hillingdon's Strategic Climate Change Action Plan:

“Responding to the climate emergency is not just about reducing or removing carbon emissions. It is about recognising a much wider threat across all aspects of our environment. We are responsible for large sections of open areas and waterways that are an extremely important for wildlife and, amenity for residents. We can find better ways to use green and open space to support flora and fauna, manage flooding, integrate trees and planting schemes into urban environments and re-establish wildlife corridors.”

C7 Carbon offsetting

C7.4 Understand and increase current carbon sequestration through increased planting and changes to green space management.

C7.5 Increase the number of trees, particularly in urban areas to complement objectives to improve air quality and promote urban wildlife.

C7.6 To exploit opportunities to increase carbon sequestration to maximise opportunities for biodiversity and flood risk management.

CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance concurs with the financial implications set out above, noting that this project is largely funded from external grant of £159K that has recently been awarded from the Smarter Water Crane Valley Fund Grant and HS2 Grant, with no impact on Council resources, and that grant acceptance is pending Cabinet approval in the next monthly budget monitoring report.

Legal

Legal Services confirms that the Council is responsible for carrying out this function pursuant to section 164 of the Public Health Act 1875, section 10 of the Open Spaces Act 1906, and section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

Thus, there are no legal impediments to the requested capital release being authorised, although any contract that is entered into must comply with the Council's Procurement & Contract Standing Orders.

Infrastructure / Asset Management

There are no Infrastructure / Asset Management implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

Capital Release Protocol

The release of all capital funds, and certain revenue funds, held by the Council is to be made by a formal democratic decision (by the Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Business Services). No expenditure can be placed or committed by officers until this formal approval is given by Democratic Services. Release of funds must be for identified projects only

and strictly not for the general release of funds for projects to be identified at a later date. No block releases of capital or funding will be allowed, except if authorised by the Leader of the Council in advance to Corporate Finance. The release of funds will only be made if previous Council, Cabinet or Cabinet Member agreement has been given to the project and only if there is an approved budget.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Community and Environment Fund (Appendix A).

CAPITAL RELEASE APPENDIX A

Bridgwater Open Space River Enhancement Project

Location (Ward)	Project / Expenditure Title	Information	Funds Release Sought £000s	Approve	Hold	More Information Required
South Ruislip	Spider Park/Bridgwater Open Space River Enhancement Project	Spider Park/Bridgwater Open Space River Enhancement Project	159			
Total seeking release			159			
Previously released			0			
Budget			159			
Remaining budget			0			