Item 7

24th November 2022

Glasgow Community Planning Partnership

Linn Area Partnership

Report by Executive Director, Neighbourhoods Regeneration and Sustainability

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Options for use of the Local Parks & Open Space Improvement Fund within Linn

Purpose of Report:

To provide the Partnership with:

1. Options for investment of the Local Parks & Open Space Improvement Fund within Linn as set out within section 3 of this report
2. Advise as to next steps

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Partnership

(1) notes this report;

(2) approves funding for its preferred options for the Local Parks & Open Space Improvement Fund to allow for early action and delivery of projects.

1. Introduction

1.1. The Glasgow City Council 2022/23 budget allocated £1.5 million to Area Partnerships across the city for investment in Parks and Open Spaces. £71,800 of this has been allocated to Linn. The following projects are options for the committee to consider taking forward.

1.2. It should be noted that factoring in procurement and tendering procedures that timescales for development of projects, allocation of spend, and delivery on the ground will vary across the current and next financial year. Whilst project budgets have been proposed based on costs for similar work elsewhere in the city in recent years, with usual contingencies we note current market volatility across a range of products, for example with tarring costs recently reported as increasing by 18%.

1.3. It is noted that there are seasonal windows for certain projects involving planting and habitats, namely:

1.3.1. September and April - seasonal windows for delivery of meadow creation

1.3.2. November -February - seasonal window for delivery of woodland creation and/or woodland management works on the ground

2. Local Engagement

2.1. Officers from across the Council Family have been working with local communities months to build participation and engagement around the use of open spaces, with this work taking an increased importance and a digital form over the last 3 years. This engagement has taken a number of different strands, and has arrived at some early greenspace actions, as well as exploring longer term ideas. This report seeks to provide a summary of engagement to date, details options for these early actions and sets out a timeline for delivery of these options once a decision is made.

2.2. As part of Glasgow's Food Growing Strategy, we have been inviting communities across Glasgow to share with us their ideas for land they consider to be potentially suitable for food growing.

2.3. In May 2020, 917 responses were received from Citizens in relation to survey in relation to the Ecological Emergency, with the top 5 ranked priorities for action being:

- Support planners and developers to step up protection and enhancement of green space and biodiversity
- Work with other public sector land owners to maximise green corridors and pollinator ways through the city
- Increase connections across the city between green spaces, for both people and wildlife Allocate more open space for nature in the city
- Increase planting of native trees and plant species on and around active travel routes

Options for investment, for consideration by the Area Partnership, have been informed by the engagement work set out above set out above.

At the June meeting of the Area Partnership, it was agreed that further engagement with NRS Officers would be undertaken in relation to further allocation of this budget.

3. Update on 2021/22 Allocations

- **Cathcart Castle Path Works –** Consultancy work currently at tender stage.
- **Linn Park Benches –** Benches have been ordered by Friends of Linn Park and are awaiting delivery.
- **Path Improvements Near Adventure Playground –** Works partially completed.
- **Additional Play Equipment at Linn Park –** Currently at design stage. Further engagement required with local stakeholders
- **Weed Fabric Boulders at Kings Park –** Grant award made to Friends of Kings Park.
- **Purchase of Trees at Kings Park –** Currently at tender stage, anticipated delivery end of November.
- **Surface Water Management at Castlemilk Park Pond –** Works completed.

4. Suggested Projects for Area Partnership to Consider

4.1 Whilst it is recognised that engagement with communities does not follow any external timescale, it is understood, where possible, that the Local Parks & Open Space Improvement Fund is spent and projects delivered with the financial year 2022/23, and that many greenspace investment works are tied to certain seasons of the year. Where capital funding has been allocated, it is noted that projects will involve time being set aside for the preparation of contract documents, procurement activity and lead in times for the delivery of materials.

4.2 Options have been costed as follows:

The total allocation for Ward 1 is £71,800. Following the meeting of June 2022, the remaining balance for the ward is **£26,050.**				
Option Number	Location	Proposal	Quantity	Potential Budget
1	Linn Park	White Cart Walkway works to address surface water management, concrete steps and walkability of path	item	£17,000
2	Castlemilk Park Pond	Pond clearance work to align with works previously undertaken.	Item	£10,000
3	Castlemilk Park	Contribution towards feasibility study for lighting upgrades	Item	£1500
4	Holmbyre Road	Supply and install additional item of play equipment	item	£12,000
5	Linn Adventure	Full replacement of	Item	£22,000

	Playground	trim trail		
6	Beech Walk near Linn Cemetery to support the Magnificent 11 route	Contribution towards path works to assist with surface water management	Allowance	£1000

5. Update on Linn Park Path Closure

The path leading from the Snuff Mill bridge into Linn Park remains closed to park users due to risk of rockfall within the area. The Service has had a geotechnical survey undertaken, which has confirmed there remains a moderate to high risk of Rockfall within the area. The Geotechnical report has provided some options that GCC now need to consider when moving forward with what is a technically complex project to address these safety concerns. NRS are currently pursuing funding to allow for remedial works to be undertaken, the pathway reopened and safe to use in the years ahead. The Service currently does not have an anticipated timescale for the reopening of the path.

6. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial: This paper outlines options for how investment identified as part of the 2022/23 budget process by Glasgow City Council can be allocated within Linn

Legal: None

Personnel: None

Procurement: Early Actions will be procured via existing GCC frameworks

Equality Impacts:

EQIA carried out:

Outcome: -

Sustainability Impacts:

Environmental: It is considered that the early actions could contribute to the recommendations of the Climate and Ecological Emergency working groups, and to the Local Biodiversity Action Plan

Social:

Economic:

7. Recommendations

7.1 It is recommended that the Partnership

(1) notes this report; and

(2) approves funding for its preferred options for the Local Parks & Open Space Improvement Fund to allow for early action and delivery of projects.