

<b>Report of:</b>	Andy Preston - The Mayor Richard Horniman - Director of Regeneration and Culture
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<b>Submitted to:</b>	Executive - 8 March 2022
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<b>Subject:</b>	Towns Fund - Ward Initiatives
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**Summary**

<b>Proposed decision(s)</b>
<p>It is recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the Executive notes that the business case project approval for the Ward Initiatives project has been approved by Middlesbrough’s Town Deal Board;</li> <li>b) the programme of works development as part of the Towns Fund Ward Initiatives project, as set out in appendix A1, is approved.</li> <li>c) the assets created by this investment are adopted and maintained by Middlesbrough Council, as appropriate;</li> <li>d) works commence to deliver the programme as soon as possible, subject to supply chain lead times, local notifications / consultation and any required planning permissions; and</li> <li>e) the Director of Regeneration and Culture and Director of Environment and Community Services, in consultation with the Mayor, will be authorised to determine an alternative project for delivery, form the reserve list, should any project be unable to progress due to any legal or technical reason.</li> </ul>

<b>Report for:</b>	<b>Key decision:</b>	<b>Confidential:</b>	<b>Is the report urgent?<sup>1</sup></b>
Decision	Yes	N/A	No

<b>Contribution to delivery of the 2021-24 Strategic Plan</b>		
<b>People</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Business</b>
The proposal will enhance open space and parks across the town, creating new and improved facilities for residents and visitors.	The proposal will assist in making Middlesbrough more attractive, and improve the local environment through investment in green spaces.	By improving the Town’s environment, the proposal will contribute to the resilience of the local economy through improved perceptions and creating a catalyst for further investment.

<sup>1</sup> Remove for non-Executive reports

Ward(s) affected

**What is the purpose of this report?**

1. To seek approval to deliver the programme of schemes developed as part of the Towns Fund Ward Initiative project and for the Council to adopt and maintain the assets.

**Why does this report require a Member decision?**

2. The schemes within the project will be delivered in the majority of Middlesbrough Wards with an overall project cost of £1,000,000. As a result, an Executive Member decision is required to allow the scheme to be progressed

**Background**

3. The Town Deal Board approved £1m funding for the Ward Initiatives project. An online survey of residents was supplemented with a process of seeking expressions of interest from Ward Councillors, to identify local priorities with community support. Parks, green spaces and play areas were found to be the areas requiring greatest investment, reflected in consultation preferences.
4. Ten projects were submitted by Members and this was cross referenced against the Small Member Capital Scheme, administered by the Asset Management service; to avoid duplication of projects. Projects to the value of C. £420k were identified by members with the indicative project costs validated by Environment and Community Services.
5. Member / Executive / Mayoral requests were also identified through discussions with ECS, Cultural Services, Sports and Leisure and priorities recorded by the Strategy Information and Governance team. This identified a significant list of additional projects / requests which would meet the objectives of the Town Deal allocation. This amounts to 29 potential projects costing over £1.26m.
6. The long list of projects submitted was assessed against programme objectives, eligibility, local impact, deliverability and long term liabilities. The recommended list includes all of the eligible member submissions and equates to the full £1m available from the Towns Fund. The agreed list can be seen below and on the attached appendix A1. Those projects not prioritised will be held in reserve should a selected scheme not go ahead - those not supported at this stage, but held in reserve are at Appendix A2.

## Proposed Programme for Approval

Ward	Project Details	ECS Estimated Costs
Marion West	Fairy Dell boardwalk, Marion West Beck – seating / heritage trail, Bonnygrove park – footpaths and fencing	£50,000
Ladgate Ward	Play park Marion Manor / Tollesby (there isn't currently one – site to be identified), upgrade of Easterside play park and upgrading the torn / ripped outdoor pitch.	£80,000
Coulby Newham	Children's play area Newham Way	£75,000
Marion East	Create a stretch of footpath on the south side of Cypress Road, Marion, between Hawthorn Crescent and Rosewood Court.	£50,000
Community Gardens to be developed at (1) Trinity North Ormesby (2) Methodist Church - Acklam Road - Acklam Green (3) Bexley Gardens - Easterside (4) Grove Hill Hub - Bishopton Road (5) Nunthorpe -Community centre	Community Garden	£30,000
Brambles Farm / Thorntree	Community Play Area & Wildlife/growing initiative. Beresford Buildings - New	£70,000
Glebe Road	New Play area / Upgrade	£50,000
Borough wide	To provide varying levels (as required) of asset investment & a refresh of 22 of the borough's play parks	£227,000
District Shopping Area's	Larger Planters / 3 tiers	£46,000
Albert Park and Pallister	MUGA	£65,000
Albert Park	Fencing of Albert Park bowls and croquet greens	£25,000
Lighting Thorntree - Football club and pavilion	LED lighting required for the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), teenage play area, junior play area and 6 x light columns for path between The Greenway and Spencerfield Crescent	£32,000
Thorntree Park, Pallister Park	To provide additional children's play equipment across the identified parks	£100,000
Delivery of interventions by Environment and Community Services.	Associated project management and capital works against the whole initiative	£100,000

## **What decision(s) are being asked for?**

7. It is recommended that:
- a) the Executive notes that the business case project approval for the Ward Initiatives project has been approved by Middlesbrough's Town Deal Board;
  - b) the programme of works development as part of the Towns Fund Ward Initiatives project, as set out in appendix A1, is approved.
  - c) the assets created by this investment are adopted and maintained by Middlesbrough Council, as appropriate;
  - d) works commence to deliver the programme as soon as possible, subject to supply chain lead times, local notifications / consultation and any required planning permissions; and,
  - e) the Director of Regeneration and Culture and Director of Environment and Community Services, in consultation with the Mayor, will be authorised to determine an alternative project for delivery, from the reserve list, should any project be unable to progress due to any legal or technical reason.

## **Why is this being recommended?**

8. The proposal will deliver projects requested and required by residents and Councillors to address issues and provide improved facilities on a Ward level.

## **Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended**

9. The other potential decisions that have not been recommended include:
- a) Do nothing. This is not recommended, as it would not meet the requirements of the Towns Fund or address local issues.
  - b) Invest the Council's own resources. The Council does not have adequate funding to deliver projects on the scale required.
  - c) Invest less Towns Fund resource. The funding allocated is felt to be a minimum requirement to make a real and lasting change to Middlesbrough's environment. Suggested projects far exceeded the funding available.

## **Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)**

### ***Legal***

10. There are legal issues associated with this proposal, related to contracts for equipment and potential planning permission for any new play areas. Legal Services are aware of the proposals.
11. Some new installations and sites may require planning permission and local consultation to progress. Each affected investment will go through the necessary planning procedures.

### ***Financial***

12. The initial cost to the Council is nil, however, new play areas, green spaces and equipment require long term maintenance and have the potential to create a

revenue burden to the service responsible. Some of the projects will be volunteered and some will require a range of maintenance regimes from light to intensive.

13. The management and maintenance of the investment assets will be an ongoing maintenance liability for Middlesbrough Council.

14. On sites where new facilities will be installed, checks will be made that there are not restrictive covenants or legal restrictions which will impede the investments.

### **Policy Framework**

15. The decisions recommended within this report align fully with the Council's policy framework.

### ***Equality and Diversity***

16. It is not anticipated that any protected groups will be impacted upon negatively as a result of implementing the proposal. Please see attached Equality Impact Assessment contained within the appendix C.

### ***Risk***

17. The contract will be delivered in line with the Council's established risk management protocols. Appropriate measures will be put in place to ensure that all risks associated with the scheme are minimised.

### **Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)**

18. Council officers will commence the implementation of the proposal upon approval.

### **Appendices**

19. Appendix A1 - Ward Initiatives Programme recommendation.

20. Appendix A2 - Ward Initiatives Programme Reserves.

21. Appendix B – Town Map of proposed interventions

22. Appendix C - Equality Impact Assessment.

### **Background papers**

23. N/A.