

Trust and Charities Committee – 21 July 2017

Title of paper:	Highfields Park Restoration Project and Adventure Golf Concession Update	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Andy Vaughan, Corporate Director, Commercial and Operations Hugh White, Director, Sport & Culture	Wards affected: Dunkirk and Lenton
Report author(s) and contact details:	Eddie Curry Head Parks, Open Spaces and Investment Funding eddie.curry@nottinghamcity.gov.uk Tel: 0115 8764982	
Other colleagues who have provided input:	James Dymond, Parks Development Manager James.Dymond@nottinghamcity.gov.uk Connie Green, Solicitor Connie.green@nottinghamcity.gov.uk Thomas Straw, Senior Accountant – Capital Programmes Thomas.straw@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	
Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant)	Cllr David Trimble, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture	
Relevant Council Plan Key Theme:		
Strategic Regeneration and Development		<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools		<input type="checkbox"/>
Planning and Housing		<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Services		<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy, Sustainability and Customer		<input type="checkbox"/>
Jobs, Growth and Transport		<input type="checkbox"/>
Adults, Health and Community Sector		<input type="checkbox"/>
Children, Early Intervention and Early Years		<input type="checkbox"/>
Leisure and Culture		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Resources and Neighbourhood Regeneration		<input type="checkbox"/>
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):		
This report provides an update on the Highfields Park restoration project including the new adventure golf course.		
Recommendation(s):		
1	Note the updates on the Highfields Park restoration project.	

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 Highfields Park is held in trust under the Highfields Park Leisure Trust.

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

Restoration Project

- 2.1 The Highfields Park restoration was originally scheduled to start on site in early 2016 but was delayed due to major complications about the disposal of the silt from the lake. A new timetable has now been agreed and financial close completed.

- 2.2 Due to a change in Environment Agency regulations, the 4,000m³ of silt extracted from the lake will be treated and dried out on site and then removed to an off-site tip. As a result, the costs of the silt works themselves have risen but only minor changes to the rest of the cost plan have been necessary to accommodate this.
- 2.3 The major park and heritage restoration works are still within scope and include the pavilions, ticket office, bridges, lake balustrade, gas lamps, signage and path / entrance resurfacing.

Adventure Golf

- 2.4 The Adventure Golf area was removed from the cost plan in agreement with the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) on the basis that it would be tendered out to a private operator.
- 2.5 Showcase Greens Ltd won the tender and completed the construction of the 18-hole course in May 2017. The course is now open to the public and receiving rave reviews online and on social media.
- 2.6 Highfields Park Leisure Trust will receive an agreed annual rent for the 10-year lease, in addition to a percentage share of the business' turnover.

Costs

- 2.7 The final restoration costs total £4,836,037 including capital works and revenue items (e.g. Park Ranger, park events programme).

Programme

- 2.8 Carillion will be the main contractor and will begin to mobilise on 3rd July 2017, placing orders with sub-contractors and ordering materials for the works.
- 2.9 Work on site itself will begin on 31st July 2017 with the setup of site cabins and safety fencing.
- 2.10 Desilting work will commence in September 2017 once bird nesting on the lake has finished. Other work will start in August 2017 and continue until early 2018.

Disruption

- 2.11 The Western end of the park and entrance near the old paddling pool will be closed to the public during the majority of the works as this will act as the main route in and out for contractors and for silt haulage. Park visitors will still be able to walk a circular route around the Eastern end of the park and over the island.
- 2.12 Other works will be zoned around the individual buildings in order to minimise disruption. Extensive communication with the University of Nottingham is ongoing to help communicate key messages to students and other park users.

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 If the restoration project does not proceed now, the HLF funding may be at risk.

4 FINANCE COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (INCLUDING IMPLICATIONS AND VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)

- 4.1 When a finance monitoring update is next taken to the Committee it will include any projected income generated from the Adventure Golf site.
- 4.2 The Trust has previously approved a contribution of £700,000 in relation to the works being carried out at Highfields. The Trust has paid this contribution over to the Council to fund the works as agreed.

Tom Straw, Senior Accountant – Capital Programmes

5 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES, AND LEGAL, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS)

- 5.1 Trustees may recall consideration of a report relating to this Project at their meeting held on 29 July 2016. At that meeting, Trustees approved the release of £200,000 from the Highfields Park Leisure Trust dowry to bridge the funding gap and help deliver the Park restoration project.

Trustees will be aware that the primary objective of the charity is to provide public recreation and pleasure grounds for the people of Nottingham forever.

To achieve this, a programme of ongoing maintenance of grounds and equipment is completed each year. This ensures the provision of well maintained, good quality public recreation facilities.

Highfields is open to the public at large assuring public benefit on an open access basis. There are no restrictions regarding the members of public who may use Highfields. No fees are charged for access to the park but some fees are charged for various concessions within the park.

This report now updates Trustees in relation to the impact and timelines of the Restoration Project on Trust Land.

Connie Green Solicitor 22/6/17

6 STRATEGIC ASSETS & PROPERTY COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (FOR DECISION RELATING TO ALL PROPERTY ASSETS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE) (AREA COMMITTEE REPORTS ONLY)

- 6.1 N/A

7 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No



An EIA is not required because:

(Please explain why an EIA is not necessary)

There is on direct equality impact regarding this report

8 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

8.1 None.

9 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

9.1 Highfields park restoration – delegated decision No 2634 19/10/16