

AREA 8 COMMITTEE - FEBRUARY 13th 2013

Title of paper:	Victoria Embankment & Meadows Recreation Ground Master Plan	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Hugh White, Director Sport, Culture & Parks	Wards affected: All
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Other colleagues who have provided input:	James Dymond, Parks Development Manager Fliss Hogg, Parks Development Officer Peter Broad, Senior Landscape Architect Natalie Hallam, Strategic Development Officer	
Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority: (you must mark X in the relevant boxes below)		
World Class Nottingham		X
Work in Nottingham		
Safer Nottingham		
Neighbourhood Nottingham		X
Family Nottingham		X
Healthy Nottingham		X
Leading Nottingham		
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):		
<p>This report presents the concept master plan for Victoria Embankment & Meadows Recreation Ground and outlines the consultation process and outcomes which have informed its development. The master plan has been developed to provide a strategic plan for the site to guide improvement and investment.</p> <p>The report describes the stages of developing the master plan and demonstrates how the final plan takes account of public consultation, the operational requirements and the strategic and longer term influences relating to the site, as well as the recent improvements which have taken place.</p> <p>It outlines the funding opportunities, timescales and next steps for the delivery of the master plan.</p>		
Recommendation(s):		
1	The committee approves the master plan proposals for Victoria Embankment & Meadows Recreation Ground	
2	The committee notes the timescales and funding for the master plan.	

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The idea to create a master plan for Victoria Embankment has history in a number of previous projects including the 2007 OZONE Project and the more recent Environment Agency Flood Alleviation Scheme. The concepts and ideas put forward in these projects have been carried forward in this final version which refreshes previous proposals to provide a strategic plan for the site, giving a rationale to

support a cohesive programme of improvement projects and guiding the financial and forward planning to deliver the improvements.

1.2 Victoria Embankment is a key strategic site in Nottingham’s portfolio of parks and open spaces. Classified as a destination park, its uses are wide and varied. The master plan for the site has been developed to consider these varying needs and designed to provide for visitors from both the city and wider county and, at the same time, meet the needs of local people for whom Victoria Embankment is their neighbourhood park.

1.3 There have been a number of improvements at Victoria Embankment running parallel to the development of the master plan. In the past couple of years over £400,000 has been spent or secured to improve provisions at Victoria Embankment from both Nottingham City Council budgets and external funding. These include:

- 3 Phases of play area improvements
- Outdoor fitness equipment/outdoor gym
- Cricket provision improvements
- Renovation of the two island rockeries in the Memorial Gardens
- Memorial Gardens Terrace Improvements
- Benches
- Lighting
- Rockery & entrance to Memorial Gardens
- War Memorial lead replacement
- Trees
- Footpath repairs

1.4 The master plan for Victoria Embankment has been developed in the context of a number of competing and different aspirations. The final master plan represents three main areas of influence:

- Public needs and ideas
- Operational requirements for the site
- Long term aspirations and wider strategic influences

Consultation

1.5 Public and user consultation has been an essential part of the development of the master plan. People who have engaged in the consultation have had the opportunity to contribute and shape the final plan. A programme of public consultation took place between November 2011 – December 2012 using a variety of approaches. A summary table of all the public consultation which has taken place is attached as appendix A.

1.6 The improvement suggestions put forward are ranked as follows:

TOP 10 FACILITY/ACTIVITY IMPROVEMENTS		TOP 10 INFRASTRUCTURE/MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENTS	
1	Toilets	1	Traffic Calming
2	Pavilion renovation/improvement	2	Benches
3	Paddling Pool improvement	3	Planting
4	Café	4	Lighting
5	Activities for Children & Young	5	Signage

	People		
6	Cricket	6	Cycle Paths
7	Artificial Pitch		Footpaths
8	Memorial Garden improvement	7	Access Improvements
9	Orchard	8	Bins
=	Outdoor gym (installed 2012)	9	Dog fouling solution
10	Play area improvements (complete)	=	Geese solution
	Skate park	10	Drinking Fountain
	Bandstand improvements		Entrance Gate Improvements
	Shelter		
			Picnic Area

Draft Master Plan

- 1.7 Following the initial phase of consultation a draft master plan was created based on some of the key themes of improvement suggested. At this stage the master plan was evolving, allowing for concepts and ideas to be prioritised. The draft master plan presented 27 improvements ranging in scale from major renovations to pavilions to the installation of seating shelters.
- 1.8 People were asked to prioritise their top 5 improvements on the draft plan from a list of categories. Of the valid responses received, the improvements put forward by the public in priority order are as follows:

PRIORITY	IMPROVEMENT/FACILITY
1	Toilet facilities
2	Renovation of pavilions
3	Paddling pool renovation e.g. paddling pool refurbishment, water splash play area
4	Improvements to the memorial gardens
5	Improved sports facilities (cricket wickets, artificial pitch, outdoor fitness area)
6	Traffic measures (calming humps, speed cameras, park charges, toll road, signage)
7	Good quality, open café facility
8	Better use of River Trent (outdoor swimming, boat rides, boat hire, river taxis, moorings)
9	Improved lighting
10	Increase in events and activities on site (increased use of bandstand, organised targeted activities, fairs)
11	Improved access (cycle paths, lowered kerbs, better connection between areas separated by road)
12	More site furniture (signage, bins, benches)
13	Food growing opportunities (allotments, orchards)
14	Planting (wildflower areas, bulbs, trees, flowers)
15	Play area improvements

Paddling Pool Consultation

- 1.9 Alongside the first phase of consultation, more detailed consultation has been carried out by Groundwork Greater Nottingham relating to the paddling pool. The paddling pool had been identified as an area for improvement during the creation of the new children's play area.

- 1.10 The approach and findings of the paddling pool consultation are summarised below:
- 6 rounds of consultation took place in and around the Meadows area.
 - A total of 224 people took part in the consultation
 - Generally, consultation was well received and results indicate that the paddling pool needs improving.
 - 88 adults responded to the consultation at local events, meetings or via the web
 - 76% of adults felt the paddling pool needed improving. Traditional water play came out slightly above the other options.
 - 136 children took part in consultation via local schools and youth groups
 - Of the 3 types of water play shown to children and young people, Splash Play came out top, followed by Informal water play. Traditional Water play came bottom in their preferences.
- 1.11 Consideration as to how the site and space is used for day to day operations as well as the staging of regular and established events and activities is a key factor in planning any future improvements. Infrastructure and service improvements are included in the plan to support current and future event needs and requirements.
- 1.12 There are a number of strategies and plans which impact on the open and green space network all of which have an impact on the future direction, management and development of the City's open and green space. They help to give direction and inform a wide range of options especially in terms of advocating future opportunities and priorities. Victoria Embankment is identified for improvement in a number of plans:
- Meadows Neighbourhood Plan (2009)
 - Breathing Space (2010)
 - Playing Pitch Strategy (2010) & Action Plan (2013)
 - South Area Commentary (2011)

Final Masterplan

- 1.13 Following the phase 2 consultation all comments were considered and a master plan has been developed. It contains both priority improvements put forward by the public alongside the wider strategic factors and operational requirements. Taking into account various representations, the master plan for Victoria Embankment presents improvements to the site headed up under 5 project areas:

	MASTER PLAN IMPROVEMENTS
Memorial Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ War Memorial restoration & maintenance ▪ Undercroft & toilet facilities ▪ Memorial Gardens restoration project including bandstand restoration, access & footpaths improvements, pond and gardens.
Event space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Services and infrastructure for events
Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Modernised paddling pool ▪ Toilets and refreshment kiosk
Sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Refurbished or new pavilions ▪ Upgrade of existing grass pitches ▪ New full size 3G floodlit artificial turf pitch
River Frontage / General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lighting ▪ Roadway, path and access improvements

	MASTER PLAN IMPROVEMENTS
improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Existing café brought in to better use ▪ Site furniture

- 1.14 The final concept master plan is attached as appendix B. The key on the plan denotes the improvements identified through consultation.
- 1.15 The improvements put forward in the master plan are concepts derived through consultation. In most cases the concepts are not matured enough to present finalised projects, as such, layouts, locations and final designs are subject to change following ground investigations and feasibility studies. However, the component parts contained within the plan are envisaged to go ahead.

Next Steps

- 1.16 The timescale for the delivery of the master plan improvements are funding dependant. The improvements have been grouped together to create more manageable projects and allow for a phased delivery in line with funding opportunities.
- 1.17 Each improvement will go through more detailed consultation and options appraisals in the planning phase and in developing any funding bids. Officers will continue working with the community, interest groups and users of the site to further develop the detail of the agreed improvements.
- 1.18 An outline action plan for delivery of the master plan is attached as appendix C.
- 1.19 The concept master plan will be presented to the wider public in March 2013.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 To deliver improvements to Victoria Embankment in line with agreed strategies and plans.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

None

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)

- 4.1. The Football Association have identified football improvements and development at Victoria Embankment as a priority project for capital support up to £1m. The inclusion of a full size, floodlit, 3G artificial turf pitch is a key component to be contained within any bid to the FA. Without this the FA would be unable to meet their football development outcomes and therefore may not consider this project for funding.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS)

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- Has the equality impact been assessed?
- Not needed (report does not contain proposals or financial decisions)
- No
- Yes – Equality Impact Assessment attached

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

- Groundwork Greater Nottingham Paddling Pool Consultation (November 2012)

8. PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

- Meadows Neighbourhood Plan (October 2009)
- Breathing Space. Revised Strategy for the management and maintenance of Nottingham's Open and Green Space 2010 – 2020 (2010)
- Open and Green Space Area Commentary – Nottingham City South (February 2011)
- Nottingham Outdoor Sports Strategy and Action Plan (September 2010)
- Physical Activity and Sport Strategy 2008-2012 (August 2008)

APPENDIX A: CONSULTATION SUMMARY

Consultation Summary

Date	Event/Activity	Consultation method	
Phase 1 – Initial Consultation			
26/11/11	Victoria Embankment Play Area Consultation and Celebration Event	PHASE 1 asked the following 2 open questions: “What do you like about Victoria Embankment?” “What would you like to see at Victoria Embankment in the future?”	
30/11/11	Meadows Parks and Open Spaces Meeting	Existing site plans were displayed and image boards used to stimulate ideas. A questionnaire was used to feedback ideas on the two questions.	
14/12/11	FOVE – Special master plan meeting		
21/02/12	Old Meadows Tenants and Residents (OMTRA) meeting		
6/3/12	Welbeck Primary School, Student Council		
6/3/12	Riverside Primary School Parents Evening (adults & children)		
7/3/12	Bridgeway Centre Drop-in		
14/3/12	Meadows Youth Club		
15/3/12	Riverside School, Student Council		
16/3/12	Emmanuel School, Student Council		
	NCC Website		
Total: 429 improvement suggestions			
Phase 2 – Draft master plan			
30/5/12	FOVE meeting	Display/presentation of the draft master plan for consultation and comment. Questionnaires were completed for people to list their priority improvements.	
14/6/12	Meadows Parks & Open Spaces meeting		
19/8/12	Medfest – Meadows Community Event		
Sept/12 – 13/11/12	Library display at Meadows Library		
17/12/12	Wilford Community Group		
Dec 2012	Victoria Embankment Sports Teams		
	NCC website		
Total: 77 completed questionnaires			
Paddling Pool Consultation - Groundwork			
Nov 2011	Victoria Embankment Play Area Consultation and Celebration Event		Consulted on three types of water play– traditional paddling pool, splash play, informal water play - through questionnaires, image sheets & videos. General comments
14/12/11	Friends of Victoria Embankment (FOVE)		

Date	Event/Activity	Consultation method
19/8/12	Medfest – Meadows Community Event	and monitoring questions were also recorded. Both children and adults were consulted through different methods and sessions.
Oct 2012	Online consultation survey	
Jun 2012	Meadows Youth Club	
2/10/12	Lunchtime session at Emmanuel School	
4/10/12	Lunchtime session at Riverside Primary School	
5/10/12	Assembly at Welbeck Primary School	
Total consulted: 224 (88 adults, 136 children)		

APPENDIX C: OUTLINE FUNDING AND DELIVERY PLAN

Outline action plan for the delivery of Victoria Embankment Master plan

Timescale key: Short term = 2013/14 – 2014/15, Medium Term = 2015/16 – 2017/18, Long Term = 2018/19+

	Project/Facility	Estimate Cost	Funding Source	Secured /Unsecured	Action	Timescale/Priority Short (S), Medium (M), Long term (L)
Memorial Gardens	War Memorial restoration and maintenance	Up to £1m	NCC	Unsecured	Full condition survey Maintenance and treatment works as required	S High priority
	Heritage restoration project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ War Memorial undercroft works ▪ Memorial Gardens landscape and pond ▪ Bandstand ▪ Infrastructure (Footpaths, walkways, lighting and steps) 		External e.g. Heritage Lottery Fund – Heritage Grant Partnership funding (5-10%) of project cost	Unsecured	Full condition survey Establish Community Project Working Group Project Enquiry to HLF Develop HLF bid – 2 stage application process Delivery phase	S

	Project/Facility	Estimate Cost	Funding Source	Secured /Unsecured	Action	Timescale/Priority Short (S), Medium (M), Long term (L)
Event Space	Service and infrastructure improvements to support events and operations on site	£100k	NCC	Unsecured	Investigation of requirements in line with existing and potential future events	S/M
Play	Paddling Pool improvements	£300k	External e.g. Landfill Tax Funders Partnership funding	Unsecured	Detailed consultation Identify suitable funding stream Develop funding bid Delivery Phase As above	M/L
	New toilets and café/kiosk located near the paddling pool / play area	£200k	External	Unsecured		M/L

Sport	Project/Facility	Estimate Cost	Funding Source	Secured /Unsecured	Action	Timescale/Priority Short (S), Medium (M), Long term (L)
	Outdoor Sports Development Scheme: Refurbished Football Pavilion Grass pitch improvements/upgrade New artificial floodlit pitch Multi use games area	£1.7m	External – FA/Football Foundation Partnership funding External partner	Unsecured Support and Commitment from FA to progress	Expression of interest Partnership / Funder meeting Stage 1 funding bid (feasibility, design, consultation & planning) Stage 2 funding bid (procurement, detailed design) Bid submission Delivery phase Completion	S
	Cricket Pavilion	£300 -£500k	External	Unsecured	Full condition survey	M/L

	Project/Facility	Estimate Cost	Funding Source	Secured /Unsecured	Action	Timescale/Priority Short (S), Medium (M), Long term (L)
River frontage/ General improvements	Lighting improvements	£100k	NCC	Unsecured	Investigate and identify requirements	S
	Site furniture (benches, signs, bins etc)	£10k	NCC	Secured	Investigate and identify requirements	S
	Roadway, pathway, access improvements and traffic calming	£231k	Local Sustainable Transport Fund	Secured	Replacement as required Resurfacing of embankment road Access improvements	S
	Improvements to existing café facility	Income generation	Lease agreement	Unsecured	Traffic calming measures Develop new agreement/ lease for operation of café to include regular opening, investment in the existing building and access to toilet facilities	S