

COMMITTEE: NORTH WEST AREA REF NO: NWAC/18/15

DATE: 8 NOVEMBER 2018

**SUBJECT: VARIATION TO FUNDING REQUEST:
WHITEHOUSE SKATE PARK 'JUMP OFF'
IMPROVEMENT**

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HEAD OF SERVICE: TOM MINNICAN

Short description of report content and the decision requested:

In March 2018, the North West Area Committee allocated £3,227.92 to the Parks & Cemeteries Service toward the cost of improving one of the 'jump off' points at the Whitehouse skate park. Through consultation, the proposed improvement has been revised to a more durable and less costly solution. This report asks that the committee consider varying its allocation to enable this revised application for the reduced amount of £3,085.36.

List of Appendices included in this report:

- a) *NWAC/17/23 Funding Request – Whitehouse Skate Park 'Jump Off' Improvement*

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This report was prepared after consultation with:

Internal consultees

External consultees

Lorraine Ganuszko – Friends of North West Ipswich Open Spaces

The following policies form a context to this report:

(all relevant policies must also be referred to in the body of the report)

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS AS REQUIRED BY LAW

(papers relied on to write the report but which are not published and do not contain exempt information)

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OTHER HELPFUL PAPERS

(papers which the report author considers might be helpful – this might include published material)

Area Committee Protocol

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report asks that the North West Area Committee to consider varying the award of a previous funding request, NWAC/17/23 (Appendix 1).
- 1.2 In March 2018, the North West Area Committee allocated £3,227.92 to the Parks & Cemeteries Service toward the cost of improving one of the 'jump off' points at the Whitehouse skate park. Through consultation, the proposed improvement has been revised to a more durable and less costly solution.
- 1.3 This report asks that the committee consider varying its allocation to enable this revised application for the reduced amount of £3,085.36.

2. Background

- 2.1 The initial request was for funds to make improvements to a grass covered earthen mound. The primary purpose of the mound is to serve as a sound dampening barrier (as set out in planning permission conditions for the skate park); it is secondarily used as a 'jump off' point for the skate ramp. This secondary use has caused the mound to erode.
- 2.2 The request put to the committee in March was to part-fund the installation of stepped wooden sleepers with an artificial grass carpet covering.
- 2.3 Subsequent to the Committee award, the Parks and Cemeteries service consulted with the Friends of North West Open Spaces community group on the plans. As a result, it was determined to investigate concrete steps as an alternative to the wooden sleepers.
- 2.4 This proved to be a viable solution and the cost of providing the concrete steps is significantly less than that of the sleepers.

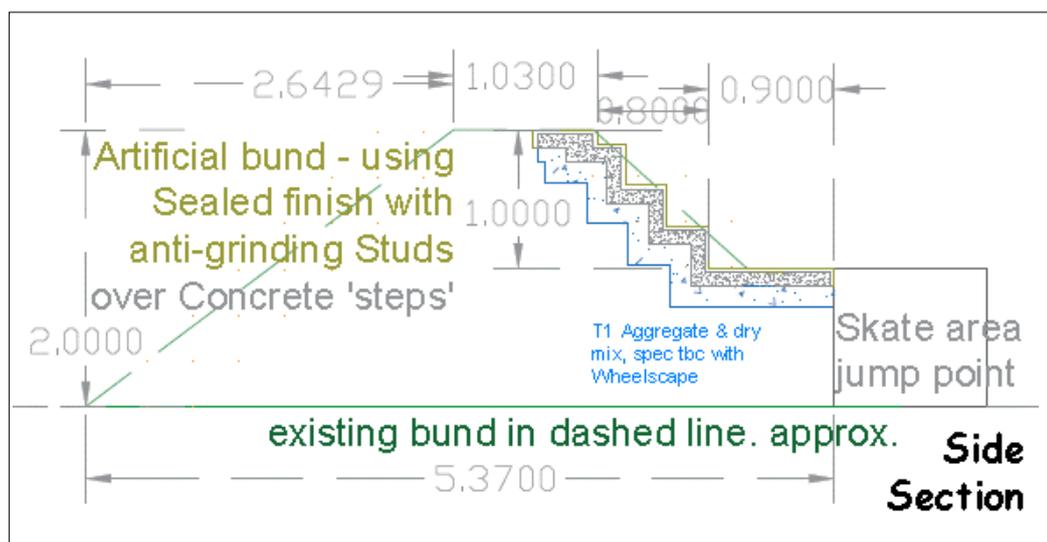


Figure 1 - Proposed concrete step solution

- 2.5 The concrete steps will cover the same area of the mound, immediately adjacent to the Northwest ramp and provide durable protection to the sound barrier, a safe area to sit and an extension to the 'jump off point'.
- 2.6 The change in material does introduce the risk that skaters may attempt to use the steps as part of the skateable area of the park i.e. to grind the steps. This would cause the concrete to become damaged and degraded.
- 2.7 In order to prevent this Anti-skate studs have been designed into the revised solution and costed into the project. These studs are widely used on street furniture to protect vulnerable surfaces/materials from skate damage.
- 2.8 The cost of the project as initially scoped with wooden sleepers was expected to be £16,227.92. To meet this cost the Big Local Trust had awarded £3,000 and the North West Area Committee awarded £3,227.92. Before the project was revised, an application to the National Lottery Awards for All had been planned for the remaining £10,000.
- 2.9 The revised cost of the project is £6, 085.36. This is made up of £1,923.49 materials and £4,161.87 labour (see Section 9 for more detail).
- 2.10 The whole of this cost can be met by the two existing awards and so an application to another fund is not required. It is proposed that the Big Local Trust grant remains the same and the Committee award, being the greater amount, is reduced.
- 2.11 **The Committee is asked to consider amending the previously allocated amount of £3,227.92 to £3,085.36 and for the award to be used for the revised improvement.**

3. Relevant Policies and Area Action considerations

- 3.1 Building a Better Ipswich underlying principles:
- Priority 3: An Enjoyable Place to Live, Work and Study
- 3.2 Mitigating deprivation in the domain of :
- Health

4. Options Considered / Under Consideration

- 4.1 **Option 1** – Amend the allocated amount to £3,085.36 to be used on the revised improvement and return £142.56 to the unallocated budget.
- 4.2 **Option 2** – Withdraw the original allocation and return £3,227.92 to the unallocated budget.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 Members of the Big Local Trust, the North West Ipswich Open Spaces, the Committee chair and Parks & Cemeteries staff have discussed the problem.

6. Risk Management

- 6.1 The risks outlined here relate to the variation only and do not supersede those outlined in the original report (Appendix 1). The risks associated with the running of the skate park are owned by the Council, within the Parks & Cemeteries operational area. The risks outlined here relate to the Committee funding of the improvement.

Risk Description	Consequence of risk	Risk Controls	Probability of risk occurring taking account of controls (1: almost impossible - 6: very high)	Impact of risk, if it occurred taking account of actions (1: negligible - 4: catastrophic)
Skaters attempt to use the steps as part of the skateable area of the park i.e. to grind the steps	Concrete steps are damaged and degraded Project is not long lasting and requires further investment	Anti-skate measures applied to the steps	2	2
Actions to mitigate risk	Anti-skate studs are widely used on street furniture to protect vulnerable surfaces/materials from skate damage. These studs have been designed into the revised solution and costed into the project.			

7. Environmental Impact Assessment

- 7.1 There is expected to be a minimal negative impact associated with the proposed variation. The proposed solution primarily uses concrete, which has a greater carbon footprint compared to the wood in the original proposal.

8. Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 8.1 No negative impact is foreseen under the protected characteristics.

9. Financial Considerations

- 9.1 This cost is outside of the operational budget for maintaining the park. The intention is to share the cost between the Committee and the Big Local Trust.

Requested amounts	
Materials	
• Concrete	£437.70
• Aggregate base – Type 1	£241.77
• Shuttering	£114.50
• Membrane	£47.12
• Travel	£32.40
• Anti-Skate Studs	£1,050.00
Sub-total	£1,923.49
Labour	£4,161.87
Total Costs	£6,085.36

- 9.2 The cost of the revised project is proposed to be met by;
- The Big Local Trust existing award £3,000.00
 - The North West Area Committee amended award £3,085.36
- 9.3 This would return £142.56 to the North West Area Committee unallocated budget.

10. Legal Considerations

- 10.1 The Council has the power to make grants to community projects through the Area Committees. The Area Committees have delegated Executive powers and devolved budgets.
- 10.2 Area Committees have the power to award grants in accordance with part 3, section 2 of the Council's Constitution i.e. the Area Committee terms of reference.
- 10.3 The Funding Guidelines expectations are met, as the Parks & Cemeteries service is internal to the Council.

11. Performance Monitoring

- 11.1 The previous performance monitoring expectations still apply (Appendix 1, Section 11)

12. Conclusions

- 12.1 The proposed variation of the original award (NWAC/17/23, agreed 22 March 2018) represents a better value solution and should allow a resolution to be reached for this long-standing issue at Whitehouse Skate Park. The steps should improve the provision for users of the skate park, prevent the disruption of the skate park use by mud run-off and preserve the function of the sound barrier by protecting the earthen mound.

13. Recommendations

- 13.1 The Committee is asked to consider amending the previously allocated amount of £3,227.92 to £3,085.36 and for the award to be used for the revised improvement.**

Reason: To protect the use of the Whitehouse Skate Park for local residents.