

Subject:	GENERAL REPAIRS TO PARKS, GARDENS AND CHURCHYARDS
Date:	21 June 2021
Decision to be taken by:	Mike Davis, Strategic Director (Corporate Resources)
Report of:	Roger Wragg, Head of Commercial Services
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Oliver Richardson, Portfolio Holder for Community, Environment and Corporate Property
Decision Type:	Executive Non-Key
Call-in to be suspended:	No (<i>Call-in does not apply to non-Key Officer Decisions</i>)
Classification:	Unrestricted
Purpose of the report:	<p>To seek approval to undertake works including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • urgent footpath and fencing repairs within the Council's parks and open spaces • repairs to structural features within parks, cemeteries and closed churchyards
Recommendation:	That the Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) approves the repair works to footpaths, fencing and structural features.

1. Summary

- 1.1 As part of the ongoing delivery of grounds maintenance and management of open spaces, there have been numerous pathways and fences in need of urgent attention.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to undertake works to address the most urgent repairs to parks, gardens and churchyards as part of an ongoing programme of repair works.

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 The nature of an in-house ground's maintenance service means staff are visiting a large proportion of the Council's assets and are able to identify areas of concern to either users or staff attending.
- 2.2 Supervisors and Team members continue to compile an ongoing maintenance programme of works which can be allocated to Property Services or, in the case of smaller and more immediate concerns, dealt with by the POS Team.
- 2.3 Emergency works have already been completed and costed to the POS revenue budget to ensure there is no delay or risk of injury to public and staff. This places an unnecessary pressure on the revenue budgets.

3. Identification of Options

3.1 Option 1: Not to approve the undertaking of repair works.

3.2 Option 2: Approve the undertaking of repair works.

4. Evaluation of Options

4.1 Option 1: This is not recommended because the urgent repairs are required in order to make the areas safe.

4.2 Option 2: This is the preferred option as this will allow the Authority to undertake the necessary urgent works and plan its long term management of open spaces

5. Resource Implications

5.1 It is proposed to finance the works from the £50k Special Project Reserve provision included in the current Medium-Term Financial Plan.

6. Climate Change and Environmental Implications

6.1 No impacts.

7. Corporate Implications

7.1 Comment from the Director of Finance (linked to the MTFP): Members are reminded that the Council's revenue and capital resources are under pressure and so they will wish to assure themselves that all proposals progress the Council's priorities, are the best option available and will deliver value for money. (DL)

7.2 Comment from the Solicitor to the Council: The Head of Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no further comment to make.

7.3 Comment from the Equalities Officer: This report does not specifically highlight any equality implications, however in discharging their duties members are required to comply with the public sector equality duty as set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/section/149>

7.4 Other Officers (as appropriate):

8. Appendices

None.

9. Background Papers

Contact Officer: Darran Solley - Parks & Open Spaces Manager darran.solley@dover.gov.uk