

Individual Cabinet Member Report – transfer of capital scheme from provisional to approved programme

(If any background papers attached to this request are exempt please add the following paragraph here: The attached background papers are NOT FOR PUBLICATION in accordance with paragraphs.....of Schedule 12A of Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1972. PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE ANY EXEMPT INFORMATION ON THIS FORM).

Name of Cabinet Member	Cllr David Rouane
Delegations Checked and certified by	Democratic Services
Name of officer requesting the decision	Jayne Bolton, Communities Wellbeing Manager Report author: Hendriette Knouwds, Garden Communities Project Manager
Contact details of officer	Jayne.bolton@southandvale.gov.uk Hendriette.knouwds@southandvale.gov.uk
Details of decision required	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To transfer £15,000 from the provisional to the approved capital programme to support the delivery of partnership projects within Berinsfield to improve community infrastructure and strengthen open spaces. The partnership funding contributions will be paid directly to the organisations outlined below to complete the recommended capital improvements on community assets. 2. To approve the payment of CIL allocations to the organisations listed below to assist the council in achieving desired outcomes for the Berinsfield Garden Village principles and vision for the area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £13,000 to Berinsfield Parish Council (BPC), for the creation of a pocket park and forest school space at Abbey Woods Spinney and installation of a new pump track and repairs and expansion of the existing skatepark • £2,000 to The Church of St Mary and St Berin (the Church) for the creation of a pocket park
Recommended Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer CIL funds from the provisional to approved capital programme • To approve funding allocation to BPC and The Church To approve administration of the funding by letter with standard CIL/S106 terms and conditions.

Reasons for recommended decision

Skatepark and Pump Track

- £10,000 - Berinsfield Parish Council

These projects support the CIL guidance for infrastructure needed to support the development of Berinsfield Garden Village.

The existing skatepark and the site for a new pump track are both located on BPC property. As landowner, BPC can progress with these projects as soon as they are informed of this decision.

Furthermore, in doing so, this will support the approved Berinsfield Community Delivery Plan to enhance green spaces in the village as well as community well-being and recreational opportunities.

This would also support the UK Shared Prosperity Funding Investment Plan, which is intended to encourage the development of new community and local infrastructure projects as well as upgrades to current ones. Funds totalling £141,460 from the UK SPF will also be allocated to these projects.

Pocket Parks:

- £3,000 - Berinsfield Parish Council – Abbey Woods Spinney pocket park / forest school
- £2,000 - The Church of St Mary and St Berin – pocket park / community garden

By collaborating with BPC and The Church, the council can access additional funding sources, volunteer labour, and in-kind contributions, stretching limited resources further and delivering more comprehensive green space projects.

£3,000 CIL funds will support the development of a pocket park and forest school area at Abbey Woods Spinney which is situated next to Abbey Woods Academy and two pre-primary schools and leased by Berinsfield Parish Council from Oxfordshire County Council. Once funding is approved, Berinsfield Parish Council can proceed with enhancing this area, supporting the Forest School initiative, a key component of the Berinsfield Community Delivery Plan. This development will provide valuable educational and recreational opportunities for children, promoting outdoor learning and strengthening community well-being.

£2,000 CIL funds will support the church's initiative to create a reflective garden with planters for flowers and vegetables on their land between the church building and the car park. This project will provide a serene space for reflection and communal gardening, fostering a sense of community and encouraging residents to engage with nature. Additionally, this initiative aligns with the Berinsfield Community Delivery Plan's goals to enhance green spaces and strengthen residents' well-being, making it a valuable investment in the community's overall quality of life.

Involving landowners in the planning and implementation of green space projects fosters community engagement and ownership. When landowners are actively involved in decision-making processes, they are more likely to feel invested in the project's success and contribute to its long-term maintenance and stewardship.

Financial details	<p>There is an allocation of £15,000 in the provisional capital programme for Berinsfield pocket parks and activity trails (Ref CILMG10). This request is to transfer this funding to the approved capital programme to bring forward these projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £10,000 is allocated to support BPC with the installation of a new pumptrack and the repairs and expansion of their existing skatepark • £3,000 is allocated to support BPC with the creation of a new pocket park and forest school space at Abbey Woods Spinney • £2,000 is allocated to support The Church of St Mary and St Berin with the creation of a new pocket park and community garden <p>It's important to note that this is part of a bigger programme of capital projects taking place in Berinsfield:</p> <p>The total cost of the pump track and skatepark project = £151,460 This amount includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £141,460 UK Shared Prosperity Funding and the • £10,000 CIL funds referenced in this ICMD <p>The total cost of Abbey Woods Spinney = £15,280 This amount included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £6,000 UK Shared Prosperity Funding • £3,000 CIL funds referenced in this ICMD • £6,280 Grant Funding (Agreed in Community Delivery Plan) <p>The total cost of The Church of St Mary and St Berin project = £3,800 This amount includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1,800 UK Shared Prosperity Funding • £2,000 CIL funds referenced in this ICMD
Alternative options considered and rejected	<p>The alternative option would be for the Berinsfield Garden Village Team to deliver these capital projects which will include us having to apply for licenses to do the work on someone else's land and delay the projects. We are actively encouraging local organisations to take on improvements to local infrastructure as part of the regeneration of Berinsfield.</p>
Details of background documents	<p>ICMD Approval of Berinsfield Community Delivery Plan SODC's Investment Plan for UK Shared Prosperity Funding SODC 2024/25 capital growth bids – CIL funded (included as an attachment to the consultation email)</p>
Declarations / conflict of interest	<p>Declarations of any other Cabinet Members consulted by the Cabinet Member making the decision.</p> <p>Due to a conflict of interest involving cabinet member Robin Bennett, who also serves as the Berinsfield ward representative, Cllr Rouane will make this decision.</p>

Consultation (officers/ward councillors)	Section	Name	Outcome	Date
	Ward Councillors	Robin Bennett	I am delighted to support these projects, which will do a lot to enhance accessible green space in Berinsfield.	13/07/2024
	SMT	SH, WM, AD	Happy to support as long as appendices 1 & 2 is completed.	03/07/2024
	Legal legal@southandvale.gov.uk	Pat Connell	Agreed	28.6.2024
	Finance Finance@southandvale.gov.uk	Nicole Tyreman	I have amended the figures to reflect the project costs as discussed. I can confirm there is sufficient budget in A404 to cover the additional costs of the project.	12/06/2024
	Climate and ecology climateaction@southandvale.gov.uk	Kim Hall	No further comments from a climate perspective on the transfer of budget. Recommend that sustainable materials are strongly encouraged as part of the partners' procurement of these activities.	05/06/24
	Diversity and Equality equalities@southandvale.gov.uk	Abi witting	There are limited equalities impacts at this stage	03/06/24
	Strategic property StrategicPropertyTeam@southandvale.gov.uk		No comments received	
	Health and Safety healthandsafety@southandvale.gov.uk		No comments received	
	Infrastructure Obligations infrastructureobligations@southandvale.gov.uk	Mark Hewer	Confirm that an allocation of £15,000 of CIL funding for this purpose was approved as part of 24/25 budget setting and has been included in the provisional capital programme. The proposed use of these funds as set out in this ICMD are in accordance with this allocation and CIL spending regulations.	03/06/24
	Risk and insurance risk@southandvale.gov.uk		No comments received	
	Communications communications@southandvale.gov.uk	Victoria Nickless	No comments provided	03/06/24
Head of service's approval	<i>I confirm this document can go forward to SMT for consideration</i>			Date 01/07/24

Cabinet Member's approval	<i>I am happy to agree this</i>	Date 08/07/2024
----------------------------------	---------------------------------	---------------------------

Appendix 1: Detailed capital scheme appraisal report

Ownership of report/ scheme	<p><i>Cllr David Rouane, Leader of the Council (in consultation with Cllr Robin Bennett due to conflict of interest) Hendriette Knouwds, Garden Village Project Manager</i></p>
Details of the scheme	<p><i>SODC received UK SPF funding in 2023 to deliver a series of capital projects in Berinsfield, these include the repair and expansion of the existing skatepark, replacement of BMX track with hard surfaces pump track, pocket parks, additional seating and planting in park areas. £15,000 CIL funds were allocated to supplement project delivery. All these initiatives will help to achieve the desired outcomes for the Berinsfield Garden Village principles and vision for the area.</i></p> <p><i>These projects will be delivered by Berinsfield Parish Council and the Church of St Mary and St Berin.</i></p> <p><i>Once the funds have been transferred, each grant recipient is responsible for delivery of the project as agreed in the accompanying Funding Award Letter.</i></p> <p><i>These funded projects are ready to start once the funding has been transferred and must be completed by March 2025.</i></p>
Strategic objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Action on climate emergency</i> <i>• Homes and Infrastructure that meet local needs</i> <i>• Improved economic and community wellbeing</i> <p><i>Regeneration of Berinsfield into Garden Village</i></p>
Purpose of the scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• To enhance open spaces in Berinsfield</i> <i>• To improve community infrastructure</i> <i>• To create a sense of place / identity</i> <i>• To increase biodiversity</i> <i>• To build strong partnerships</i> <i>• To promote active lifestyle</i> <p><i>Support social cohesion</i></p>

<p>Benefits of the Scheme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Health and wellbeing – skatepark and pump track will encourage physical activity for younger residents, interacting with nature in the community garden can improve mood and reduce anxiety and depression</i> • <i>Community Cohesion – these projects create spaces where community members can meet, interact, and build relationships, fostering a sense of belonging and community spirit</i> • <i>Environmental benefits – the community garden can enhance local biodiversity by providing habitats for various plants, insects and birds, these projects add green spaces within the community, contributing to cleaner air and a more pleasant environment</i> • <i>Educational opportunities - the community garden can serve as a hands-on learning environment where residents, especially children, can learn about gardening, sustainability, and nature.</i>
<p>Measuring the success of the scheme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Deliver on time and budget – Both Berinsfield Parish Council and The Church will be asked to regular progress reports and a final project closure reports</i> • <i>Community satisfaction and feedback – collect feedback at public events from community members on current views of facilities before and after project delivery</i> • <i>Number of community garden session taking place and active volunteers involved</i> • <i>Anecdotal participation rates</i>
<p>Financial details</p>	<p>Financial details are shown in appendix 2</p>
<p>Hurdles to be overcome</p>	<p><i>Planning permission is needed for the construction of the pump track and skatepark expansion</i></p>

Appendix 2: Financial details

The capital cost of the scheme	£170,540
The profile of that expenditure	<p>The total cost of the pump track and skatepark project = £151,460 This amount includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £67,000 Design and build of skatepark • £84,460 Design and build of pump track <p>The total cost of Abbey Woods Spinney = £15,280 This amount included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £9,000 Construction, materials, labour, planting • £1,250 Landscape Design Services • £725 Ecology Report • £305 Arboricultural Report • £4000 Forest School Leader training <p>The total cost of The Church of St Mary and St Berin project = £3,800</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £2,000 Garden Path • £600 Benches <p>£1,200 Planters and garden tools</p>
The revenue consequences of the scheme (expenditure and income)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no revenue consequences for SODC. • Skatepark and pumtrack and Abbey Woods Spinney will be maintained by Berinsfield Parish Council. <p>The Church of St Mary and St Berin will be maintained by church volunteers.</p>
Details of any specific sources of external finance available for this scheme	N/A
Any VAT implications of the scheme	N/A
Any financial risks associated with the scheme	If Berinsfield Parish Council and The Church of St Mary and St Berin do not deliver these projects withing the specified deadline of UK SPF funding, which is March 2025.
Details of any financial return on the investment	Determining the financial return on investment (ROI) for community projects such as the construction of a pump track, the expansion of a skatepark, and the creation of a community garden can be challenging due to the nature of social and environmental benefits, which are often non-monetary.