

	<h2>Environment Committee</h2> <h3>29 September 2016</h3>
<p style="text-align: right;">Title</p>	<p>Silk Stream Valley Park Transformation</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Report of</p>	<p>Commissioning Director - Environment</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Wards</p>	<p>Burnt Oak & Collingdale</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Urgent</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Key</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Enclosures</p>	<p>Appendix 1 – Park Design and consultation responses</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Officer Contact Details</p>	<p>Kitran Eastman – Strategic Lead – Clean & Green Kitran.eastman@barnet.gov.uk 020 8359 2803</p>

<h2>Summary</h2>
<p>The Council recognises that good quality parks and open spaces will to play a major role in its continued drive to improve and secure a sustainable future for the built and natural environments of the Borough, and that investment in its green infrastructure is as important as investment in its built infrastructure</p> <p>On the boundary of Burnt Oak ward and Collingdale Ward the parks of Silk Stream and Montrose Playing fields are undergoing redevelopment, using £5 million of funding from the regeneration in the local area. A public consultation on the draft design took place in July 2016, and the results of the consultation have been reflected in updates to the design of the park.</p>

<h2>Recommendations</h2>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Environment Committee notes the results from the engagement and consultation for the current design plan for Silk Stream Valley Park, and endorses a planning application based on the design principles in Appendix 1. 2. That the Environment Committee notes the miss alignment of timescales for the Silk Stream Valley Park transformation and Environment Agency flood alleviation in the Silk Stream Valley. The committee also requests the Commissioning Director for Environment continues to work with the

Environment Agency to understand the implications and risks to both project and update the committee at a future meeting.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The Council is redeveloping the parks of Silk Stream and Montrose Playing fields. This report updates Environment Committee on progress of the redevelopment, the results of the public consultation, and the miss alignment with the current Environment Agency timescales for flood alleviation. It also highlights the current design for the redevelopment of the parks, and the timescales for the project completion.
- 1.2 The Council has developed a strategy for parks and open spaces which reflects the needs and aspirations of residents, businesses and visitors to the Borough. The development of these parks is in line with Barnet's Parks and Open Spaces Strategy which was adopted in May 2016.

Silk Stream and Montrose Parks

- 1.3 Silk Stream and Montrose Parks are located on the boundary of Burnt Oak ward and Collingdale ward close to significant areas of regeneration. This regeneration will increase the population in the area, including the number of households who do not have access to a private garden. To support this regeneration area funding has been allocate to redevelop the parks of Silk Stream and Montrose Playing fields
- 1.4 Silk Stream and Montrose Playing fields are being designed as one park, with zoned areas, and will be referred to in this report as "Silk Stream Valley Park".
- 1.5 Silk Stream Park and Montrose Playing Field are two of eight local parks. Montrose Playing Field being the largest of these local parks, with an area of 11 hectares. Silk Stream Park is 4.2 hectares of parkland located to the north-west of Montrose. Both parks are currently class by the Park and Open Spaces Strategy as "**High Value**" but "**Low Quality**". Meaning that the potential for the parks to aid social (including health), economic and environmental improvement for the local area are high, but the current parks do not meet a good standard to achieve these at the moment. As such investment in the Silk Stream Valley Park will improve its quality and enable it to deliver good outcomes in the local area.
- 1.6 Together as one park the project aims to create a high quality park which will:
- Aid with flood alleviation in the local area
 - Enable play for all ages
 - Promote and enable a healthy active life style
 - Facilitate recreation use of the green space
 - Promotes biodiversity
 - Provides facilities such a toilets and cafes

1.7 More information on the categorisation of Barents parks, for value and quality can be seen in the background documents linked to the report in section 6.

Time Scales for Redevelopment

1.8 The table below shows the key milestones for the project:

#	Time Scale	Stage
1.	October 2016	Planning Application Submission
2.	June 2017	Finalisation of tender documentation
3.	Summer 2017	Procurement
4.	Autumn 2017	Redevelopment commence
5.	Spring 2019	Project Completion

Park Design

1.9 The design of the new park can be seen in Appendix 1 between pages 7 and 16. The design holds 20 specific features which can be seen in detail with design concept pictures in Appendix 1

- Flood Attenuation/ Wet meadow
- Floodable central social space
- Play area
- Grass amphitheatre
- Flood Attenuation/ Accessible beach with incidental natural play
- Raised road table and cycle crossing
- Youth zone & social space (within the park but not part of this project)
- Flood attenuating skate park
- Re-located tennis courts
- Accessible beach with incidental natural play
- Events space
- Wildflower meadow
- Refurbished pavilion
- Formal entrance and sensory garden
- Play zone
- Football pitches
- Planted terraces
- Re-purposed tram shed
- Community orchard & foraging zones
- Natural play & picnic area

Parks and Open Spaces Strategy Policy's

1.10 In May 2016 the Environment Committee adopted 11 new policies for the Boroughs Green Spaces. The development of the Silk Stream Valley Park meets the following policy's.

<p><u>Place</u></p> <p>The development of a design-led service delivery model for Barnet's parks service to deliver the goals of the strategy.</p>	<p>The Council should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop distinctive places that reinforce the identity of individual parts of the borough • Record the borough's natural and cultural heritage through the preservation and restoration of the borough's heritage assets • Enhance destination parks and town centre spaces that can contribute to their attractiveness and economic success as distinctive places • Establish connected green networks to build a parks system to aligned with the All London Green Grid Supplementary Planning Guidance • Design an inclusive public realm conforming to principles established in Accessible London Supplementary Planning Guidance
<p><u>Community safety:</u></p> <p>Parks and open spaces should be safe places that are welcoming to Barnet's residents. Such places can help deliver a greater range of positive environmental, economic and social outcomes for Barnet's communities</p>	<p>The Council should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain safe spaces where people want to visit, stay and play using design interventions to reduce opportunities for anti-social behavior • Respond to the needs of its communities in managing its parks and open spaces
<p><u>Play:</u></p> <p>Good quality play facilities offer and support quality of life and enhance educational attainment for children</p>	<p>The Council should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the number and quality of play spaces with a variety of play offers including natural play and more diverse spaces for young people including MUGA' skate parks etc. • Review the provision for adults and children with learning difficulties and disabilities
<p><u>Sports</u></p> <p>Barnet's residents have identified parks</p>	<p>The Council should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create new sports hubs across the borough as centres of excellence for sports

and open spaces as offering good places to adopt an active lifestyle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and expand the network of outdoor gyms and trim trails • Implement the recommendations of the Barnet Playing Pitch Strategy in respect of future sports provision
<p><u>Facilities</u></p> <p>Response to the Open Space Strategy engagement process has highlighted resident's desire for an enhancement of facilities across parks and open spaces</p>	<p>The Council should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide good quality accessible toilets at main traditional parks and sports grounds, meeting the British Toilet Association standard • Improve the quality of facilities to promote greater commercial use through concessions, cafés, events etc.
<p><u>Health:</u></p> <p>Through increasing accessibility and levels of physical activity parks and open spaces can play a key part in keeping people healthy</p>	<p>The Council should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop partnerships to reinforce the potential of parks and open spaces to deliver successful health outcomes particularly in respect of coronary heart disease, type 2 diabetes, obesity and mental health.
<p><u>Education:</u></p> <p>Understanding nature helps to enhance educational attainment</p>	<p>The Council should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop stronger partnerships with Barnet's schools to support the potential of parks to deliver positive outcomes for education • Work with partners to develop forest school learning programmes in Barnet • Invest in biodiversity skills, staff training and investigate apprenticeship
<p><u>Engagement:</u></p> <p>Local communities play an important role in determining the future of parks and open spaces in Barnet</p>	<p>The Council should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a stronger community base of friends and user groups • Actively encourage volunteering in Barnet

Consultation Results

1.11 In July 2016 consultation and engagement took place, to gain views of the design for the redeveloped Silk Stream and Montrose Park.

1.12 The results of the consultation can be seen in Appendix 1, page 17 to 22.

Environment Agency

- 1.13 Current discussions with the Environment Agency are ongoing to understand where the redevelopment of Silk Stream Valley Park, aligns with Environment Agency plans for flood alleviation in the area. Recent information indicates that funding and timescales of the Councils and the Environment Agency project are out of sync, as the Environment Agency are at the Strategic Outline Case phase, meaning that any construction may not be able to start until Autumn 2018 or beyond, a year later than the current build phase is due to start.
- 1.14 Discussion to understand the risk and implications on both the Silk Stream Valley Park transformation project and Environment Agency flood alleviation in the Silk Stream Valley project, and currently ongoing.

Further Parks development and improvement

- 1.15 In line with the Environment committee recommendation in May 2016:
- That the Environment Committee instructs officers to maximise the value of external funding to support the aims of the strategy
 - That the Environment Committee instructs officers to submit a capital bid as part of the Councils Capital Programme to support the aims of the strategy

Capital programme options are currently being submitted, these are focusing on utilising both the value/quality matrix, the 11 new policies for the Boroughs Green Spaces and maximizing opportunities for increasing external funding. Further details will be reported to Environment Committee in November 2016.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **Recommendation 1** – It is recommended that the Environment Committee notes the results from the engagement and consultation for the current design plan for Silk Stream Valley Park, and endorses a planning application based on the design principles in Appendix 1. This confirms that members of the committee are abreast of the results and feedback of the consultation, and are happy for the design to proceed to the planning application stage.
- 2.2 **Recommendation 2** - It is recommended that the Environment Committee notes the miss alignment of timescales for the Silk Stream Valley Park transformation and Environment Agency flood alleviation in the Silk Stream Valley. That the committee requests the Commissioning Director for Environment continues to work with the Environment Agency to understand the implications and risks to both project and update the committee at a future meeting. This recommendation will enable ongoing discussion to work through the implications on project of progressing without knowledge of what future work may be done in the area, or of delaying the project to redevelop the park.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 To not continue with the redevelopment of the park, however, this would not result in any benefits to the local area.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 If the Committee is so minded to approve recommendations the project will progress based on the timescales set out in section 1.8, but with additional discussions with the Environment Agency.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- The Corporate Plan 2015-2020 is based on the core principles of fairness, responsibility and opportunity to make sure Barnet is a place:
 - Of opportunity, where people can further their quality of life
 - Where people are helped to help themselves, recognising that prevention is better than cure
 - Where responsibility is shared, fairly
 - Where services are delivered efficiently to get value for money for the taxpayer
- The Corporate Plan includes the following outcomes and targets that can be delivered, partially or fully by Parks and Open Spaces
 - To increase the percentage of people satisfied with Barnet's parks, playgrounds and open spaces, both across the borough as a whole and within parks currently scoring the lowest levels of satisfaction
 - Driving an increase in overall resident satisfaction with Barnet as a place to live to amongst the highest of any Outer London borough
 - Facilitating economic growth and the success of residents, and removing any barriers or unnecessary costs to growth for successful local businesses
 - With the help of residents protecting, conserving and enhancing green space and the leafy character of Barnet for current and future generations
- Supporting and improving the health and wellbeing of the population by linking with
 - Linking with the Health and Wellbeing Strategy,
 - By providing safe green spaces to play by making them more family friendly and linking with the Safer Communities Strategy,
 - Participate in sports and physical activity, walking and cycling
 - Linking with the forthcoming Sport and Physical Activity Strategy and Playing Pitch Strategy.
- Establish Barnet as a place that supports growth in a way that allows both existing and future residents to succeed, and which drives

satisfaction with the Borough as a place to live to amongst the highest in the country

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.2.1 **Finance & Value for Money:** The redevelopment of Silk Stream and Montrose Park has an agreed Capital budget of £5 million. This £5m budget is within a £12m approved programme, budgeted to be spent over a 5 year period from 2015/16 to 2019/20.

5.2.2 **Procurement:** There are no implications at this time. Procurement will commence in 2017/18.

5.2.3 **Staffing:** There are no implications at this time. Project management is being carried out by RE.

5.2.4 **Property:** Development of the current property within the site, such as the pavilions is considered within the overall design of the sites.

5.2.5 **IT:** There are no implications at this time.

5.2.6 **Sustainability:** The design of the park looks to increase the sustainability of the area including outcome such as:

- Improved river corridors and flood risk management
- Improved Sustainable travel routes facilitating the growth of walking and cycling
- Improved quality of the environment and its management

5.3 Social Value

5.3.1 Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012, section 1(3) requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. The three key themes within the Strategy are:

- Social Outcomes and Benefits
- Environmental Outcomes and Benefits
- Economic Outcomes and Benefit

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

5.4.1 The Council's Constitution, Annex A (, Responsibility for Functions,) sets out the terms of reference of the Environment Committee. This includes

- Commissioning for parks and open spaces, refuse and recycling, waste minimisation and street cleaning,

5.4.2 This matter is not reserved to Full Council or to the Policy and Resources Committee as the Constitution specifically allocates matters of this type to the Environment Committee.

5.5 Risk Management

5.5.1 The main risks within the project are

- Delay in Environment Agency funding and project for flood alleviation in the Silk Stream Valley – See section 1
- Planning Permission not be granted

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 The Corporate Plan 2015-2020 sets the Strategic Equalities Objective, which is: that citizens will be treated equally, with understanding and respect, and will have equal access to quality services which provide value to the tax payer. Changes to policies and services are analysed in order to assess the potential equalities impacts and risks and identify any mitigating action possible before final decisions are made.

5.6.2 The consultation and the new design of Silk Stream and Montrose Park have been reviewed against the protective characteristics groups under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 namely age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnerships religion and belief, sexual orientation and transgender. The key equalities impact highlighted were the wide range of users to the park based on the population of the local area. As such the design has looked to provide space for all ages, access for those with disabilities, and quiet and no dog areas for those with learning disabilities as highlighted in the parks and open spaces consultation.

5.7 Consultation and Engagement

5.7.1 The results of the consultation can be seen in Appendix 1, page 17 to 22.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 [Environment Committee May 2016 Papers](#) – including Parks and Open Spaces Strategy, and Municipal Waste Management Strategy

6.2 [Assessing quality and value of Parks](#) – Document to support the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy

6.3 [Quality and value combined assessment](#) - Document to support the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy