**Agenda item: 2**

**Committee:** Individual Cabinet Member Decision Making  
**Date of meeting:** 20 June 2012  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject:</th>
<th>Brooklands Community Park Development as a Suitable Accessible Natural Green Space.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lead Officer:</td>
<td>Head of Leisure and Cultural Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Portfolio Holder:</td>
<td>Leisure and Culture - Cllr Jan Fuller</td>
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<tr>
<td>Link to Council Priorities:</td>
<td>P1, P2, P3, P4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exempt information:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delegated status:</td>
<td>For resolution</td>
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<tr>
<td>Key decision:</td>
<td>No</td>
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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Brooklands Community Park is designated as a Suitable Accessible Natural Green Space in order to mitigate the impacts of new residential development within 5 kilometres of the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area. Funds have been collected through the planning process to be spent on improvements on Brooklands Community Park.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT MEMBERS AGREE THE INCLUSION OF THE PROPOSED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE IMPROVEMENTS TO BROOKLANDS COMMUNITY PARK, WITHIN THE 2012/13 CAPITAL PROGRAMME TO BE FULLY FUNDED FROM THE DEVELOPERS SANG CONTRIBUTIONS.**

**REPORT:**

**Background**

1. The Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (TBHSPA) was designated by the Government on 9 March 2005. The TBHSPA is an internationally important habitat supporting a characteristic landscape and distinctive flora and fauna under threat and in decline, and was designated because of the presence of breeding populations of three bird species: Dartford Warblers, Woodlarks, and Nightjars. Within Elmbridge Borough the Special Protection Area comprises Chatley Heath Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), part of the Ockham and Wisley Commons SPA.

2. Brooklands Community Park is designated as a Suitable Accessible Natural Green Space (SANG) as part of the Council’s Thames Basin Heath Mitigation Strategy in order to mitigate the impacts of new residential development on within 5km of the TBHSPA.

3. Brooklands Community Park is a community facility delivered by Mercedes Benz in 2004 as part of the permission to construct Mercedes Benz World. The park was transferred to Elmbridge Borough Council’s ownership in August 2009 and has been managed as an open space by Leisure and Cultural Services.
Proposed Improvements

4 The mitigation strategy includes a number of improvements Elmbridge Borough Council has committed to undertake to Brooklands Community Park to be funded by contributions collected from new residential development within 5 km of the TBHSPA.

5 Improvements have been agreed with Natural England. This has been done in two stages. In 2007 the original mitigation strategy proposed:
   - Clearance within the woodland and creation of a footpath, including the design of scheme, tender preparation and contract supervision fee
   - Road signage
   - Site promotion (publicity) (are revenue costs)
   - Visitor surveys (are revenue costs)
   - Provision of CCTV to encourage safe use and assist in the reduction of fear of crime

6 Following a review by the Planning Services Team and following full consultation the revised mitigation strategy was adopted by Elmbridge Borough Council in April 2012 and has added the following improvements to the original list:
   - Repair of subsidence following collapse flood alleviation ditch bank.
   - Extension and surfacing of car park to maximise the parking provision whilst retaining the amenity vale of the site.
   - Fingerposts to enhance the visitor appreciation of the park.

7 Breakdown of all costs for which funding has been collected:
   - Clearance within the woodland and creation of a footpath, including the design of scheme, tender preparation and contract supervision fee £30,000
   - Road signage £2,000
   - Site promotion (publicity) £5,000
   - Visitor surveys £5,000
   - Provision of CCTV to encourage safe use and assist in the reduction of fear of crime £40,000
   - Repair of Subsidence £30,000
   - Extension and surfacing of car park £35,000
   - Fingerposts £2,400

**TOTAL COSTS £149,400**
Total funds collected to date are approximately £241,289 these have been collected specifically to deliver the Council’s obligations in managing two areas of open space as SANGS. These can only be spent on works agreed with Natural England to allow improvements to land managed as a SANG.

Works have been identified to start in June 2012 with the car park improvements and continue through to the end of 2013/14.

**Financial implications:**
The table below shows a breakdown of the costs of the scheme split between capital and revenue expenditure.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</th>
<th>£</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Fingerposts</td>
<td>2,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL COST</strong></td>
<td><strong>139,400</strong></td>
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Revenue Expenditure

| Site Promotion (publicity)                                                         | 5,000   |
| Visitor surveys                                                                    | 5,000   |
| **TOTAL COST**                                                                     | **149,400** |

All funding can be met from SANGS contributions, which totalled £241,289 at 31 March 2012.

**Environmental/Sustainability Implications:**
Provide enhanced open space with increased capacity for informal recreation to mitigate the impacts of new residential development within 5km of the TBHSPA

**Legal implications:**
None

**Equality Implications:**
Improved access around site

**Risk Implications:**
None

**Community Safety Implications:**
Improved visitor safety.
Principal Consultees:
Head of Planning Services
Corporate Management Board

Background papers:
Held in Leisure and Cultural Services and Planning Services

Enclosures/Appendices:
None

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