

Capital Programme Review 2021-22

Project Appraisal Form

COMMITTEE & BID NUMBER

C&W Bid 4 – Improvements to Great Dam – EC LNR

PROJECT TITLE

Improvements to Great Pond Dam - Epsom Common Local Nature Reserve

ACCOUNTABLE OFFICER

Officer responsible for project planning and delivery of the scheme. Accountable officers are also responsible for post project review.

Stewart Cocker/Tony Foxwell

DETAILS OF PROJECT

Project scope, what is included/excluded in the scheme	The management of Great Pond on Epsom Common and its associated dam is governed by the Reservoirs Act. The existing emergency plan has highlighted the need for improved access (hard surfaced) to the Eastern crest of the dam for vehicles that could assist in maintaining the dam. In addition the appointed Supervising Engineer in recent annual reports has highlighted the need to tackle erosion on the crest and down-stream face of the dam. To be achieved by widening the path on the auxiliary spillway, raising the crest to the west of the spillway bridge and reducing erosion on the downstream face of the dam immediately adjacent to the spillway. In addition there are some smaller items identified by the Supervising Engineer that would be best tackled at the same time as the more major work described. These include, works to the trees on the crest of the dam, refurbishment of steps with more fill to reduce trip hazard, a small quantity of rubble needed in the main spillway channel to prevent erosion, re-sealing of the V-notch against the wall of the chamber, fence off currently redundant v-notch chamber, restoration of gabion basket located at side of main spillway.
Project outcomes and benefits	The project would ensure that the dam remains a safe structure where the risks identified currently, are addressed. Tackling the erosion problems now will help prevent more expensive restorations in future. For example, in 2012, £20000 had to be spent repairing erosion caused by dogs and the fence subsequently installed at a fraction of the cost would have prevented the erosion issue.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

		Cost of Project £	Comments and detail where necessary. Provide appendices where relevant. Examples of business cases spreadsheets can be found in the Finance Handbook
a	Estimated cost of purchase, works and/or equipment	70,000	
b	Consultancy or other fees	5,000	

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c	Total Scheme Capital Costs (a+b)		
d	External Funding Identified (e.g. s106, grants etc.) Please give details, including any unsuccessful funding enquiries you may have made.	£0	A CIL bid for £75,000 is being submitted.
e	Net Costs to Council (c-d)		
f	Internal Sources of Capital Funds Identified (e.g. repairs & renewals reserve etc.)	£0	
g	Capital Reserves Needed to Finance Bid (e-f)		
h	Annual Ongoing Revenue Additional Savings as a Direct Result of the Project	£0	Completion of this project is likely to save money in future by reducing erosion that will become more expensive to repair if not tackled. In addition easier vehicle access could significantly reduce the costs of vehicle access to the dam crest in time of emergency.
i	Annual Ongoing Revenue Additional Costs as a Direct Result of the Project		

Year	2021/22 £	2022/23 £	2023/24 £
Spend Profile of Scheme – please identify which year (s) the scheme spend will fall into	£75,000	0	0

REVENUE IMPACT

Can Revenue Implications Be Funded From the Committee Base Budget? – Please give details	Yes
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FOUR YEAR PLAN 2020/24

Is this investment linked to EEBC's Key Themes? If so, say which ones and evidence how. How does project fit within service objectives?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Green & Vibrant •Safe & Well •Cultural & Creative •Effective Council
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TIMESCALES

What is the proposed timetable for completion of the project? Give estimated start and finish dates for each stage of the project. These dates will be used as milestones during quarterly budget monitoring to assess performance of project delivery.

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		Target Start Date	Target Finish Date
1	Design & Planning	Fourth quarter 2020	First quarter 2021
2	Further Approvals Needed	Fourth quarter 2020 (Natural England SSSI Consent)	First quarter 2021
3	Tendering (if necessary)	Second quarter 2021	May 2021
4	Project start date	Third quarter (July onwards if dry)	September 2021 (Latest)
5	Project Finish Date	Fourth quarter 2021	November 2021

BASELINE CRITERIA

All capital schemes are assessed against criteria set by the Capital Member Group annually. Bids should meet at least one of these criteria. State which capital criteria(s) for assessing bids are met and why. Leave blank any which are not met.

Spend to Save schemes should meet the following criteria;

- Payback of the amount capital invested within the project within 5 years (10 years for renewable energy projects).
- The return required on capital employed should be linked to the potential cost of borrowing (MRP) rather than potential loss of investment income.
- Risk of not achieving return on investment is low.
- Clear definition of financial cost/benefits of the scheme.

Members may consider schemes with longer paybacks on major spend to save projects going forward, especially those that incur borrowing.

<p>Is there a guarantee of the scheme being fully externally funded and is it classed as a high priority? Please give details of funding streams, including any restrictions on the funding.</p>	
<p>Is the Scheme a Spend to Save Project? Will investment improve service efficiency including cost savings or income generation? What is the payback in years?</p>	

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<p>It is mandatory for the Council to provide the scheme? Is investment required to meet Health and Safety or other legislative requirements? If so state which requirements.</p>	
<p>Is this project the minimum scheme required to continue to deliver the services of the Council? - Is investment required for the business continuity of the Council? If so say how.</p>	<p>The Council owns and manages Great Pond to enhance the wildlife, cultural and aesthetic value within Epsom Common Local Nature Reserve. That is in line with the Council's Statutory Duty under the CROW Act 2000, the biodiversity duty under NERC Act 2006 and its own priorities for open space management. The pond is large enough to come under the Reservoirs Act. We employ a 'Reservoir Engineer' to keep the dam under constant monitoring and we have developed an emergency plan in line with recent changes to national reservoir management requirements. The construction of a hard surfaced access route helps address an issue identified by the emergency plan, allowing year round access to the dam for large vehicles. Widening the path on the crest of the dam and the other measures listed, addresses issues brought to our attention by reports from our reservoir engineer and tackling those issues now will prevent more expensive future works and avoid possible damage to the dam.</p>

ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

<p>Is investment identified in the Council's Asset Management Plan?</p>	<p>No</p>
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PRIORITISATION

State which **one** of the four prioritisation categories are met and why.

1	<p>Investment essential to meet statutory obligation.</p>	<p>See above</p>
2	<p>Investment Important to achieve Key Priorities.</p>	
3	<p>Investment important to secure service continuity and improvement.</p>	
4	<p>Investment will assist but is not required to meet one of the baseline criteria.</p>	

RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH SCHEME

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1	Outline the risks of delivering this project to timetable and budget. (Please do not include risks to the service or asset if project is not approved.)	The risk of not delivering the project is not being able to deal safely and effectively with a major incident involving the dam and also allowing identified issues to deteriorate further and become more expensive to restore.
2	Are there any risks relating to the availability of resources internally to deliver this project	There could be a staff resourcing problem within the Projects Team, however officers currently expect to manage the issue and deliver proposed schemes to timescale.
3	Consequences of not undertaking this project	The risk of not delivering the project is not being able to deal safely and effectively with a major incident involving the dam and also allowing identified issues to deteriorate further and become more expensive to restore.
4	Alternative Solutions (Other solutions considered – cost and implications)	Drain Great Pond. However, there would be a significant financial cost to the process and more importantly, Natural England could deem such a move as damaging to the Epsom & Ashted Commons SSSI and could refuse permission. In addition, we would not be complying with our statutory duty under the CROW Act to enhance the SSSI, nor would we be carrying out our biodiversity duty under the NERC Act. In addition, we would not be acting in accordance with our own priorities and aspirations for open space management in the Borough. We would also be nullifying decades of investment in maintaining and improving the dam/pond.

Is consultation required for this project? Please give details of the who with and when by.	We need to consult Natural England to seek consent for the path construction.
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Ward(s) affected by the scheme	Stamford
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Accountable Officer Responsible for Delivery of the Scheme

Name and Signature

Whole life revenue costs of capital project

Where savings or budget virements are being used to part fund a project, the relevant budget manager must sign the appraisal form.

Accountable Officers for the revenue implications of the project

Project Manager Name and Signature Date

Revenue Budget Holder Name and Signature Date

Service Accountant Name and Signature Date