

Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee  
24 January 2022

## **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

<b>Head of Service:</b>	Jackie King, Director of Corporate Services
<b>Wards affected:</b>	Nonsuch Ward;
<b>Appendices (attached):</b>	Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee – Additional Work Programme Items 2022

### **Summary**

This report accompanies an indicative Work Programme for the Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee to consider. The Work Programme includes the additional Work Plan items that Members of the Committee have requested be undertaken alongside the business-as-usual management of the park.

Also included are the likely future repairs and maintenance items with indicative fee estimations.

A priority rating system has been included to help Members determine which items will be progressed first as resources allow, together with a recommendation on the Work Plan items for progression initially and the likely indicative costs of proceeding with each.

### **Recommendation (s)**

#### **The Committee is asked to:**

- (1) Consider and approve the attached Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee Work Programme, including the proposed prioritisation of individual Work Programme items within it.**
- (2) Note the following actions prioritised for progression:**
  - (a) Visitor Survey**
  - (b) Park Management Plan**
  - (c) Covid 19 Memorial in the Park – officer time in implementing the CIL funded scheme**
  - (d) Queen’s Green Canopy – officer hours cost in implementing the tree planting scheme**
  - (e) Investigating eligibility to apply for potential sources of funding for the Park**

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- (3) Approve a budget of up to £11,169 to undertake the Work Programme items initially recommended for prioritisation and as set out in 2, above.**
- (4) Note that officers will provide regular updates on the budget position, as some of the costs included in assessing a £11,169 budget requirement are based on fee estimations and not exact fee quotes and therefore may be subject to a degree of variance.**

### **1 Reason for Recommendation**

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with a Work Programme which incorporates the views of the Committee expressed at its previous meetings and also a suggestion of the relative priority and likely cost of proceeding with each item, enabling Committee Members to make informed decisions about the activities they would prefer to see progressed.

### **2 Background**

- 2.1 The Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee have expressed an ambition to work towards Nonsuch Park becoming self-sustaining, offering an improved visitor experience, and addressing some of the long-standing issues affecting the Park.
- 2.2 At its meeting in February 2019, the Committee agreed a set of actions, intended to improve practices and work towards the Park achieving the above stated ambition. Those actions were:
  - (1) A new Inter Authority Agreement for the management of Nonsuch Park.
  - (2) To investigate with both Councils the ability to utilise existing arrangements each Council has in place to support the work of the Joint Management Committee.
  - (3) Epsom & Ewell Borough Council to take forward a parking management scheme to address parking issues (along the lines of the Beddington Park trial).
  - (4) Work to be commissioned on a draft strategic plan for Nonsuch Park encompassing a new 10-year management and business plan.
- 2.3 As a result of the pandemic, the last 18 months have seen unprecedented pressure on the availability of staff and funding to support the delivery of the aspirations of the Committee for the Park. The priority for both Councils has been activities around supporting their residents during the Covid pandemic, and it has been difficult to progress the Committee's priorities as set out above.

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- 2.4 However, the increase in the use of the Park during the successive lockdowns has reinforced the Committee's wish to develop the Park as a destination, but also for the Park's unique heritage to be preserved.
- 2.5 To this end, a draft Work Plan was presented to the 26 July 2021 meeting of this Committee, incorporating the actions set out at 1 – 4 above, and also seeking the view of the Committee on other priority Work Plan items to be considered. The Committee resolved to prioritise the following additional Work Plan items as a result:
- a) COVID Memorial: Members spoke about the possibility of having a COVID memorial installed within Nonsuch Park. It was noted that local residents from both Sutton and Epsom used the Park throughout national lockdown, and many lost loved ones as a result of the pandemic.
  - b) Queens Green Canopy: Members of the Committee noted that many local Boroughs were looking to plant trees in honour of Queen Elizabeth's upcoming Platinum Jubilee and suggested that they would like the Joint Management Committee to look into the possibility of implanting a canopy.
  - c) Car parking: Members spoke about the potential revenue which could be obtained from car parking. It was noted that some investment would need to be input prior to charging for parking e.g., to mark bays. Members noted the importance of employing strong communications to ensure residents are aware that any car parking fees would be re-invested in the Park itself.
  - d) Events: Members noted the events which had previously been hosted in Nonsuch Park, which include the Royal Marsden annual fundraiser and Friends of Nonsuch band. It was noted that it would be of benefit to the Joint Committee if events which had previously been held at the Park could be re-established.
  - e) Survey: Members noted the importance of understanding what visitors want from the Park. The Officer suggested that a visitors' survey could be implemented to establish this.
  - f) CIL Funding: Members noted the possibility of proposing a bid for CIL funding from both Councils in order to go ahead with some of the proposed works to Nonsuch Park.
- 2.6 In order to help Members of the Committee to make an informed decision, an assessment of the additional officer hours required to undertake the full Work Programme has been conducted and is included alongside each item in the attached Work Programme.
- 2.7 The 'business as usual' work of managing and maintaining the park is included within the annual precept sought by this Committee and paid by each Council.

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- 2.8 Additional Work Programme items raised by the Committee are additional projects and areas of work that are not covered by the usual annual precept and sufficient funds will need to be identified before they can be carried out. This is also the case for the repair and maintenance items included in the Work Programme.
- 2.9 In addition, some items included within the Work Programme such as the undertaking of a Strategic Park Business Plan and Park Management Plan by a consultant will have a significant financial commitment in both real terms and in officer hours required to prepare a consultant brief, conduct a procurement exercise, select a consultant, brief the consultant, provide background information, receive, and review draft reports and monitor the contract effectively.
- 2.10 An assessment of the cost of additional officer hours and the cost of appointing external contracts and consultants where necessary indicates that the Committee will need to identify an additional budget of up to £11,169 to progress the Work Programme items that have been identified initially, as high priority.
- 2.11 The 'high priority' items for progression have been selected based on their ability to achieve maximum impact (for minimum outlay) towards the Committee's stated aims of working towards the Park becoming self-sustaining, offering an improved visitor experience, and addressing some of the long-standing issues affecting the Park. The 'high priority' Work Programme items include:
- (a) Visitor Survey
  - (b) Park Management Plan
  - (c) Covid 19 Memorial in the Park – officer time in implementing the CIL funded scheme following the successful bid by Councillor Hannah Dalton.
  - (d) Queen's Green Canopy – officer hours cost in implementing the tree planting scheme
  - (e) Investigating eligibility to apply for potential sources of funding for works required in the Park, such as CIL and Heritage Lottery Funding
- 2.12 The Committee will be aware that the Work Programme items that have been prioritised, and the financial impact associated with delivering them are set against a background that neither Council is likely to be able to increase their current financial commitments to the Park.

### 3 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

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### 3.1 Impact Assessment

3.1.1 No equality issues arise as a consequence of the contents of this report.

### 3.2 Crime & Disorder

3.2.1 No issues arising as a result of the contents of this report.

### 3.3 Safeguarding

3.3.1 No safeguarding issues arise as a consequence of this report.

### 3.4 Dependencies

3.4.1 None arising.

### 3.5 Other

3.5.1 Nonapplicable.

## 4 Financial Implications

4.1 The draft 2022/23 budget includes provisions of £3,000 for one-off project work.

4.2 This £3,000 projects budget could part-fund the high-priority work work programme items numbered 6, 7, 9, 10 & 13, at an estimated cost of up to £11,169. The £8,169 balance would need to be funded from the NJMC's working balance reserve, which would reduce from £83,620 to £75,451,.

4.3 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** It is important to note that any usage of the working balance reserve will reduce the NJMC's financial resilience and ability to respond to unforeseen, unbudgeted costs in future.

4.4 To progress any other items on the work plan, the Committee will need to identify a funding option.

## 5 Legal Implications

5.1 Substantive reports are tabled on issues selected by the committee on the basis of this work programme. For every new item it should be clear at that stage what legal implications there are. Ongoing advice may be required on existing items already approved by resolution.

5.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** none arising from the content of this report.

## 6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

6.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged: not applicable

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- 6.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is not included within the current Service Delivery Plan.
- 6.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** none arising from the contents of this report.
- 6.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** none arising from the contents of this report.
- 6.5 **Partnerships:**

## 7 Background papers

7.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

### Previous reports:

- Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee Work Programme, 26 July 2021 <http://th-modgov-01/documents/s20606/Committee%20Work%20Programme.pdf>
- Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee Minutes, 4 February 2019 <http://th-modgov-01/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=150&MId=582&Ver=4>

### Other papers:

- Nonapplicable