Committee Report: 2025 - 2026 Project & Activity Overview

Date: 6th March 2025
To: Leisure & Recreation Committee
From: Andrew Briggs – Ops Manager
Subject: 2025 - 2026 Project & Activity Overview
Council Priority: To provide a high standard of services & facilities. To protect and improve our environment.

1.0 Recommendation

1.4 Members to NOTE the report.

2.0 Introduction

2.4 This report provides an overview of key projects and activities for the 2025 - 2026 financial year within the Leisure and Recreation remit. These initiatives aim to enhance recreational spaces, improve community engagement, and ensure sustainable management of assets. The following projects have been identified based on community needs, available funding, and strategic objectives. Estimated costs, delivery timelines, and risk considerations are included to ensure informed decision-making.

3.0 Detail

3.4 **Sports Pitch Drainage Investigation**
The council will undertake an investigation into the current condition of the drainage of sports pitches to address issues related to waterlogging and usability. A feasibility study will be commissioned to assess current conditions and recommend improvements. The findings will guide potential investment in remedial works.

- **Estimated Cost:** £5,000 - £10,000
- **Estimated Delivery Timeline:** Q2 - Q3 2025
- **Risk Considerations:** Potential delays due to weather conditions and contractor availability. Additional costs may arise if significant infrastructure upgrades are needed.

3.4 **Parking Charges at Facilities**
A review of parking charge options at council-managed recreational facilities will be conducted. This review will consider the impact on accessibility, revenue generation, and enforcement requirements. Public and stakeholder consultation will form part of this assessment.

- **Estimated Cost:** Feasibility study: £2,500

- **Estimated Delivery Timeline:** Q2 2025
- **Risk Considerations:** Public opposition to new charges, enforcement challenges, and potential impact on facility usage.

3.3 **Green Flag Applications – St Marks Park & Penhill Park**
The council aims to resecure Green Flag status for St Marks Park and re-apply for Penhill Park.

- **Estimated Cost:** £2,000 per site for application and improvement works
- **Estimated Delivery Timeline:** Submission by Q4 2025
- **Risk Considerations:** Meeting required environmental and maintenance standards; potential need for additional investment beyond initial estimates.

3.4 **Allotment 'Best in Show' Trial**
A pilot competition will be introduced to encourage high standards in allotment maintenance. The 'Best in Show' initiative will recognise outstanding plots and hope to create community engagement among allotment holders.

- **Estimated Cost:** £500.00 (prizes)
- **Estimated Delivery Timeline:** Q2 - Q3 2025
- **Risk Considerations:** Limited participation, potential for disputes over judging criteria.

3.5 **Delivery of Rodbourne Cheney Play Area**
The council will oversee the delivery of a new play area at Rodbourne Cheney, ensuring modern and inclusive play equipment is installed.

- **Estimated Cost:** £80,000 - £90,000
- **Estimated Delivery Timeline:** Q2 – Q3 2025
- **Risk Considerations:** Budget constraints, potential contractor delays, supply chain issues.

3.7 **Play Area Refurbishments – Alanbrooke Crescent & Barnum Court** Refurbishment works will take place at Alanbrooke Crescent and Barnum Court play areas. Improvements will include upgraded play equipment, resurfacing, and enhanced safety measures.

- **Estimated Cost:** £90,000 - 100,000
- **Estimated Delivery Timeline:** Q3 – Q4 2025
- **Risk Considerations:** Possible unforeseen site conditions requiring additional works, procurement delays.

3.8 Community Garden at Allington Road Allotment
A community garden space will be created within the Allington Road allotment site. This initiative will provide an accessible and shared green space for local residents, encouraging horticultural activities and social interaction. The project will include raised beds, seating areas, and educational workshops to promote sustainable gardening.

- **Estimated Cost:** £10,000 (funded through WWT and Tfc)
- **Estimated Delivery Timeline:** Q2 2025
- **Risk Considerations:** Community engagement levels, ongoing maintenance requirements.

3.9 Review of the HBuF Management Plan & Lease
A comprehensive review of the HBuF (Hillside, Brookfield & Ferndale) management plan and lease will be undertaken. This will include evaluating current operations, lease terms, and potential enhancements to service provision. The review will assess usage patterns, financial sustainability, and opportunities for improvement.

- **Estimated Cost:** Internal staff time; external legal review if required (£2,000)
- **Estimated Delivery Timeline:** Q2 – Q3 2025
- **Risk Considerations:** Complexity of lease agreements, potential renegotiation challenges.