

**South Cambridgeshire District Council
Record of Executive Decision**

This form should be used to record key and other decisions made by individual Lead Cabinet members. The contact officer will ensure that the signed and completed form is given to Democratic Services as soon as reasonably practicable after the decision has been taken.

A key decision shall not be taken unless notice of the item has been published at least 28 days before the decision is to be taken except where:

- a General Exception notice has been published under Rule 15 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules and the Chairman of Scrutiny and Overview Committee has been informed in writing; or
- a Special Urgency notice has been published under Rule 16 of those Rules and the Chairman of Scrutiny and Overview Committee has agreed the decision is urgent.

Unless permission has been obtained from the Chairman of Council and the Chairman of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee that this decision may be treated as a matter of urgency under Rule 12.19 of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee Procedure Rules, this decision will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of five working days after the publication of the decision, unless called in under Rule 7 of the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules or Rule 12 of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee Procedure Rules. Where consent has been obtained to exempt the decision from call-in, this will be specified below.

Lead Cabinet Member	Lead Cabinet Member for Communities
Subject Matter	Agreement to invest in improvements at four green spaces on Council owned land through Shared Prosperity Funding and agreement for bidding process for green spaces improvements for Town/Parish Councils
Ward(s) Affected	Barrington; Fen Ditton & Fulbourn; Harston & Comberton; Shelford
Date Taken	Wednesday, 8 May 2024
Contact Officer	Jason Clarke, Development Officer (jason.clarke@scambs.gov.uk)
Date Published	Wednesday, 8 May 2024
Call-In Expiry/Exempt from call-in	Wednesday, 15 May 2024
Key Decision?	No
In Forward Plan?	No
Urgent?	No

Purpose / Background
<p>Shared prosperity funding for green space improvements</p> <p>The Government has launched a £2.6 billion national Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) that aims to empower local communities to deliver projects that can be targeted to where it is needed most and will improve pride in place. The funding must be spent by March 2025. In Cambridgeshire the funding is administered by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and South Cambridgeshire District Council has initially received £150,000 for the green space project.</p> <p>Agreement to invest in four projects on Council owned land following assessment of viable options:</p> <p>a. Land at Orchard Close, Little Wilbraham – the site already has a multi-use games area, a few pieces of play equipment, and an allotment. However, the</p>

site is significant in size and much of the green space is underutilised, so it provides an excellent opportunity for improvement to benefit the community. There are not many other more formal green spaces in the village.

- b. **Land at De Freville Road, Great Shelford** – the site is a good size, there is no other more formal green space within 1km of the site. Residents who live in this area are often elderly and/or living alone, and a project here would enhance the green space for this demographic, encouraging socialising.
- c. **Land at Silverdale Avenue, Coton** – This site currently has an informal football pitch which local children use and is over 1km from the recreation ground. It is central to a housing estate, and enhancements would offer a better-quality, better-defined, and safer area for all users.
- d. **Land at Meadowcroft Way, Orwell** – this site was favoured by the Housing Team when sites were being reviewed. There is current feedback from some residents who have a desire to see improvements to the communal green space in front of their homes as they see the opportunity to make it better for local people and bring the community together.

Parish/Town Council application process

Agreement to improvements to at least three further green spaces through an application process running from 14th May 2024 to 12th July 2024, whereby Town and Parish Councils will be given an opportunity to apply for funding, and support, to improve an area that they feel would benefit their community. The final decision will be made by the Lead Member for Communities.

The grant funding available for the three or more remaining projects will be in the region of £75,000 therefore each project will have approximately £25,000 to deliver the improvements (funding may be increased via receipt of grant funding from other SPF underspent projects)

Town/Parish Councils applying will be asked to:

- a. demonstrate that land is in their control, or immediately available for improvement before March 2025.
- b. provide a site location map and explanation of the type of improvements they want to implement.
- c. commit to maintain the site to the necessary standard after the initial works are complete.
- d. ensure their elected district councillor(s) is/are aware of the application.
- e. demonstrate the need for improved green space and impact the improvement would have for local people in terms of health and wellbeing.
- f. demonstrate how local people and volunteers will get involved in the planning, delivery, or maintenance of the green space.
- g. detail if any other funding, from the Town/Parish Council or third party, will be committed to the delivery of the project (this is not a pre-requisite).

Declaration(s) of Interest

Record below any relevant interest declared by any executive Member consulted or by an officer present in relation to the decision.

None

Dispensation(s)

In respect of any conflict(s) of interest declared above, record below any dispensation(s) granted by the Council's Standards Committee.

None

Consultation Record below all parties consulted in relation to the decision.
Leadership Team, Cabinet Members, Lead Cabinet Member for Communities

Other Options Considered and Reasons for Rejection
Other pieces of available Council owned land were assessed before the preferred options were established. Other options were rejected as the benefit realised was not as significant or the land was not as appropriate. The Council also considered whether land not owned by the Council could be considered for the first four sites. However, the Council assessed it was not viable to meet delivery timeframes, as per the grant agreement, through sites not under our control.

Final decision	Reason(s)
Agreement to invest in improvements at four green spaces on SCDC owned land through Shared Prosperity Funding. And agreement for bidding process for green space improvements for Town/Parish Councils with an application window running from 14 th May 2024 to 12 th July 2024.	See above.

Signed	Name (CAPITALS)	Signature	Date
Lead Cabinet Member	Signed copy available upon request from Democratic Services (democratic.services@scambs.gov.uk)		
Chief Officer			

Further Information
N/A