

Capital Project Appraisal & Procurement Report

Project Title	Upper River Cam Biodiversity Public Art Project
Target Start Date	October 2010
Target Completion Date	November 2012
Project Manager / Lead Officer	Nadine Black – Senior Arts and Urban Design Officer
Scrutiny Committee and Portfolio	Environment Scrutiny Committee – Environment, Climate Change & Growth
Scrutiny Committee Date	October 2010

1 Recommendation/s

Financial recommendations - 'The Executive Councillor is asked to recommend this capital scheme (which is not included in the Council's Capital Plan) for approval by Council, subject to resources being available to fund the capital and revenue costs associated with the scheme. The total capital cost of the project is £28,815, funded through S106 Public Art Initiative contributions. The minimal revenue costs, will be funded from the Local Nature Reserve (LNR) budget.

Procurement recommendations – 'The Executive Councillor is asked to approve the carrying out and completion of the procurement of materials and services for the project. If the quotation or tender sum exceeds the estimated contract value by more than 15%, the permission of the Executive Councillor and Director of Finance will be sought prior to proceeding.'

2 What is the project? Provide a description of the proposed project, justify the reason for the project, and note what alternative options were considered.

The Upper Cam Biodiversity Project encompasses a complex of natural green spaces on the banks of the river Cam, adjacent to the heart of the historic centre of the city. The enhancement of all five sites had been identified as a key priority in the adopted City Council Nature Conservation Strategy (2006). Following officer recommendations and public consultation, approval was given at the March 2010 Environment Scrutiny Committee to secure S106 Informal Open Space funding to undertake habitat and access enhancement works detailed in the project appraisal attached as Appendix 1.

The sites covered by the Upper River Cam Biodiversity project are (please refer to figure 1):

- Paradise Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and County Wildlife Site
- River Cam County Wildlife Site
- Coe Fen County Wildlife Site

- Sheep's Green County Wildlife Site
- Lower Vicar's Brook, New Bit & Coe Fen Straits City Wildlife Site

These sites are also continuous with the following public open spaces:

- Lamas Land
- Laundress Green
- The Riverside walk to Granchester Meadows (heading south)
- The Riverside walk to the world famous 'Backs' (heading north)

As part of the Upper Cam Biodiversity project a significant opportunity exists for an artist to contribute to the project. The proposed works as part of this wider project include improvements to access, wayfinding, legibility and interpretation. A major aim of the project is also to encourage more family exploration and use of the five open spaces.

This commission will contribute to the works proposed and, will be developed to address issues of legibility and wayfinding between the open spaces, adding the value of an artist to provide a creative interpretation to items identified in the wider project and the value of the S106 Public Art Initiative to the existing budgets.

A number and variety of routes are present giving people access to, through and between the sites. These include:

- The River Cam – Boaters, swimmers, anglers
- Cycleways – Cyclists and pedestrians,
- Riverside Walk – Ramblers using public footpath
- Footbridges - all
- Surfaced paths - commuters
- The Fen Causeway road and path - People waiting in traffic
- Informal grass paths and areas - picnickers
- Open areas – students e.g. flora surveys
- Road Underpass
- Canoe platforms - Information from the river
- Local Nature Reserve – All, plus possible birdwatchers, natural history enthusiasts

In addition there are views across the site from:

- Lammas land Children's play area and paddling pool
- Double Tree Hotel
- Peterhouse College
- Granta Pub & Bella Italia
- Mill Pub
- Faculty of Engineering
- Ley School
- Botanic Gardens

The vision for the project is to commission subtle artworks that will encourage ALL users to engage, understand and appreciate these spaces.

A project group will be formed for the artwork commission and will comprise of

The Senior Arts and Urban Design Officer and the Nature Conservation Officer, and nominated Ward Councilors.

The project will comprise of three stages:

- Stage 1 – The artist will carry out preliminary research and work closely with the project team to develop a series of artworks within the open spaces, which address issues of wayfinding, legibility and interpretation.
- Stage 2 – The detailed development of the artwork proposals for final approval.
- Stage 3 – The installation of final approved artworks.

The City Council is also in the process of developing a Public art Commissioning Strategy, which will be finalised in early 2011. This project has already been identified as part of that work. However, the project is proposed to be developed at this time in order to ensure its integration with the wider Upper River Cam project and to also ensure it's development and delivery prior to the expiration of a repayment clause within for the S106 contribution, which is proposed to be used for this project.

2010 has been named 'International Year of Biodiversity' by the United Nations and Cambridge City Council has pledged support to this initiative and the launch of this project would demonstrate the authorities commitment.

Appendix 2 contains examples of similar types of projects.

3 Outline the aims and objectives of the project and highlight how it contributes to achieving the Council's Vision.

Desired Outcomes of the commission:

- Reinforce the City Council's commitment to 2010 International Year of Biodiversity
- Promote the use of the five natural green spaces and connecting network of footpaths and open spaces
- Promote improved legibility of signage and wayfinding
- Encourage family use and exploration of the open space
- Develop a sense of discovery through the open spaces
- Provide points of reflection
- Promote a heightened awareness and celebration of the city's open spaces
- Encourage biodiversity and awareness of the importance of biodiversity in the City
- Encourage healthy lifestyles
- Recognise the international importance of this historic landscape.
- Inspire people to engage with their local natural environment

Achieving the Council's Vision:

- **A city which is diverse and tolerant, values activities which bring people together and where everyone feels they have a stake in the community**
- **A city which draws inspiration from its iconic historic centre and achieves a sense of place in all of its parts with generous urban open spaces and well designed buildings**
- **A city in the forefront of low carbon living and minimising its impact on the environment from waste and pollution**
- **A city whose citizens feel they can influence public decision making and are equally keen to pursue individual and community initiatives**
- **A city where getting around is primarily by public transport, bike and on foot**

The project also supports the Council's Nature Conservation Strategy objectives, both through the enhancement of an existing LNR (Paradise LNR) and the positive management of the adjacent Sheep's Green and Coe Fen County Wildlife sites. The designation of Sheep's Green and Coe Fen as Local Nature Reserves is proposed for 2011.

4 Identify and summarise the impact on and major issues for stakeholders & other departments. Summarise the key results of initial consultation (including members where appropriate).

The following key stake holders have been consulted for the wider Upper River Cam Biodiversity project and full support has been given with have no objections:

- Residents of Newnham (Paradise Open Evening)
- Councillors
- The Local Wildlife Trust
- Environment Agency, Cam Conservators
- Nature Conservation Strategy Implementation Group

Possible stakeholders to be included in the further development of proposals include:

Local Wildlife Trust
Weekly Conservation volunteers
Botanic Gardens
Hobsons Conduit Trust
Double Tree Hotel
Scudamores
Trumpington Farm Estate
Newnham Residents
Retail outlet on Lamas land
Families using Lammas Land Play area
Bella Pasta Italian restaurant
Peterhouse College

Cambridge Natural History Society
Pinder and graziers
Canoe Club
Active Communities
City Services
Cambridge Past, Present & Future
Love Cambridge
County Council – Rights of way
Environment Agency
Fisherman using river
Leys School
Tourists
Cambridge University
Cam Valley Forum
Cam Conservators

5 Procurement. What resources for this project will be procured from outside the Council? What method of procurement are you to use? What is the estimated total value for each procurement element?

The commission to design, build and install the artworks will be submitted for tender to both local and national artists. Cambridge City Council's procurement procedure will be followed. An artist will be commissioned through 'open competition'.

6 Summarise key risks associated with the project. Include the key risks the project aims to mitigate, risks involved in delivery of the project and risks that might occur if the project does not take place.

- The S106 contribution for this project is subject to a repayment clause
- (after November 2012).
- Paradise LNR and Sheep's Green/Coe Fen contain both national and local priority habitats and species, including wet woodland, lowland grassland and river and streams; supporting species such as Dunnock, Bullfinch, Song Thrush, Spotted Flycatcher, Starling, Common Lizard, Common Toad, Grass Snake, Otter, Pipistrelle Bat, Harvest Mouse, and Hedgehog (Section 41 NERC Act: Species of principal importance in England).
- The project supports the objectives contained within Cambridge City Council's Nature Conservation Strategy adopted in November 2006 through the enhancement of an existing/proposed LNR's to benefit biodiversity.
- Much of the access work would improve site safety and duty under the DDA act.
- The project supports improving Wayfinding and raising awareness of the biodiversity in the open spaces.

- Planning permission may be required and will need to address the potential issues of vandalism, fire and flood damage. Environment agency consent may also be required for any artworks proposed in the River Cam floodplain.

7 Financial implications. Comment on any special financial considerations associated with the project such as grant or funding conditions. Ensure that any additional insurance costs/implications are considered.

Appraisal prepared on the following price base

2010 / 2011

The capital cost of the project is £28,815, funded through the Meadowcroft Hotel Site S106 Public art contribution.

All proposed artworks must be durable and virtually maintenance free. They will be covered under the councils insurance in the same way as existing Local Nature Reserve infrastructure.

The revenue costs of the project are expected to be no greater than £250 annually, and can be funded from the Local Nature Reserve revenue budget.

8A Capital costs & funding		
	£	Comments
Capital Costs		
Artist and Artworks	28,815	All costs This commission will contribute to the works proposed as part of the wider project, adding the value of an artist to provide a creative interpretation to items identified in the wider project and to those existing budgets, which are contained within Appendix 1
Total Capital cost	28,815	
Capital Income / Funding		
S106 Public Art Initiative contributions	28,815	Requested funding
Revenue contributions		
Total Income	28,815	
Net Capital Bid	0	
Expenditure profiling:	£	Comments
Year 1: 20010 / 2011		<i>(Usually the current financial year)</i>
Year 2: 2011 / 2012	28,815	
Net Capital Bid	0	

Appendix A, Capital Project Appraisal profiling, should also be completed.

8B Revenue costs			
	In 2011/12 per (year) £	Ongoing £	Comments
Revenue Costs			
Employees			
Premises costs			
Transport			
Supplies & Services			
Repair & renewal contributions	250	250	LNR Budget
Total revenue cost	250	250	
Revenue Income			
New charges, rents etc.			
Existing revenue budget/s			
Total income			
Net revenue bid	0	0	

9 VAT implications. Comment on any VAT implications identified in consultation with the Finance Department.

- There are no adverse VAT implications to this project

10 Other implications. Comment on any other relevant implications including property, accommodation, environmental, health & safety, community safety, procurement, human resource, equal opportunities and diversity.

- These works provide safe access along the river and around the reserve, as well as enhancing biodiversity. It is hoped that these works would help to reduce anti-social behaviour at Paradise LNR.
- The proposed location for the site is in City Council ownership.
- The project is in a highly accessible location for all to view. Projects emanating from this commission will reach out to all sections of the community.
- The S106 Public Art initiative contribution for funding this project has a direct relationship to the site from where the contribution was commuted.

11 Estimate of staffing resource required to deliver the project. Comment on the availability of internal project team resources. Ensure that the costs of external resources required have been included in the financial table/s above.

- The project will be implemented as part of the principal accountabilities of the Senior Arts and Urban Design Officer and supported by the Nature Conservation Officer and the Community Reserves Officer.
- Works will be completed by end of November 2012

Skills required / internal or external	Estimated number of hours	Proposed Timescale	
		Start date	Finish date
Project management	50hrs/annum	October 2010	November 2012

12 Identify any dependencies upon other work or projects. Identify any other projects which cannot progress until this particular piece of work is complete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This commission requires to be fully integrated with the wider works proposed for the Upper River Cam Biodiversity Project.
13 Background Papers. List any background papers used in the preparation of this project appraisal.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape Master plan (June 2008) Paradise Project http://www.lnr.cambridge.gov.uk/uploads/Paradise-LMP1.067.pdf CCC Nature Conservation Strategy (2006). http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/public/pdfs/Nature-Conservation-Strategy.pdf Biodiversity Action Reporting System http://www.ukbap-reporting.org.uk/uploaded/files/S41%20NERC%20List%20-%20May%202008v2.xls Coe Fen & Sheep's Green Conservation Plan (2001) Paradise Local Nature Reserve Management Plan County Wildlife Site Register (2005) Sheep's Green and Coe Fen DRAFT Management plan

14 Inspection of papers			
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Filename/path	N:\POLICY AND PROJECTS\	Last amended	25.08.10

Finance Department use only:

Project Approval Dates	Date
Approved by DoF	
Reviewed by AMG / ICT	
Executive Councillor Approval	
Scrutiny Committee Approval (if applicable)	
Council Funding Approval	
Added to Hold List	
Removed from Hold List	
Added to Capital Plan	

S106 funding			28,815			Citywide Informal Open Space
R&R funding						(State cost centre/s)
Earmarked Funds						(State cost centre/s)
Existing capital programme funding						(Programme ref.)
Revenue contributions						(State cost centre/s)
Total Income	0		28,815	0	0	
Net Capital Bid	0	0	0	0	0	