

Item

S106 FUNDING ROUND 2021: OPEN SPACES AND PLAY AREAS



To:

Councillor Alex Collis, Executive Councillor for Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Sustainable Food and Community Wellbeing

Environment & Community Scrutiny Committee 7th October 2021

Report by:

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Wards affected: Abbey, Coleridge, East Chesterton, Market, Petersfield, Queen Edith's, Romsey, Trumpington and West Chesterton wards.

Key Decision

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Council uses S106 contributions to mitigate the impact of development on facilities and amenities in Cambridge. Through its 2021 generic S106 funding round, the Council has invited proposals for improvements to open spaces and play areas, focused on those parts of the city where the relevant generic S106 funding is still available.
- 1.2 Sixteen proposals for improvements to open spaces and play areas have been received through this 2021 funding round. The Council thanks all those who have taken the time and effort to apply. The proposals have been assessed against the relevant S106 selection criteria. Seven (either in whole or in part) are eligible, affordable and ready to be allocated S106 funding now. A number of other eligible proposals are also being actively considered, subject to S106 funding availability. In addition, three other projects allocated S106 funding in the 2020 round are recommended for additional funding, which has become available.

2. Recommendations

Recommendations 2.1, 2.2 & 2.4 are subject to business case approval and project completion or significant progress within 18 months.

The Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Sustainable Food and Community Wellbeing is recommended to:

- 2.1 Allocate informal open space generic S106 funding to the following projects (see the assessments in paragraphs 4.1-4.2 and Appendix B).

Table 1: Recommended 2021 S106 funding proposals

No.	Project proposal	S106 funding
2.1.1	Alexandra Garden Rec: additional seating (West Chesterton ward)	£5,000
2.1.2	Jesus Green: seating, benches and additional trees (Market ward)	£13,000
2.1.3	Midsummer's Common community orchard: improved seating, bins, paths and new raised beds (Market ward)	£15,000
2.1.4	Coldham's Lane play area: benches, bins noticeboards (Romsey ward)	£10,000
2.1.5	Parker's Piece tree-planting: supplement for information boards (Market ward)	Up to £5,100
2.1.6	Trumpington Rec Ground environmental enhancements (Trumpington ward)	£70,000

- 2.2 Delegate authority to the Director of Neighbourhoods & Communities to allocate open space and play area generic S106 funding formerly from Trumpington ward but now in Petersfield, still available for eligible open space and play improvements in Petersfield (see paragraphs 4.3- 4.4). This could include some play area improvements at St Barnabas Court play area. These allocations would be in consultation with Petersfield councillors, the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Sustainable Food and Community Wellbeing, Opposition Spokes and the Chair of the Environment and Communities Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.3 Instruct officers to seek detailed updated estimates of the likely construction costs of the Coldham's Common BMX track improvement project and to take appropriate follow-up action (see paragraph 4.5).

- 2.4 Allocate additional informal open spaces S106 funding to the following projects supported in the 2020 S106 funding round (paragraph 4.6).

Table 2: Recommended additional allocations to existing projects

No.	Project proposal	S106 funding
2.4.1	Chesterton Recreation Ground wheelsports project: landscaping (East Chesterton ward)	£15,000
2.4.2	Five Trees open space: wildflower and tree-planting (East Chesterton ward)	Up to £10,000
2.4.3	Pearl Close play area and community garden improvements (East Chesterton ward)	£5,000

- 2.5 Instruct officers to take a more targeted approach for the 2022 generic S106 funding round to seeking eligible proposals for open space and play improvements from the remaining generic S106 funds, with a greater focus on dialogue with councillors (see paragraph 4.7).

3. Background

- 3.1. The Council has secured off-site S106 funding from developers to help mitigate the impact of local development in Cambridge. An ‘Overview of S106 funding’ briefing note is available on the Council’s website¹. The key point is that S106 funding can only be used for the purposes for which it has been agreed. Table 3 provides examples of projects that have been funded using S106 funding for informal open spaces and play provision.

Table 3: Examples of open spaces and play area S106 projects

Types	Mitigation projects can include:
Informal open spaces ²	For council-owned/managed parks & open spaces: paths, signs, landscaping, fencing/gates, trees/shrubs, drainage, habitat creation, benches, bins, noticeboards.

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1. The ‘Overview’ briefing note explains why developer contributions are collected, how they are used and the difference between generic and specific S106 contributions.
 2. Informal open space S106 funds can be used on protected open spaces in the city, as set out in the Open Spaces & Recreation Strategy 2011.

Types	Mitigation projects can include:
Play provision	New/improved outdoor, public play areas and facilities for children and teenagers (council-owned/managed), plus related safety surfacing.

- 3.2 To qualify for S106 funding proposals for open space and play area improvements must meet the following criteria³. In summary, proposals need to be:
- a. eligible for S106 funding⁴ (e.g., within the city of Cambridge and **not** for repairs, maintenance, like-for-like replacements or running costs);
 - b. affordable within the S106 funding available in the appropriate contribution type⁵;
 - c. about providing additional benefit⁶;
 - d. an effective use of resources (e.g., related to relevant Council strategies, such as the Outdoor Play Investment Strategy 2016-21⁷);
 - e. accessible, in line with Council equalities policies;
 - f. realistic, achievable & ready (i.e., deliverable within around 18 months of a funding decision);
 - g. financially viable, with a robust business case and/or management plans.

3.3 Over many years of S106 funding, all wards have benefitted from the provision or improvement of local open spaces and play areas, funded by local S106 contributions. A summary of S106-funded open spaces

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3. The S106 selection criteria are publicised on the Council's website and are included in the applicant packs for each annual S106 funding round. The criteria formed part of the funding round arrangements agreed by the Executive Councillor in March 2019.
 4. All S106 contributions have to be used in line the with terms set out in the particular S106 agreements through which they were secured. These terms cannot be altered simply by changing the Council's S106 selection criteria. S106 funding agreed for one type of infrastructure cannot be used for another type.
 5. See also paragraph 3.6 and the related footnote.
 6. Again, it is important to emphasise that the purpose of S106 funding is, first and foremost, about mitigating the impact of development (not addressing other pre-existing needs or, indeed, the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic).
 7. The Outdoor Play Investment Strategy aims to maximise the use of available resources and associated future investment opportunities to deliver high quality, high value, well used outdoor play provision for children and young people.

and play area improvements completed since March 2019, and other projects that have been initiated via more recent S106 funding rounds, can be found in Appendix A. The Covid-19 pandemic over the last 18 months has, inevitably, led to delays in delivering on-going S106-funded projects: officers have been called upon to address the implications for the Council's parks and open spaces. The Coronavirus has also contributed to restrictions on the availability of building materials and associated rising costs. Appendix A includes revised timescales for completing on-going projects.

3.4 Whilst most generic⁸ S106 funds have already been spent or allocated to projects, the Council still runs annual funding rounds to identify appropriate uses for those not yet unallocated. As in previous years, the 2021 funding round has focused on seeking project proposals from those wards that still have S106 funding available locally, that is for:

- open spaces in (or close to) Abbey, Coleridge, East and West Chesterton, Market, Petersfield, Queen Edith's, Romsey and Trumpington wards; and
- play area(s) in Trumpington ward⁹.

3.5 The 2021 round has followed the standard process agreed in 2019, albeit later than originally scheduled (again, a reflection of competing workload pressures arising from the Coronavirus pandemic).

a. S106 proposals were invited between mid-July and the end of August 2021. This was publicised via the Council's website, social media and news releases. Officers have then assessed the applications against the S106 selection criteria in September 2021.

b. Where S106 funding is available locally, ward councillors have been invited to put forward eligible proposals and asked to encourage

8. Generic S106 contributions (for providing or improving particular types of infrastructure) are ones that were agreed before changes to the regulations governing the use of S106 funding in April 2015.

9. As well as seeking proposals for public open spaces and play areas in Cambridge for the Council to improve, the 2021 generic S106 funding round has invited grant applications for small-scale public art projects and community facilities improvements (covered by other S106 reports elsewhere on this agenda)

local residents to do the same. Last month, all councillors were given the opportunity last month to comment on eligible proposals¹⁰.

- 3.6 As mentioned in previous S106 funding round reports, the availability of the remaining generic S106 funds is limited and unevenly spread. This reflects differences across the city in (i) the amount and scale of housing development in each ward from which developer contributions have been collected and (ii) spending on/allocations to S106-funded projects in each ward to mitigate the impact of development¹¹.
- 3.7 Officers regularly review S106 funding allocations to check that there is a clear link in terms of which projects are funded by which developments and contribution types.
- a. The assessment of proposals recommended for funding in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 takes account of this latest analysis (and can be afforded from relevant unallocated generic S106 funds).
 - b. At the same, officers are still working through the availability of S106 funding for open spaces and play area improvements in East Area, in particular. For example:
 - i. In the context of the changes to ward boundaries in May 2021, officers are currently clarifying how much S106 funding from developments formerly in Trumpington ward, but now in Petersfield, might now be available for the new ward^{12,13}.

10. Comments from councillors on proposals received (and initial officer assessments of those proposals) are included in Appendix B. While every effort is made to take account of councillors' views, the requirements of S106 funding mean that it can only be used on projects that meet the S106 selection criteria.

11. Local projects (mitigating the impact of local development) tend to be funded from nearby S106 contributions from the same ward (at the time that the project was allocated fund) or from nearby developments in neighbouring wards that would also benefit. Meanwhile, strategic projects (benefitting larger parts of Cambridge) tend to be funded from around half the S106 contributions from major developments from the same Area or from major developments in other areas which would also benefit.

12. Please note, however, that much of this funding has already been used appropriately on improvements in Trumpington, and at other locations near the developments (including in Petersfield) and also on strategic open space and play improvement projects in East, South and West/Central areas.

13. These issues are considered further in paragraphs 4.3 and 4.4 and are also addressed by recommendation 2.2.

- ii. Questions relating to the costs of the Coldham's Lane BMX track improvement project, already allocated £85,000 of generic S106 funding from Abbey and Romsey ward, are also being considered.¹⁴

14. This issue is considered further in paragraph 4.5 and are also addressed by recommendation 2.3.

4. Consideration of open spaces and play area proposals

- 4.1 The 16 proposals for open space and play area improvements that have been received during the 2021 round have all been assessed against the selection criteria summarised in paragraph 3.2.
- a. Seven (in whole or in part) have been assessed as meeting the selection criteria have been recommended for S106 funding now¹⁵.
 - b. Four are not recommended for various reasons, including that they are unlikely to be deliverable within 18 months of a funding decision.
 - c. Five are not eligible for S106 funding – where appropriate, applicants are being pointed in the direction of other sources of funding.

See Table 4. A more detailed assessment can be found in Appendix B.

- 4.2 Officers are keen to see as many proposals as possible succeed in their bid for S106 funding. At the same time, officers take care and attention in applying the S106 selection criteria fairly and consistently across all wards and in making sure that S106 contributions are only used for the intended purposes. Regrettably, this means that it is not possible to recommend all proposals for S106 funding. Wherever possible, officers are pointing unsuccessful applicants in the direction of other sources of funding or advice.
- 4.3 As part of a fair and consistent approach to supporting all wards within the city, officers are also mindful of the need to work particularly closely with councillors in Petersfield ward at this time.
- a. Even though officers stand by the assessment of the proposals in this report, the potential for disappointment within the ward is recognised¹⁶.
 - b. Local councillors are keen to make sure that Petersfield has access to remaining unallocated open space and play contributions from developments formerly in Trumpington, which could be made available for local use.

15. This includes the six proposals featured under recommendation 2.1 and the proposal for improvements to St Barnabas Court play area, covered by recommendation 2.2.

16. Only one of six open space and play proposals from Petersfield in the 2021 round has passed the S106 selection criteria and have been recommended for funding.

Table 4: Summary of assessments of S106 proposals in 2021 funding round

	Project	Officer assessment
A.	Alexandra Gardens play area: additional benches	Recommended
B.	Barnabas Court: play area improvements	Recommended within local S106 funding still available
C.	Coldham's Lane: green canopy tree pits for 15 street trees	Not S106 eligible. Referred for EIP funding
D.	Coldham's Lane play area / Coldham's Common: open space improvements	Recommended (in part)
E.	East Road: environmental improvements	Not S106 eligible. Referred for EIP funding
F.	Hinton Ave & Cavendish Ave: environmental improvements	Not S106 eligible. Referred for EIP funding
G.	Jesus Green: open space improvements	Recommended (in part)
H.	Parker's Piece & Christ Pieces: wildflower meadow & tree planting information boards	Recommended (in part)
I.	Midsummer Common community orchard: open space improvements	Recommended
J.	Mill Park: new play area	Not recommended
K.	Mill Road Cemetery: Gwydir Street entrance and path	Not recommended
L.	Donkey Common: skate park changes	Not recommended
M.	Petersfield area: window box scheme	Not S106 eligible. Referred for EIP funding
N.	Trumpington Meadows Country Park: Under-5s play area (and space for storage container)	Not recommended (and may not be eligible in part)
O.	Trumpington play groups: indoor play equipment	Not S106 eligible.
P.	Trumpington Recreation Ground: environmental enhancements	Recommended

- 4.4 S106 funding rounds, although useful, can set applicants and assessors on different sides, with officers having to critique which proposal meet the S106 selection criteria. Officers are keen to develop a greater dialogue to help the local councillors to help find a more constructive way forward to identify proposals that would be S106 eligible and achievable within 18 months.
- a. Recommendation 2.5 proposes how this would be applied to any ward with informal open space and play provision S106 contributions still available after the 2021 S106 funding round: this is discussed further in paragraph 4.7.
 - b. In the meantime, applying this approach to Petersfield, in particular, this means that:
 - i. Officers are in the process of clarifying how much local generic S106 funding for open space and play provision improvements might reasonably be freed up for local use now¹⁷;
 - ii. An informal open space S106 allocation (amount to be confirmed) is being recommended (see paragraph 2.2) for Petersfield in this 2021 round to help achieve local open space improvements in a ward where few eligible proposals of this type have previously come forward^{18,19}.

This does not change the assessment of any of the proposals from Petersfield in the 2021 funding round. However, it is hoped that this offer will be recognised as a sign of the continuing commitment to support Petersfield, in the same way as all wards are supported.

- 4.5 Whilst recommendation 2.1.4 proposes a S106 funding allocation for Coldham's Lane play area: benches, bins noticeboards, officers are not yet in a position to recommend funding also for the amphitheatre

17. This will help to clarify how much funding can be made available for the eligible proposal for some play equipment improvements at St Barnabas Court play area

18.apart from over £135,000 of S106 funding for main path improvements at Mill Road Cemetery, which was approved in 2015 and delivered in early 2019.

19. For example, eligible open space improvements in Petersfield might include new benches, bins and wildflower or tree-planting in a park or protected open space within the ward (e.g. Ainsworth Street Play Area, Donkey Common, Flower Street Play Area, Mill Road Cemetery, Petersfield, Ravensworth Gardens, St Matthew's Gardens, St Matthew's Piece and Shenstone Play Area).

landscaping proposal at Coldham's Lane play area. This is in the context of the on-going uncertainty about the budgetary requirements for the longstanding the Coldham's Common BMX track improvements project.

- a. In view of rising construction costs arising from the Coronavirus pandemic, there are questions about how far the project should go in improving play provision and open space improvements and whether the project would still be affordable within the current S106 budget of £85,000²⁰.
- b. Recommendation 2.3 seeks to achieve greater clarity on likely BMX track improvement project costs now in order to identify the way forward.
 - i. If it transpires that sufficient eligible improvements project can be funded from within the existing S106 allocation, officers would update the Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Sustainable Food and Community Wellbeing, the Opposition Spokes, the Scrutiny Committee Chair and the local councillors for Abbey and Romsey wards. If there is a consensus of opinion that the project can proceed, officers will then develop a business case for the scheme in the normal way.
 - ii. If, however, the likely costs of the BMX track improvement project are likely to require more than the current funding allocation (or if there is not a consensus on the way forward), officers will report back to this scrutiny committee on the options and the implications for the use of the existing S106 allocations.

4.6 In the 2020 S106 funding round, the (then) Executive Councillor agreed to allocate the limited amounts informal open space S106 funding from East Chesterton to three projects in the ward. Since then, the regular officer review of S106 allocations (mentioned in paragraph 3.7) has identified ways to adjust the funding to S106 projects that reflect the nature of those projects better. This has freed up more informal open space S106 funding from East Chesterton. As a result, there is an

20. These questions about the level of BMX track and wider and open space improvements are likely to affect the levels of play provision and informal open space S106 funding which would be appropriate for the project.

opportunity to supplement the last year's limited allocations to the following three projects. This is covered by recommendation 2.4.

- a. Up to an additional £15,000 of informal open space S106 funding is requested to supplement the existing £70,000 budget for the Chesterton Rec wheelsports project. This is needed in part to fund the additional material needed to landscape or blend the existing half-pipe into the new track, but more notably because of the rise in supply and delivery costs post-Covid 19, which is affecting all of industry nationwide. (Please note that the Trumpington Rec wheelsports project in 2019 cost £80,000, so the new total for the Chesterton Rec project is similar). Councillor Bird has given her support for this proposal²¹.
- b. Up to an additional £10,000 of informal open space S106 funding is requested to supplement the existing £5,000 budget for the five Trees wildflower and tree-planting project. This is alongside separate grant funding from other sources that is being secured.
- c. Up to an addition £5,000 of informal open space S106 funding is requested to supplement the existing £5,900²² budget for the Pearl Close play area & community garden improvements project. This would help to increase the levels of landscaping improvements possible.

4.7 Following the 2021 round, the levels of residual generic S106 funding for open space and space area improvements is likely to be dwindling and limited to a small number of wards. Paragraph 4.3 suggests that a more effective way to identify suitable projects for the remaining generic funds might be by developing greater dialogue with the local councillors. This could be a starting point for identifying proposals with greatest prospects of being eligible, rather than raising expectations unduly via an open application process. Recommendation 2.5 asks

21. The proposals for increasing S106 funding for the Pearl Close and Five Trees projects were not included in the summary of proposals sent to councillors. This explains why no Member comments have been received in support of these two proposals.

22. Based on existing allocations of £2,900 (play) and £3,000 informal open space). It is unlikely that any further play provision S106 funds will become available locally.

officers to develop this approach further for the 2022 funding round for open space and place area S106 proposals²³.

5. Implications

Financial Implications

- 5.1 The annual S106 funding rounds are a useful way of regularly allocating and spending S106 contributions to eligible project proposals: this helps to make appropriate and timely use of the S106 funds, to mitigate the impact of development and to reduce the risk of having to return to developers any contributions that go beyond their 'use-by' dates. The converse is that allocating funds to projects that do not meet the S106 selection criteria or which are less likely to be delivered in a timely manner increases the risk of challenge.
- 5.2 Following this report, officers will continue the focus on making sure that:
- a. there is greater clarity on how much unallocated funding is available in each ward (especially, in Petersfield with its revised boundaries);
 - b. the use of S106 contributions continue to be monitored and allocated to relevant projects (with on-going adjustments to allocations, as necessary)²⁴;
 - c. projects keep on being brought to completion in good time and that a clear way forward is reached on long-standing projects (e.g., the Coldham's Common BMX track improvement project);
 - d. arrangements for future S106 funding rounds help to find suitable projects for remaining unallocated generic S106 funds in a constructive and effective way that engages councillors.

Staffing Implications

- 5.3 The delivery of the open space and play area improvement projects, to which the Executive Councillor decides to allocate S106 funding, will be

23. This will lead to different approaches for different contribution types, as appropriate. For example, the allocation of community facilities generic S106 funding will still be based on a grant application round because there is more funding available in a greater number of wards in Cambridge.

24. If it transpires that not all the S106 funding allocations requested are needed for the recommended projects, any underspend can be returned to the unallocated S106 fund for local use in future rounds.

managed within existing resources within the Streets & Open Spaces team.

- 5.4 The Coronavirus pandemic has brought significant implications and additional workload pressures. The team is completing the delivery of on-going projects featured in Appendix A. It remains to be seen whether further Covid-related pressures will arise in the coming months and whether this might affect on-going or new project delivery timescales. This will be monitored closely. Any significant delays will be reported back in future S106 reports to this committee.

Equality and Poverty Implications

- 5.5 In the light of concerns raised about the earlier proposals for a Trumpington Rec Ground landscaping project, an equality impact assessment (EqIA) has already been completed for the refocused Trumpington Rec environmental improvements scheme.
- 5.6 In line with the approach to previous S106 funding rounds, EqIAs for other project proposals that are allocated S106 funding by the Executive Councillor will be developed as part of the business cases process (as appropriate²⁵) and signed off by the relevant managers.

Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change & Environmental Implications Procurement Implications Community Safety Implications

- 5.7 In line with the approach to previous S106 funding rounds, these considerations for project proposals that are allocated S106 funding by the Executive Councillor will be developed as part of the business case process (as appropriate) and signed off by the relevant managers.

6. Consultation and communication considerations

- 6.1 The arrangements taken to publicise the funding available and application process are detailed in paragraph 3.5a. Those proposals recommended for S106 funding, if approved, will be subject to further consultation as part of the business case process (as appropriate).

25. This applies especially to projects over £15,000.

7. Background papers

Background papers used in the preparation of this report:

- Open space and play area proposals (redacted) received during the 2021 S106 funding round, and related officer assessments;
- Equality Impact Assessment for Trumpington Recreation Ground environmental enhancements proposals
- ‘S106 Funding Round 2020: Play Areas and Open Spaces’ report to Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee, 29 September 2020;
- ‘S106 Funding: Next Steps (Streets and Open spaces)’ report to Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee, 21 March 2019;
- ‘S106 Priority-Setting: Open Spaces, Play Areas, Public Real and Public Art’ report to Community Services Scrutiny Committee, 8 October 2015;
- Open Space and Recreation Strategy 2011, Cambridge City Council.
- Outdoor Play Investment Strategy 2016-21, Cambridge City Council
- Further information can be found on the [Developer contributions - Cambridge City Council](#) web page.

8. Appendices

- A. Open space and play provision S106-funded projects completed since 2018 or being implemented
- B. Assessment of open space and play area proposals in the 2021 S106 funding round

9. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

- For Assessment of open space and play area proposals:
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- S106 funding round process and S106 funding availability:

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Open spaces and play provision S106-funded projects completed since 2019 or being implemented

The S106 report to the Community Services Scrutiny Committee in March 2019 featured lists of completed S106 projects by ward since 2012. Here is an update on those projects that were identified at that time as ‘on-going’ plus other projects that have been allocated S106 funding since then (e.g., in the 2019 and 2020 generic S106 funding rounds).

Project	Progress
CITY-WIDE PROJECTS	
‘Bee banks’ in large parks Open spaces S106 funds: £5,000 (Allocated in 2019) Wards: East Chesterton, Coleridge, Trumpington and Market	We have consulted on one site at Logan’s Meadow to be delivered in the first phase of the Local Nature Reserve extension in Summer 2022. One other site is yet to be identified for delivery in 2022.
NORTH AREA	
Alexandra Gardens play area improvements & landscaping Play provision S106 funds: £15,000 Open spaces S106 funds: £20,000 Ward: West Chesterton	Now complete
Arbury Court play area: landscaping & equipment Play provision S106 funds: £15,000 Open spaces S106 funds: £15,000 (Allocated in 2019) Ward: Arbury	Now complete
Bramblefields LNR: open space improvements Open spaces S106 funds: £10,000 Ward: East Chesterton	Works to extend the successful Brownfield Habitat Creation and the creation of a reptile hibernaculum have been specified. The aim is to consult in Winter 2021 and deliver in Summer/Autumn 2022.

Project	Progress
<p>Bramblefields local nature reserve: more planting</p> <p>Open spaces S106 funds: £10,000 (Allocated in 2019) Ward: East Chesterton</p>	<p>Trees have been planted, with additional planting to be completed as part of above improvements.</p>
<p>Chesterton Rec Ground wheelsports park</p> <p>Play provision S106 funds: £70,000 (Increased allocation in 2020) Ward: East Chesterton</p>	<p>Seeking an additional £15,000 to proceed (see paragraph 4.5 and recommendation 2.4.1). If confirmed, aim to deliver in Spring 2022</p>
<p>Chestnut Grove Play Area: benches and bins</p> <p>Open spaces S106 funds: £7,500 (Allocated in 2019) Ward: West Chesterton</p>	<p>Completion expected in Autumn 2021.</p>
<p>Five Trees open space: wildflower and tree planting</p> <p>Open spaces S106 funds: £5,000 (Allocated in 2020) Ward: East Chesterton</p>	<p>Consultation currently live on the proposals for a new meadow and 'Tiny Forest'. Up to an additional £10,000 of S106 funding is now proposed (see paragraph 4.5 and recommendation 2.4.2). Aim to complete in Autumn 2022.</p>
<p>Jubilee Gardens: improved access, landscaping, planting and seating</p> <p>Open spaces S106 funds: £40,000 (Allocated in 2019) Ward: West Chesterton</p>	<p>Current public consultation ends on 30/9/21. One the findings have been taken into account; the works will be put out to tender. Works programmed to be completed in Spring 2022.</p>
<p>Logan's Meadow: provide more benches and bins</p> <p>Open spaces S106 funds: £7,500 (Allocated in 2019) Ward: East Chesterton</p>	<p>The Project is under development and linked to the Local Nature Reserve extension work planned for 2022.</p>

Project	Progress
<p>Pearl Close play area & community garden improvements</p> <p>Play provision S106 funds: £2,900 Open spaces S106 funds: £3,000 (Allocated in 2020) Ward: East Chesterton</p>	<p>This Project has been scoped. A request for an additional £5,000 is proposed in paragraph 4.5 and recommendation 2.4.3.</p>
EAST AREA	
<p>Accordia open space improvements</p> <p>Open spaces S106 funds: £10,000 Ward: Petersfield</p>	<p>Now complete</p>
<p>Accordia open space: drainage swales & biodiversity information boards</p> <p>Open spaces S106 funds: £5,000 (Allocated in 2020) Ward: Petersfield</p>	<p>The swale management has been agreed and will be implemented in Winter 2021/22.</p>
<p>Coldham's Common BMX track improvements</p> <p>S106 funds allocated: £85,000²⁶ Ward: Abbey</p>	<p>This has progressed with the completion of report that was commissioned to assess the feasibility different improvement options. The current budget uncertainties, given the impact of the Coronavirus on construction costs, is considered further in paragraph 4.5 and recommendation 2.3.</p>
<p>Coleridge parks and open spaces: tree planting</p> <p>Open spaces S106 funds: £13,000 (Allocated in 2020) Ward: Coleridge</p>	<p>28 new trees identified for Coleridge Recreation Ground in the first phase of planting this year at an estimate cost of £6k. More planting to be identified in the second phase of planting on 2021/22.</p>

26. The Coldham's Common BMX track will be funded predominantly from play provision S106 funds, supported by some open spaces S106 funding for landscaping.

Project	Progress
Hobson's Brook footbridge Open spaces S106 funds: £69,000 Ward: Petersfield	Now complete
Robert May Close play area: equipment and benches Play provision S106 funds: £35,000 Open spaces S106 funds: £5,000 (Allocated in 2019) Ward: Coleridge	Now complete
St Matthew's Piece play area improvements Play provision S106 funds: £25,000 Open spaces S106 funds: £10,000 Ward: Petersfield	Now complete
Thorpe Way Rec Ground: new footpath Open spaces S106 funds: £15,000 Ward: Abbey	Currently being scoped. A public consultation may be required with delivery expected in Spring 2022.
SOUTH AREA	
Cherry Hinton Hall grounds improvements - phase 2 Open spaces S106 funds: £400,000 Ward: Cherry Hinton	Now complete
Cherry Hinton Hall play area improvements & landscaping Play provision S106 funds: £90,000 Open spaces S106 funding: £60,000 (Allocated in 2019) Ward: Cherry Hinton	Now complete
Consort Way play area fencing Open spaces S106 funds: £5,500 (Allocated in 2019) Ward: Trumpington	Now complete

Project	Progress
<p>Holbrook Road play area improvements</p> <p>Play provision S106 funds: £46,000 Open spaces S106 funds: £1,000 (Allocated in 2019) Ward: Queen Edith's</p>	Now complete
<p>Nightingale Avenue Rec Ground: new all-weather footpaths</p> <p>Open spaces S106 funds: £25,000 (Allocated in 2019 and 2020) Ward: Queen Edith's</p>	First section of footways has been completed. The aim is to complete the second section in late Winter 2021/22.
<p>Nightingale Ave Rec community garden: accessible poly-tunnel</p> <p>Open spaces S106 funds: £1,500 (Allocated in 2019) Ward: Queen Edith's</p>	Now complete
<p>Nightingale Avenue Rec Pavilion: landscaping</p> <p>Open spaces S106 funds: £10,000 (Allocated in 2020) Ward: Queen Edith's</p>	This landscaping work will take place once the Pavilion construction works have been completed.
<p>Trumpington Rec Ground trim trail</p> <p>Open spaces S106 funds: £20,000 Ward: Trumpington</p>	Now complete
<p>Trumpington Rec Ground wheelsports project</p> <p>Play provision S106 funds: £80,000 Ward: Trumpington</p>	Now complete
WEST/CENTRAL AREA	
<p>Jesus Green ditch: landscaping & biodiversity improvements (plus ecological & educational space)</p> <p>Open spaces S106 funds: £53,000 (plus £7,000) (Allocated in 2019) Ward: Market</p>	An outlined design has been finalised. Public consultation is planned for this autumn, to be followed by a planning application.

Project	Progress
<p>Jesus Green: new wildflower meadow</p> <p>Open spaces S106 funds: £18,000 (Allocated in 2019) Ward: Market</p>	<p>Now complete</p>
<p>Jesus Green: BBQ area & signs, drinking water fountain</p> <p>Open spaces S106 funding: £12,500 (Allocated in 2019) Ward: Market</p>	<p>BBQ area and signage/bins completed. Water Fountains opened in July 2020 (on easing of Covid-19 restrictions) at Lammas Land and, Jesus Green.</p>
<p>Midsummer Common Community Orchard: drinking water fountain</p> <p>Open spaces S106 funding: £2,500 (Allocated in 2019) Ward: Market</p>	<p>Working with Cambridge Water to secure supply to point in orchard. Delivery expected in late 2021.</p>
<p>Parker's Piece paths: grass reinforcements</p> <p>Open spaces S106 funds: £75,000 Ward: Market</p>	<p>Now complete</p>
<p>Sheep's Green LNR: biodiversity bank improvements at Mill Pond</p> <p>Open spaces S106 funds: £22,000 (Allocated in 2019) Ward: Market</p>	<p>Currently reviewing the proposed location of this project to maximise the environmental enhancement. The project may be moved to adjacent ditches in the surrounding area.</p>

Assessment of Open Space and Play Provision proposals in 2021 S106 round

Proposal:	A. Alexandra Gardens play area: additional benches
Ward:	West Chesterton
Applicant:	Local resident
Purpose:	To provide two additional wooden benches between the two existing benches for the play area. The play area has become more popular, and the current seating is now insufficient.
Councillor comments:	Councillor Bird (East Chesterton) has given her support for this proposal.
Officer assessment:	Landscaping and play area improvements at Alexandra Gardens were completed in 2020. Additional benches within the play area would be possible. Funding recommendation: £5,000 (informal open space)

Proposal:	B. St Barnabas Court play area improvements
Ward:	Petersfield
Applicant:	Councillor Robertson
Purpose:	To enhance existing play equipment at the play area. For example, perhaps provide a larger roundabout, replace the single swing with a double, replace the seesaw with a small climbing frame.
Officer assessment:	As mentioned in paragraphs 3.7b, officers are currently clarifying how much play provision S106 funding from developments formerly in Trumpington ward might be available for play area improvements in Petersfield. This might be sufficient for a small number of pieces of new play equipment. This play area is small and therefore restricts the scope for additional play equipment. However, there may be scope to add play value with new features and design improvements. Officers could also explore possibilities for making further small improvements to the play areas at Ravensworth Gardens (Petersfield), subject to local consultation.

	<p>This could make use of play provision S106 contributions from development around Cambridge Station, which could be freed up. These contributions are for play area improvements within the local vicinity.</p> <p>Funding recommendation: Amount to be clarified (play provision)</p>
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Proposal:	C. Coldham's Lane green canopy
Ward:	Romsey
Applicant:	Coldham's Lane Resident's Association
Purpose:	An improvement to the green canopy of Coldham's Lane (Sainsbury's roundabout - Beehive), by funding tree pits for 15 trees (gifted to the Residents' Association by the Queen's / Woodland Trust's 'Green Canopy').
Councillor comments:	Councillor Pounds strongly supports the proposals for the tree pits for trees along Coldham's Lane. "This is a community which suffers badly from heavy, fast-moving traffic and trees will considerably improve their environment in terms of pollution and also make traffic more aware that this is a residential area."
Officer assessment:	<p>Regrettably, this is not eligible for open spaces S106 funding. The proposal relates to street trees, not trees within parks & open spaces.</p> <p>This proposal is being referred to the Project Team that administers the Council's Environment Improvement Programme (EIP) funding. It is also being referred to the Tree Team so that other sources of funding can be explored, and the scheme feasibility be determined. Often utilities and services in the highway constrain tree planting locations.</p>

Proposal:	D. Coldham's Lane play area / Coldham's Common open space improvements
Ward:	Romsey
Applicant:	Coldham's Lane Resident's Association
Purpose:	(i) Signage to prevent mopeds driving across Coldham's Common and to prevent idling on Coldham's Lane (Sainsbury's roundabout - Beehive); (ii) a green amphitheatre within the play area; (iii) benches, picnic benches and

	additional bins within the play area, and along the Chisholm Trail; and (iv) a community noticeboard within the play area.
Councillor comments:	Councillor Pounds strongly supports. “The number of residents in the area will shortly increase considerably with the development of the Timberworks site in Cromwell Road, including a large number of council tenants ²⁷ . Alongside improvements to the play area and trees we are also working with the County Council for additional zebra crossings on Coldham’s Lane to the play area to facilitate safe access.”
Officer assessment:	<p>Proposal recommended in part: for benches, bins and community noticeboards for Coldham’s Lane play area. Funding recommendation: £10,000 (informal open space) Other elements of this proposal are not recommended.</p> <p>Proposal (i) is a revenue budget item, which can be addressed separately, not using S106 funding.</p> <p>Whilst proposal (ii) could be eligible for S106 funding, given the uncertainties around S106 funding requirements for the existing Coldham’s Common BMX track project, it is not possible to recommend S106 funding for this project at this stage. See paragraph 4.6. Recommendation 2.3 aims to clarify the situation in the coming months. Depending on the outcome, it may be possible for the amphitheatre proposal to be re-considered in due course.</p> <p>Again, in this context, the use of S106 monies to provide additional litter bins and benches on the Chisholm trail is not supported at this time. The applicant may wish to approach the project team managing the Chisholm trail.</p>

Proposal:	E. East Road environmental improvements
Ward:	Petersfield
Applicant:	Local resident
Purpose:	Seek funding to plant trees to provide shade for open play spaces/shrubs/bee beds on our council estate to create habitat for wildlife and improve our open spaces.
Councillor comments:	Councillor Robertson has queried why the proposal is not eligible when it includes trees/shrubs and habitat creation.

27. Officer note: mitigations for the impact of the recent developments in Romsey ward referred in this councillor comment are covered by specific S106 agreements.

Officer assessment:	Regrettably, this is not eligible for open spaces S106 funding. This site is not classified in the Open Space and Recreation Strategy 2011 as a protected open space. This proposal will be referred to the team that administers EIP funding.
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Proposal:	F. Hinton Avenue and Cavendish Avenue environmental improvements
Ward:	Queen Edith's
Applicant:	Local resident
Purpose:	To improve biodiversity through planting on Hinton Avenue, specifically on a strip of the triangle of green space on the intersection of Hinton Avenue and Cavendish Avenue.
Officer assessment:	Not eligible for open spaces S106 funding. The land forms part of the Highway, managed by the County Council. This site is not classified in the Open Space and Recreation Strategy 2011 as a protected open space. This proposal will be referred to the team that administers EIP funding.

Proposal:	G. Jesus Green open space improvements
Ward:	Market ²⁸
Applicant:	Park Street Residents' Association
Purpose:	To provide re-seeding and landscaping improvements to the north east corner of Jesus Green (bin enclosure) as well as seating/benches and additional trees.
Councillor comments:	Councillor Porrer has commented that both she and Councillor Bick support the proposal. "We support the improvements proposed to Jesus Green by Park Street Residents' Association around the North East corner and would urge the council to address the issue with bins as soon as possible via the new litter strategy if it cannot be provided by S106 funding."

28. In relation to the three proposals in Market ward (shown here as G, H and I), Councillor Porrer has commented that, "We note that our green spaces within Market ward have been heavily used by residents from across the city during the pandemic, as well as by Market residents, so any improvements taken forward will benefit all users, as well as our returning visitors now that we are out of lockdown."

Officer assessment:	<p>Proposal recommended in part: seating, benches and additional trees. Funding recommendation: £13,000 (informal open space)</p> <p>Other elements of this proposal are not recommended.</p> <p>The litter bin components are not recommended as this amount to repairs and therefore ineligible for use of S106 monies. Items relating to bins and bin locations will be addressed in the forthcoming Litter Strategy. Nor can S106 funding be used for maintenance & repairs (e.g., re-seeding).</p>
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Proposal:	H. Parker's Piece & Christ Pieces: wildflower meadow & tree planting information boards
Ward:	Market
Applicant:	Councillor Porrer and Councillor Bick
Purpose:	Information and interpretation signage for residents and visitors at the wildflower meadows and new tree planting sites on Parker's Piece and Christ's Pieces, to help inform park visitors of the rationale for the city's planting strategies. To explain the recent investments in green infrastructure, the new tree species and why these were chosen, plus an explanation on how these are managed.
Councillor comments:	In response to the suggestion that only S106-funded planting projects may be eligible for S106-funded information boards, Councillor Porrer has commented, "If the boards for wildflower meadows cannot be funded this way, we are very keen to explore other means of doing this. Boards explaining the tree planting would still be very welcome."
Officer assessment:	<p>Proposal recommended in part: Information boards relating to the S106-funded tree-planting project on Parker's Piece. Funding recommendation: £5,100 (informal open space) in addition to the £9,900 existing funding allocation.</p> <p>Information boards can only be S106-funded if they support S106-funded open space biodiversity projects. This does not include the wildflower meadow projects on Parker's Piece or Christ's Pieces, which have been funded from other sources. However, Streets & Open Spaces aims to fund the boards for those other projects from revenue funding, if possible.</p>

Proposal:	I. Midsummer Common community orchard: open space improvements
Ward	Market
Applicant:	Friends of Midsummer Common
Purpose:	Improving seating, paths, and bins in Midsummer Common Community Orchard, some new raised beds, and improving irrigation arrangements in the orchard.
Councillor comments:	Councillor Porrer has commented that she and Councillor Bick support the proposal are grateful for all the work that the Friends have put into this special community area to make it such a great space. "The community orchard has been a welcome and well-used resource as more and more people use the common. We hope that the issues with water can be resolved in discussion with the Friends Group."
Officer assessment:	Proposal recommended in part: improved seating, bins, paths and new raised beds. Other elements of this proposal are not recommended. There are concerns relating to the installation and use of drinking water for irrigation and officers would welcome further discussion with the Friends Group about alternatives (e.g., the use of water butts instead). At this stage, however, this proposal is not ready to be considered ²⁹ .

Proposal:	J. Mill Park: New play area
Ward:	Petersfield
Applicant:	Councillor Robertson
Purpose:	To provide the children in the Mill Park / Warren Close / Vinter Terrace area with a play park, with equipment suitable particularly for younger children.
Councillor comments:	Councillor Robertson points out that there is a local proposal to negotiate with Brookgate for them to hand back part of the land which the council owns and is leased to them.
Officer assessment:	This proposal is not recommended. Following on from the S106 agreement for the CB1 Station Area Redevelopment, the Council entered into a licence

29. Further analysis will also be carried out by officers following the 2021 funding round, to establish the remaining levels of informal open space S106 funding availability.

	<p>agreement to transfer to Brookgate responsibility for the use of the land on which the councillor proposes a play park.</p> <p>This play area proposal would require a change to the current licence. The timescales required to negotiate such a change (assuming that Brookgate are willing to consider it), to consult locally (assuming that nearby residents raise no objections) and to source future maintenance funding are expected to take in excess of 18 months. In this context, the proposal is not yet ready to be considered.</p> <p>If this proposal were to become ready for consideration in due course, there is a concern that there could be insufficient time to deliver the project using time-limited local S106 contributions.</p> <p>Local S106 funding has already been used to improve play areas in the vicinity and a local public art project is also being developed to support informal/creative play in the locality. The City Council has allocated up to £90,000 of S106 public art contributions to develop the 'Art of Play' public art project in the CB1 area.</p> <p>The proposal to improve the nearby play area at St Barnabas Court is recommended for approval.</p>
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Proposal:	K. Mill Road Cemetery: Gwydir Street entrance and path
Ward:	Petersfield
Applicant:	Mill Road Cemetery Working Group
Purpose:	(i) To create a new properly-surfaced path in keeping with a Grade II listed cemetery to connect the unofficial gate into cemetery with the main north to south path; and (ii) to eliminate other desire paths from the Gwydir Street entrance to the main path and protect the grassland of this county wildlife site.
Councillor comments:	Councillor Robertson believes that the footpath could be completed with 18 months. He points out that, via regular meetings of the cemetery's stakeholders, there have been positive discussion with the Diocese and with Streets & Open Spaces. It was extremely beneficial that that main paths project were completed before Covid because the volume of people using the cemetery for exercise grew enormously during lockdown and has continued at a high level.

Officer assessment:	<p>This proposal is not recommended. There are concerns that it is not yet ready to be considered, not least because a Faculty will be needed for this project from the Diocese.</p> <p>The previous main footpath improvement project at Mill Road Cemetery (over £135,000 of S106 funding) took three years to complete, in part because of the time needed for Faculty approval.</p> <p>When S106 funding for the main footpath improvements was agreed in October 2015, the committee report ruled out the possibility of improving secondary and cut-through paths (given the risk of laying new surfacing on top of unmarked graves). The applicants would need to clarify how the new proposal would mitigate this risk and how this potential added complexity might affect the timescales for securing new Faculty approval.</p> <p>Whilst the dialogue within the Mill Road Cemetery Working Group is useful, local consultation would also be needed with owners of land adjacent to the Gwydir Street entrance.</p> <p>By the time that this project proposal is ready to be considered, there is a concern that the time-limited local S106 funds currently available might be getting too close to their ends dates.</p>
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Proposal:	L. Donkey Common: changes to skate park
Ward:	Petersfield
Applicant:	Cam Skate
Purpose:	To remove the existing skate ramps on Donkey Common and introduce a new, flat ground smooth surface for skating. This would enable flexible community use, including wheeled sports and community events. Also seek additional trees and landscaping. Estimated cost: £70,000-£100,000.
Councillor comments:	<p>Councillor Robertson has commented that:</p> <p>The existing provision is badly designed, and under-used as a result. He believes that a better designed skate park at Donkey Common would attract users from this part of the city, particularly younger ones who are less likely to travel across to the other sites.</p>

	<p>That said, Councillor Robertson has raised concerns about the amount of concrete surfacing in the latest Cam Skate proposals. The biodiversity issues would also need to be scrutinised. He is surprised about the proposals for trees and landscaping and would question their appropriateness.</p> <p>At an on-site meeting he attended with officers & Cam Skate in 2019, no increase in the hard surface area was proposed.</p>
Officer assessment:	<p>This Cam Skate proposal is not recommended.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are concerns about the loss of grass to concrete and creating hard surfaces close to established trees. • The proposal new facility would join the path directly, with limited segregation from other path users on a busy corner (a considerable safety risk). • A £70,000+ proposal would not be affordable locally from the appropriate S106 contribution types (e.g., play provision as well as informal open space). • There are also questions about whether this project would represent an effective use of resources given in the context of the Jesus Green skate park, Accordia scooter park facility (for younger children) in Petersfield, as well as the existing and planned wheelsports projects (e.g., at Trumpington Rec Ground and Chesterton Rec Ground). <p>The officer who attended the on-site meeting with Councillor Robertson in 2019 confirms that Cam Skate's proposals now are different from their earlier ideas for simplifying the existing facility, removing ramps, resurfacing and replacing with a handful of small steel bar/bench skate features.</p>

Proposal:	M. Petersfield window box scheme
Ward:	Petersfield
Applicant:	Councillor Robertson
Purpose:	To provide window boxes and plantings beds in the streets where almost all houses have no front gardens.
Councillor comments:	Councillor Robertson takes the point that this proposal would not qualify for informal open space S106 funding. He thinks that this is a great pity given the great shortage of such space in Petersfield ward and wonders whether we should look at the criteria in that light for future funding.

Officer assessment:	Regrettably, this is not eligible for open spaces S106 funding, which is about improvements to parks and protected open spaces within the city. This proposal will be referred to the Project Team that administers the Council's Environment Improvement Programme (EIP) funding.
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Proposal:	N. Trumpington Meadows Country Park: Under-5s play area (and space for storage container
Ward:	Trumpington
Applicant:	Trumpington Meadows Delivery and Action Group
Purpose:	Seeks permission to maintain and make use of an open space at the country park, owned by the council but currently unused and over-grown. This would be for an under 5's play area with wooden frame baby & toddler swings, picnic tables as well as 2-3 child size Teepee tents for 'community' play. Additionally, a 20-foot secure storage container would be installed for desperately needed storage requirements by the 1st Trumpington Scouts.
Councillor comments:	Councillor Flaubert has commented "The application should be extended to older children range to benefit more families in the community. Given that the area is near to the nature reserve area, I would suggest wooden play equipment."
Officer assessment:	<p>This proposal is not recommended.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council is the leaseholder of this site. Any material change to the use and function would need consent from the freeholder. There are also concerns relating to risk and liability associated with activities set out in the project. • Play areas have already been provided within the new developments on the Cambridge Southern fringe. • The applicants may also need to discuss their ideas for a storage container on the land with the Planning Service. • The applicants may also wish to contact the Trumpington Residents Association in respect of storage and facilities' that could support the 1st Trumpington Scout, Beavers and Cubs. The 2022 community facilities S106 funding round will particularly encourage bids from those organisations running community meeting spaces for improving storage facilities for their users.

Proposal:	O. Trumpington play groups: indoor play equipment
Ward:	Trumpington
Applicant:	Councillor Robertson Connected Lives, Cambridgeshire Hub
Purpose:	New furniture and play equipment for a newly established 'Hands-on-the-Circle' (HONC) stay-and-play group in Trumpington (at Trumpington Village Hall), plus improved play equipment for an existing stay-and-play group in Trumpington (at Clay Farm Centre).
Councillor comments:	County Councillor Slatter is "sorry to see this is not eligible."
Officer assessment:	Regrettably, this proposal is not eligible for play provision (or community facilities) S106 funding. This is not an outdoor, free-to-use public play area (and the equipment would not be available for use by children in the wider community).

Proposal:	P. Trumpington Rec Ground: environmental enhancements
Ward:	Trumpington
Applicant:	Council Streets & Open Spaces team
Purpose:	To implement a range of biodiversity measures as well as providing an amenity to the widest possible community. Enhancements around the edge of the rec ground include: planting 20 trees, 5 bee banks (recycled timber /stone), intermittent earth mounds/rills, benches, reclaimed/recycled boulders and access points (with lockable gate).
Councillor comments:	County Councillor Slatter has commented that she is "very pleased to see this proposal making progress. Happy with constructive suggestions being made by the team in conversation with councillors. Good local support."
Officer assessment:	Since an earlier proposal in the 2020 funding round was deferred, officers have developed the underlying concepts further, in consultation with local councillors, to ensure that it is focussed on mitigating the impact of development. An equality impact assessment has also been developed to ensure the fairness of the revised project proposals. The project is now ready to be considered and would be eligible for S106 funding. Recommended funding: Open space S106 funds: £70,000.