
REPORT TO:	Cabinet Member Environment Waste Reduction and Recycling
DATE:	27 June 2022
SERVICE AREA:	Environment Waste Reduction and Recycling
REPORTING OFFICER:	Commercial and Transformation Officer, O&D <i>Jennie Atherton</i>
SUBJECT:	Horticultural Nursery- approval of recommendations agreed by Programme Board
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL DISTRICT
FORWARD PLAN REF:	N/A

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide a progress and next step summary for the Horticultural Nursery Project
- 1.2 To seek approval from Cabinet Member EWRR to commission a professional appraisal of the preferred site option, as agreed by the June 2024 Programme Board.
- 1.3 To seek approval from Cabinet Member EWRR for further additional funding agreed by the June 2024 Programme Board. Funding approval from CM REED will also be sought.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

- 2.1 To note the work undertaken in the last period, since December 2021.
- 2.2 To approve the pre-planning professional site appraisal on the preferred site, including initial topography; planning; existing services and highways advice; and a build visualisation. Costs of which will be charged to the existing £50,000 approved funding.
- 2.3 To approve the additional £50,000 from the Invest to Save fund, agreed at Programme Board, to support further preparatory work associated with progressing the Relocation of Horticultural Nursery project through the next phase; including in depth professional advice, site surveys, investigations, planning fees and other works.

3.0 RECOMMENDED REASON/S FOR DECISION/S

- 3.1 The need for a professional site appraisal and site investigation is critical to progressing this project through the planning phases. Any advice and findings will support the Project Team in making informed decisions and to take appropriate action through the pre planning and planning stages.
- 3.2 Approval to progress with those steps set out in paragraphs 2.2; and support the approval of additional funding in paragraph 2.3 - the Project Team anticipates additional costs and for expediency, requests that funds are approved in advance.
- 3.3 Approval of those recommendations set out at 2.2 and 2.3 will provide officers with sufficient authority to proceed with securing further investigative works; in order to progress this project to the Planning stages.

4.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTION/S CONSIDERED AND RECOMMENDED FOR REJECTION *(Must be used for reports to Cabinet & Cabinet Members)*

- 4.1 Cabinet Member has the option not to approve the recommendations set out in this report:
- 4.2 *DO NOTHING* - This would halt the commissioning of investigative site appraisal work; preventing the project from progressing. This is not recommended.
- 4.3 *PROGRESS TO PRE-APPLICATION AND PLANNING WITHOUT SITE APPRAISAL* would likely jeopardise any successful pre-application or planning application as officers would not be able to present a full and reasoned application that is informed and evidenced. This is not recommended.
- 4.4 *NOT APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING* – as the project progresses towards and through planning it will be a requirement that certain surveys are undertaken and advice sought from professional bodies. Without funding approval any planning application is likely to be significantly delayed while additional funds are requested and approved on an ad hoc basis; preventing timely progression of the project. This is not recommended. The recommendation is therefore, to approve paragraphs 2.1 – 2.3.

5.0 THE REPORT

- 5.1 Programme Board unanimously approved the recommendations of the Horticultural Nursery Options Appraisal dated 09 June 2022.
- 5.2 For convenience the report recommendations approved by Board were to move forward with the preferred site option, and next steps are outlined below:
- Submit Pre-application to Planning for the preferred site only.
 - Commission professional 'desk-top' site survey and advice, including Topography; Planning; Existing Services; Highways; Visualisation of Build. Funded from existing approved funding.

- Engage an architect to develop an outline nursery design that is site specific which will inform refined capital costings. Funded from existing approved funding.
- Agreed request for an additional £50,000 to continue to support additional preparatory works.

6.0 REQUIRED ASSESSMENTS AND IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The following were considered: Financial Implications; Human Resources Implications; Legal Implications; ICT Implications; Strategic Property/Asset Management Considerations; Risk Assessment; Equality and Diversity (the Public Sector Equality Duty and impact upon people with protected characteristics). If applicable, the outcomes of any consultations, assessments, considerations and implications considered necessary during preparation of this report are detailed below.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

The project team have identified a preferred site for the Nursery in consultation with Planning, Strategic Properties, Highways and Ecology. The project now requires professional input to inform and guide through the next phase.

Background Papers

OFFICER CONTACT: Please contact (Jennie Atherton, Commercial and Transformation Officer), if you require any further information on the contents of this report. The officer can be contacted at (*Team/Service Name, PO Bo 787, Harrogate, HG1 9RW or the relevant office address*) 01423-(tel no) or by e-mail – (e-mail)