

## Agenda item 4

### For Information – Improving the public toilets in Victoria Park

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#### Summary

This report presents an update on the project to improve the public toilets in Victoria Park.

It follows the discussion at the Council Matters meeting in February this year – just before lockdown - when Councillors agreed a new approach for the project: improving and refurbishing the existing toilets building.

#### Background

The background to this project was covered in the report to the Council Matters committee in February this year. At that meeting, it was agreed that for various reasons a new building for the park was proving impractical – and potentially too costly.

Instead, we're now planning to update and refurbish the existing toilet building; in conjunction with other landscaping works elsewhere in the park. As before, these wider works will include demolishing the existing storage building in Victoria Park (near the bowls club). This will

afford natural lines of sight and a more natural link and relationship between Victoria Park and Mary Baily.

### Project scope

This means that the scope of the agreed project is now as follows:

- Improving and adapting the existing toilets building
- Demolishing the existing storage building at the middle entrance to Victoria Park
- Preparing a new planting scheme for the eastern boundary of the park (the one closest to and facing Mary Baily)
- Including new planting for the bed immediately outside the toilets

### Improving and adapting the existing toilets

This is the key part of the project and our priority.

Inevitably, we have been interrupted by both the pandemic and lockdown; but we are currently discussing this part of the project with three companies that specialise in the design and provision of public toilets:

- Danfo ([www.danfo.com/en](http://www.danfo.com/en))
- Healthmatic ([www.healthmatic.com](http://www.healthmatic.com))
- LAN Services ([www.lanservicesltd.co.uk](http://www.lanservicesltd.co.uk))

We were already looking at design ideas and technologies that will limit or remove the need to touch surfaces within the toilets; and this is obviously something that everyone is more aware of and mindful of now.

### Costs and budgets

These will be confirmed in detail at a subsequent Council Matters meeting.

The main part of the project – refurbishing and improving the toilets - is still expected to be paid for from an agreed and capped Earmarked Reserve of £38k.

One early estimate suggests this figure may not be enough; but we are waiting for fully detailed and costed proposals from the companies mentioned above; and this will give us a clear picture of both the costs and our options.

### Day to day

Responsibility for checking and cleaning the toilets on weekdays has now been moved to the Town Hall cleaning team, freeing up the Rangers for work across our wider estate.

We are also looking to bring weekend and Bank Holiday cleaning in-house by appointing a new member of Staff to the Town Hall cleaning team; enabling that person to look after the toilets in the park; as well as providing additional cover at the Town Hall (which is becoming busier at weekends and in the evenings).