

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	Decision to fund up to £63,840.00 of Section 106 monies for “Education” (Youth) to appoint design services for redevelopment of Ross Skate Park at Wilton Rd, Ross-on-Wye HR9 7BY.
Date of decision:	26 February 2025
Decision maker:	Service Director Education, Skills & Learning
Authority for delegated decision:	Economy and Environment scheme of delegation line 71 Corporate Centre Directorate Scheme of Delegation line 159 Cabinet decision dated 02 March 2023 - Section 106 Portfolio of Works – S106 Delivery Proposals. Cabinet Report 02 March 2023
Ward:	Ross North
Consultation:	Internal consultation with Quentin Mee (Head of Educational Development, HCC), Sarah Buffrey (Schools Organisation and Capital Investment Officer, HCC) and Ruth Jackson (Open Space Planning Officer) External consultation with Ross Town Council and Cllr E O’Driscoll (Ross East), and Cllr L Stark (Ross West).
Decision made:	Decision to fund up to £63,840.00 of Section 106 monies for “Education” (Youth) to appoint design services for redevelopment of Ross Skate Park at Wilton Rd, Ross-on-Wye HR9 7BY.
Reasons for decision:	<p>Ross Skate Park has reached the end of its economic life and poses a health & safety risk to community users. Overall improvements to the asset have been impacted by budgetary constraints, which have only allowed for minor maintenance / urgent requirements such as works to combat vandalism and anti-social behaviour. The skate park has been in operation for over 20 years and the condition has deteriorated beyond the point of feasible maintenance and therefore requires significant upgrades.</p> <p>The site has significance to the community as a skate park / recreational area. The site is surrounded by additional facilities including Wilton Road Car Park, Ross Sports Club, Ross-on-wye Cricket Club and Ross Tennis Centre, all of which are well used by the community. The site also acts as a key connectivity route from the area into the town centre in close proximity to River Wye. The asset being currently at risk of loss presents an issue to the community, given Ross-on-Wye generally has a lack of youth / community focused areas.</p> <p>The project proposal is for Ross-on-Wye Town Council to enter into a long leasehold agreement and redevelop the skate park and surrounding areas to a more modern standard and integrate a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA), BMX Track and other community-based facilities, which will improve and enlarge the current offering of the asset.</p> <p>The redevelopment will aim to offer a range of benefits that extend beyond recreation into both community life and well-being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of Active Lifestyles - A revitalised skate park coupled with a MUGA / community facilities will serve as a catalyst for promoting active lifestyles.

- **Social Cohesion & Inclusivity:** The proposed development embodies inclusivity and social cohesion by providing a place to converge and interact.
- **Youth Empowerment and Skill Development -** The proposal will serve as incubators for youth empowerment and skill development.
- **Tourism & Economic Boost -** A revitalised recreational social area has the potential to attract visitors from neighbouring communities and beyond, stimulating local tourism and bolstering the towns economy.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** The redevelopment project presents an opportunity to integrate environmentally sustainable practices into the design and delivery phases.

Herefordshire Council is therefore seeking to appoint a landscape architect & specialist Skate Park designers to lead on detailed design, stakeholder engagement and statutory approvals, for the proposed redevelopment of Ross Skate Park.

In line with Herefordshire Councils Contract Procedure Rules (CPR's), a tendering exercise has been carried out via the Council's procurement portal. The project received significant interest with 13 suppliers providing submissions.

Following evaluation, it is recommended that a contract is placed with ASA Landscape Architects for an agreed contract value of £53,840.

A contingency of £10,000 has been allowed for the completion of necessary surveys / planning requirements.

The project will be fully funded from 1 Section 106 legal agreements:

Planning Reference	GT / FIN Code	Contribution £	Expiry Date
P140684/O	FIN1962	£63,840.00	TBC – Trigger point not met

There has been no expenditure to date.

The programme of work is due to commence in February 2025 for a period of 6 months.

Responsibility for monitoring the project and managing expenditure within the total spend budget is to be with the S106 Programme Manager.

Equality Considerations

Equality duty

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

- a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

	The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services. Our providers will be made aware of their contractual requirements in regards to equality legislation.
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/considerations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost variation – Project has an assigned S106 budget, which it cannot exceed. • Unforeseen events/costs – Potential unknowns or unforeseen costs could lead to overspend. The S106 contribution is finite, any overspend would need to be provided through additional means.
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	<p>Not to fund.</p> <p>This option is not recommended.</p> <p>Alternative projects were considered in conjunction with the school however this project was determined to be the best use of available funds.</p>
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None declared.

Signed..... Date: 26 February 2025

Print Name: Liz Farr - Service Director Education, Skills & Learning

Please ensure that signatures are redacted before publishing.