

## **Report to Cabinet**

**Subject:** Establish a budget for Gedling Country Park Outside Seating Area

**Date:** 5 September 2019

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### **Wards Affected**

Gedling, Plains, Dumbles, Phoenix, Porchester, & Trent Valley Wards.

### **Purpose**

To obtain Cabinet approval to establish a capital budget and appropriate planning permissions for a new outdoor covered seating area at the Gedling Country Park Café 1899.

### **Key Decision**

This is not a key decision.

### **Recommendation(s)**

Cabinet approve the capital budget of £107,800 for the installation of a new outdoor covered seating area at the Gedling Country Park Café 1899, to be fully funded from Section 106 contributions.

Cabinet delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance to apply for any necessary planning permissions and consents, should they be required, to create the seating area.

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 Gedling Country Park is a flagship green space for the Council with large areas of open space, footpaths and wildlife for all to enjoy with stunning views over the surrounding areas. It is designated as a Local Nature reserve and has recently retained its “green flag” award status which

recognises well managed parks and green spaces.

- 1.2 The Council has ambitions to continually develop the park, and the installation of a new outdoor covered seating area immediately adjacent to Café 1899 is the latest of these projects to be considered.
- 1.3 The Café 1899 has been in operation for a few years now, and feedback from customers has made it clear that an outdoor covered seating area that provides protection from the sun in hot weather, or from the wind and rain in other times will provide a much needed facility for visitors and dog walkers alike.
- 1.4 A Section 106 open space contribution is available from the Spring Lane development (2007/0748) for spend at Gedling Country Park with a remaining balance of £107,800.
- 1.5 In order to secure a contractor and carry out the project, a budget must first be established in the capital programme.

## **2. Proposal**

- 2.1 Approval is sought to establish a capital budget of £107,800 for the installation of an outdoor covered seating area at Gedling Country Park to be fully funded from Section 106 contributions.

## **3. Alternative Options**

- 3.1 Not to set up the capital budget and use the Section 106 contribution on a different project at the country park. However this seating area is a request from customers of the park and café.

## **4. Financial implications**

- 4.1 The total cost of the project will be determined once a specification has been prepared and contractors are asked to tender for the opportunity.
- 4.2 The budget for the works will be capped at a maximum of £107,800.
- 4.3 The installation of the outdoor covered seating area is expected to have a positive impact on the operation and profitability of the Café 1899.

## **5. Appendices**

None.

## **6. Background Papers**

None.

## **7. Reasons for Recommendations**

- 7.1 All visitors to the country park will have the opportunity to visit the Café 1899 and the new seating area, which will provide an inviting area for relaxation and enjoyment. It will also enhance the experience for dog walkers who have not previously had the opportunity to relax in the Café environment and contribute to the delivery of the fitness and wellbeing agenda by providing a place for people to exercise.