


<b>Agenda Item No:</b>	10	
<b>Committee:</b>	Cabinet	
<b>Date:</b>	24 March 2025	
<b>Report Title:</b>	Fenland Inspire! - enhancements to the Wisbech Park Splash Pad	

## **1 Purpose / Summary**

- 1.1 To provide information on the proposed enhancements to Wisbech Park Splash Pad.
- 1.2 This is the first project in Wisbech to be brought forward for delivery as part of the £30m+ Fenland Inspire! programme which seeks to enhance the leisure and cultural legacy to be left by Fenland District Council after Local Government Reorganisation.

## **2 Key Issues**

- 2.1 The existing Wisbech Splashpad (located in Wisbech Park) was opened in August 2022 providing a range of aquatic play equipment for local and visiting children.
- 2.2 Planned enhancements to the Wisbech Park Splashpad will result in a direct investment in the existing park asset and will increase the attractiveness and accessibility of the splashpad to users.

## **3 Recommendations**

- 3.1 That Cabinet note the contents of the report and approve further work to be carried out to deliver enhancements to the Wisbech Park Splash Pad.
- 3.2 To authorise the S151 Officer to add £60,000 to the Capital Programme to fund the enhancements and delegate to the Portfolio for Open Spaces and the Corporate Director to enter in to all necessary arrangements to deliver the project.

Wards Affected	All Wisbech Wards
Forward Plan Reference	KEY/24FEB25/02
Portfolio Holder(s)	<p>Cllr Samantha Hoy – Portfolio Holder for Housing &amp; Licensing</p> <p>Cllr Chris Boden – Leader of the Council</p> <p>Cllr Peter Murphy – Portfolio Holder for Refuse &amp; Cleansing, Parks &amp; Open Spaces</p>
Report Originator(s)	<p>Carol Pilon – Corporate Director and Monitoring Officer</p> <p>Phil Hughes – Head of Leisure Services</p> <p>Matt Wright – High Streets Programme Manager</p>
Contact Officer(s)	<p>Carol Pilon – Corporate Director and Monitoring Officer <a href="mailto:cpilon@fenland.gov.uk">cpilon@fenland.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Phil Hughes – Head of Leisure Services <a href="mailto:phughes@fenland.gov.uk">phughes@fenland.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Matt Wright – High Streets Programme Manager <a href="mailto:mwright@fenland.gov.uk">mwright@fenland.gov.uk</a></p>
Background Papers	<p>Fenland District Council Business Plan 2025-26 <a href="#">Report and Plan.pdf</a></p>

## 1 BACKGROUND AND INTENDED OUTCOMES

- 1.1 The existing Wisbech Splashpad was opened in August 2022 providing a range of aquatic play equipment for local and visiting children. The facility, located in Wisbech park, was funded by CPCA and is now maintained by Fenland District Council.
- 1.2 As stated in the FDC Business Plan for 2025-26, Cabinet Members have committed to delivering a number of capital investment projects across Fenland within the next three years as part of the Fenland Inspire! initiative. The Fenland Inspire! projects focus on enhancing our much-loved sport, leisure, and open space facilities, as well as preserving and celebrating the district's rich heritage and built environment.
- 1.3 One of the Fenland Inspire! Projects will be improvements to the Wisbech Park Splashpad in the form of enhanced water features and a new shaded canopy area.

## **2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is envisaged that improvements to the Wisbech Park Splashpad will result in the following community outcomes:

### **2.2 Increased Usage and Visitor Engagement**

2.3 **Variety of water features:** Adding new interactive elements (e.g., water tunnels, misting walls, water cannons, or splash zones) can attract a broader range of age groups and make the space more fun and engaging.

### **2.4 Better accessibility**

2.5 **Inclusive Design:** Adding features like, sensory water elements, and water play areas for children with disabilities could make the space more inclusive for everyone in the community.

2.6 **Shaded Areas:** Adding pergolas or awnings can offer much-needed shade for families and help keep the environment comfortable during hotter months.

### **2.7 Improved Aesthetic Appeal**

2.8 **Themed Design:** A new landscaping design (e.g., natural elements like rocks, greenery, or a jungle theme) could enhance the visual appeal and make the area feel more community focussed.

2.9 **Colorful Features:** Adding vibrant tiles, murals, could make the splash pad more visually attractive.

### **2.10 Increased Social Interaction**

2.11 **Gathering Spaces:** With benches, picnic tables, or seating areas, the space could foster more social interactions among families and individuals.

2.12 The enhancements will also result in a direct investment in the existing park assets.

## **3 Costs and delivery timescales for the proposed enhancements to Wisbech Park Splashpad**

3.1 Designs for the enhancement of Wisbech Park Splashpad will be shared with lead members when available.

3.2 The capital cost of the enhancements is expected to be £60,000.

3.3 It is expected that the business case, procurement and construction of the enhancements will all be completed in the year 2025/26 (pending manufacture time).

3.4 It should be noted that a planning application will be required for a shaded canopy.

## **4 CONSULTATION**

4.1 N/A

## **5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

5.1 N/A

## **6 IMPLICATIONS**

### **6.1 Legal Implications**

There are no specific legal implications connected with the recommendations set out in this report. However, and as identified, appropriate procurement, planning and governance requirements must be adhered to.

### **6.2 Financial Implications**

At February Council, the funding of £30m was made available for Fenland Inspire! Projects and the borrowing costs and the Minimum Revenue Provisions (MRP) have been included in the revenue budgets for the next few years, from which this project will be funded.

### **6.3 Equality Implications**

6.4 Enhancements to the existing Splashpad are likely to make the area more appealing to everyone in the local community, including those with disabilities.