

Key Decision Details

Decision Name	Parks & Open Spaces - Commercial Sustainability Plan
Date of Decision	17 March 2026
Decision maker	Cabinet
Describe the Decision taken	<p>The Cabinet has</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) endorsed the principles put forward in the T3 Commercial Opportunities Report (Appendix 1), which will be adopted in seeking to support activities to reduce the costs of the service to the Council and provide a commercially sustainable approach for the service; and which will continue to contribute to the Councils wider strategies and outcomes for the District;2) supported the principles set out can be used in connection with the identified sites, but also applied in relation to other sites which the Council is or may become responsible for; including those falling within the remit of the Head of Leisure, Health and Environment to support wildlife and conservation, health and wellbeing, physical activity and the introduction of new commercial opportunities;3) approved the outline recommendations put forward by T3 Commercial Opportunities Report (Appendix 1), by external consultants, the proposed Phase 1 capital investment plan and wider direction of travel as outlined within this report;

- 4) approved the proposed Phase 1 programme of investment utilising the capital bids (£1m) which have been included within the 26/27 budget; and which have subsequently been agreed as part of the Councils Capital Programme;
- 5) acknowledged and supported that the Head of Leisure, Health & Environment continue to develop plans for Phase 2 and will submit capitals bids as part of the 27/28 budget setting process – or earlier if possible and supported by the Corporate Director (Finance and Resources) and Section 151 Officer; and
- 6) delegated authority to the Head of Leisure, Health & Environment all necessary activities required to deliver the capital expenditure plan (Phase 1), and within the agreed budgets enable the development, finalisation and delivery of new programmes, events and attractions which align with the principles agreed, and which will contribute to the commercially sustainable approach agreed.

What were the reasons for taking the Decision?

To create and launch a new Parks and Open Spaces Commercial Sustainability Plan

To utilise this plan to reduce the operational cost of £848,000 (2026-2027) to the service by March 2028.

To allow the Head of Leisure, Health & Environment to deliver the Phase 1 capital investment programme outlined within this report to support point 14.2.

To seek approval from Council that the Head of Leisure, Health & Environment can continue to progress and develop investment plans for the Phase 2 programme delivery and submit these for approval as part of the 2027/2028 budget process.

To use the new Commercial Sustainability Plan to support the wider Council corporate strategic priorities set out within the Corporate Plan and Place Strategies.

What alternative options were considered and rejected?

As outlined within the report.

Conflict of interest and dispensation

Is the decision a Key Decision?

Yes

Was the decision included in the Forward Plan

Yes

Was the decision subject to the urgency proceedings?

No

List the background papers to any report considered by the Decision Taker

Person Making this report

Gregg Holland, Head of Leisure Service, Health and

Environment

**Decision will be
effective the day
after call-in expires.
Call-in expires on**

25 March 2026

**Accompanying
Documents**

Parks and Open Space
Commercial Sustainability Plan
Report
Parks and Open Space
Commercial Sustainability Plan
Appendix 1.