



**REPORT of
CHAIRPERSON OF THE STRATEGIC ASSETS WORKING GROUP**

**to
STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
29 JANUARY 2026**

STRATEGIC ASSETS WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATION

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To consider the recommendation of the Strategic Assets Working Group related to the Celebration Pathway Project within the Promenade Park.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That the project to deliver the Celebration Pathway does not proceed
- (ii) That the Coronation Shelter is refurbished, and a new natural planting scheme is introduced to that area to complement the recently completed Secret Garden area and planting.
- (iii) The current funding allocated to the Celebration Pathway (£109,000) is utilised to fund the work at (ii) with any underspend returned to balances

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

3.1 On 12 June 2025 this Committee agreed to fund a range of projects as part of the Promenade Park Management Plan, which included the Celebration Pathway Project.

3.2 Good progress has been made in delivering these projects, which are on track for delivery in line with the agreed timescales

3.3 These projects are subject to regular reporting, and progress is overseen by the Strategic Assets Working Group (SAWG).

3.4 As part of the delivery of these projects the SAWG have undertaken a review of the Celebration Pathway project.

3.5 Following that project review The SAWG *is recommending that the original Celebration Pathway Project does not proceed for the following reasons;*

- (i) The current project does not deliver the 'memorial pathway' that Members had anticipated and also does not have a destination.
- (ii) The proposed location is unsuitable.
- (iii) The project does not fit in with the overall Prom Park Management Plan, and that area proposed would not be big enough for a pathway.

- (iv) There were concerns about the ongoing maintenance and lifecycle of materials as the new scheme could become unsightly if not regularly maintained.
- (v) The investment in this project would no longer offer value for money.

3.6 The SAWG felt that it was more important to invest in maintaining and enhancing current assets rather than create a new scheme / project. The proposed alternative project to refurbish the Coronation Shelter is therefore recommended as an alternative scheme.

3.7 This revised project would;

- (i) bring the existing Coronation shelter fully back in to use for the public, enabling the views from the Shelter to be maximised, and
- (ii) enhance this area through a natural planting scheme which would complement the planting scheme within the Secret Garden, which is adjacent, creating natural biodiversity area for children to enjoy and run around in.

3.8 It is anticipated that this revised proposal could be delivered within the current Celebration Pathway project budget of £109,000, with any underspend being returned to General Fund balances.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 The SAWG have carefully reviewed the Celebration Pathway Project, and feel that an alternative project, to repair and refurbish the Coronation Shelter with a new, natural planting scheme, would deliver improved outcomes, enhance as well as complement the adjacent Secret Garden play scheme and would offer better value for money by investing in the Council's existing assets.

4.2 The revised project could be delivered within the existing budget allocated for the Celebration pathway project.

5. IMPACT ON PRIORITIES AS SET OUT IN THE CORPORATE PLAN 2025 - 2028

5.1 Supporting our communities

5.1.1 The revised proposals support the Council's Promenade Park Management Plan, making the best use of our assets, and providing enhancements to the Promenade Park that will benefit our residents as well as visitors to our district.

5.2 Investing in our District

5.2.1 The repair and refurbishment of the Coronation Shelter and accompanying planting scheme will deliver significant improvements to the Promenade Park, benefitting both residents and visitors. It also demonstrates the Council's commitment to investing in its assets and facilities

5.3 Growing our economy

5.3.1 Continued investment in the Promenade Park will not only benefit our residents but will actively support tourism, and the wider economy, with local businesses benefiting from increased visitor numbers to the District.

5.4 Protecting our environment

5.4.1 The proposed natural planting scheme specifically supports this priority, including supporting and increasing biodiversity, and the refurbishment of the Coronation Shelter is another facility that will aid and support health and well-being of those that use Promenade Park.

5.5 Delivering good quality services

5.5.1 This proposal will help to support the high levels of satisfaction with the park are sustained through good maintenance and investment.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – These proposals will help to ensure that the Promenade Park continues be a high quality park, for both our residents and our visitors.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk (including Fraud implications)** – None.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – None – the proposals can be delivered within the existing budget allocated for the Celebration Pathway project.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – None.
- (vi) **Impact on Devolution / Local Government Reorganisation** – None.

Background Papers: None

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