

COMMITTEE REPORT

Subject:	<i>Approval of Environment Committee recommendation concerning the River Park S.106 obligations</i>
Committee:	<i>Full Council</i>
Item Number:	<i>17</i>
Date:	<i>26 May 2026</i>
Author:	<i>Interim Head of Environment</i>
Report status:	<i>Decision</i>
Confidential / Exempt:	<i>No</i>

1. Report Summary

1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask Full Council to approve the matter set out below.

1.2 On 29 September 2025, the Environment Committee agreed:

- the allocation of £75,000 of River Park S.106 funding for the purchase of a tractor.
- the officer recommendation to allocate the remaining River Park S.106 funding over a 15-year period.

1.3 In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations only Full Council can approve changes in earmarked reserves. This report seeks such approval.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that Full Council:

2.1 Endorse the Environment Committee's agreement of the Officer's recommendations as set out in the minutes of that meeting and approve the associated changes to reserves.

3. Background

3.1 On 29 September 2025, at an Environment Committee meeting, Councillors considered a report from Council Officers and:

- supported the allocation of up to £75,000 for the purchase of a tractor; and
- endorsed the officer recommendation to allocate the remaining S.106 River Park balance over a 15-year period.

3.2 As of 31 March 2026, the River Park S.106 balance was £695,000. From April 2026, £200,000 was allocated to fund the Tollgate Depot de-watering bay, leaving a remaining balance of £495,000.

4. Proposal

4.1 Subject to Full Council approval, £75,000 would be allocated for the purchase of a new tractor. This would reduce the remaining balance to £420,000.

4.2 It is proposed that the remaining £420,000 be profiled evenly over a 15-year period commencing in the 2027/28 financial year, equating to £28,000 per annum.

4.3 Full Council to approve the endorsement by the Environment Committee.

5. Implications

Implication Area	Impact	Comments / Mitigation
Financial	Medium	Allocation of £75,000 S.106 funding for the purchase of a tractor and commitment of the remaining balance over a 15-year period will reduce flexibility in the use of these earmarked funds. However, this provides long-term certainty for planned delivery and asset management.
Legal	Low	Use of S.106 funds must comply with the terms of the original agreement. Officers will ensure all allocations meet the legal requirements attached to the River Park obligations.
Risk	Medium	There is a risk that committing funds over a 15-year period may limit the Council's ability to respond to future changes or priorities beyond that timeframe. However, the Council already has staff resources in place to maintain the site, along with a pre-planned maintenance schedule to support its ongoing upkeep.
Personnel	Low	The proposal is expected to reduce unplanned demands on resources by enabling a more structured and forward-planned approach. No additional staffing implications have been identified.
Environmental Impact	Positive	Investment supports maintenance and management of River Park and associated green infrastructure, contributing positively to environmental quality and sustainability.
Equalities Impact Statement	Neutral	No direct equalities impact identified. The proposal relates to funding allocation rather than service change.
Community / Public Impact	Positive	Improved management and maintenance of River Park is expected to enhance public amenity, accessibility, and user experience.
Procurement / Contractual	Low	The Officer purchasing the tractor will need to comply with the Council's procurement rules. No complex contractual issues are anticipated.
Property / Asset	Positive	Acquisition of a tractor represents an enhancement of operational assets supporting ongoing maintenance of Council-managed land.
Data Protection	None	No data protection implications arise from this decision.

Background papers:

- Officer Report for 29 September 2025 Environmental Committee
- Environment Committee Minutes for the meeting on 29 September 2025