

COMMITTEE REPORT

Subject:	<i>Queen Elizabeth Gardens Section 106 maintenance of footbridge and ancillary works</i>
Committee:	<i>Full Council</i>
Item Number:	<i>18</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 transfer of £39,830.00 from section 106 Queen Elizabeth Gardens S/1994/1488-C to the General Reserve to provide a revenue budget in 2026/27 in order to discharge the Council's obligations.
- 1.2 This report provides the background, options, financial implications, legal and governance considerations, risks, and recommended course of action to support informed decision-making.
- 1.3 There is £39,830 of remaining Section 106 funding allocated for the maintenance of the footbridge at Queen Elizabeth Gardens. Officers are seeking Councillors' approval to transfer this funding into the Council's general reserves to go towards the replacement of at least one of the footbridges.
- 1.4 This report is being presented at this time because both bridges are approaching the end of their service life and now require replacement.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that Full Council:

- 2.1 Approves the transfer of £39,830 remaining funds from Queen Elizabeth Gardens s.106 to the General Reserve in order to provide a revenue budget in 2026/27 so Officers can organise for the replacement of at least one of the bridges.

3. Background

3.1 The date the bridges were installed in the park is unknown but predates the 2010 park refurbishment.

3.2 Since the £45,550 of Section 106 funding designated for the maintenance of the footbridge was transferred to the Council, Officers have incurred costs of £5,720 relating to structural surveys and drawings for the bridges.

4. Proposal

4.1 Officers propose that Full Council approves the transfer of the entire remaining £39,830 of Section 106 funding allocated for the maintenance of the footbridge into the General Reserve, to contribute towards the replacement of one of the bridges.

4.2 Replacing the footbridge maintains public access through the park and supports the longevity of the recreational open space, as well as discharging the Council's legally binding planning obligation.

5. Financial Position

5.1 Due to the incompleteness of historic records, the receipt date for the £45,550 Section 106 funding is unknown. Over the past two years Officers have spent £5,720 on structural surveys, drawings, and associated plans of the bridges.

5.2 There is £39,830 remaining s.106 money for the maintenance of the footbridge.

5.3 Whilst this funding is subject to an expiry date of 2050, it is recommended that the full amount is utilised at this time to contribute towards one of the bridges, thereby enabling this Section 106 account to be closed.

5.4 The Responsible Finance Officer has been consulted and has approved this report.

6. Legal and Governance Considerations

6.1 Acceptance of the Section 106 agreement, including maintenance responsibility for the bridges and the related funding for footbridge maintenance constituted a legally binding planning obligation. As such, the Council is required to comply fully with the terms of the agreement.

6.2 Responsibility for implementation sits with the Interim Head of Environment.

7. Consultation and Engagement

7.1 Internal officers engaged:

- Interim Head of Environment
- Responsible Finance Officer
- Corporate team

8. Implications

Implication Area	Impact	Comments / Mitigation
Financial	Medium	After the remaining allocated s.106 funds are exhausted, future additional monies from the annual Preplanned Maintenance budget will be required to replace/maintain the bridges.
Legal	High	Must discharge the maintenance obligations in order to comply with s.106 agreement.
Risk	Low	Continued asset ownership and maintenance responsibilities; health and safety risks and public liability risks if the Council fails to adequately maintain the bridges.
Personnel	None	Personnel unaffected
Environmental Impact	Medium	Positive impact through maintaining one of the Councils principal parks.
Equalities Impact Statement	Low	Bridge will be fully accessible to all.
Community / Public Impact	High	Replacing the bridge maintains public access through the park.
Procurement / Contractual	Medium	Existing contractor to be used or a procurement exercise conducted.
Property / Asset	Medium	Continued maintenance of principal park.
Data Protection	Medium	Standard data handling arrangements apply