

# Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 13 January 2015

## Park and Pitch Drainage Programme

Item number	7.11
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	All

### Executive summary

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This report updates Committee on the progress made in delivering a programme to improve drainage in parks and recreational grounds which have suffered regular inundation and flooding in recent years.

It notes that of the 26 locations identified as requiring drainage improvements, four parks were completed in the budget year 2013/14 and a further four completed by October 2014. Drainage works in a further park is currently underway, and procurement has been completed and is underway for a further two parks.

### Links

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Coalition pledges	<a href="#">P42</a> , <a href="#">P43</a>
Council outcomes	<a href="#">CO4</a> , <a href="#">CO10</a> , <a href="#">CO20</a>
Single Outcome Agreement	<a href="#">SO2</a>

## Park and Pitch Drainage Programme

### Recommendations

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It is recommended that Committee:

- 1.1 Notes the progress in implementing the park and pitch improvement programme.
- 1.2 Notes that improvement works will be carried out on 12 of the city's parks and recreation grounds as detailed in the report.
- 1.3 Refers this report to the Culture and Sport Committee for consideration

### Background

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- 2.1 Following extensive inundation and flooding to Council parks and sports pitches, £500,000 was allocated to Parks and Greenspace as part of the 2013/2014 capital budget for improved drainage.
- 2.2 £212,000 was used for drainage works in 2013/2014, and the remaining £288,000 was carried into the 2014/2015 capital budget programme.
- 2.3 A list of the worst affected locations was collated and a programme of works prioritised. This report informs the Committee of progress in delivering the programme.

### Main report

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- 3.1 Over the last few years, there has been extensive flooding and persistent inundation of Council parks, gardens, and playing fields. As a consequence, sports matches have been regularly postponed and parks events cancelled or re-located to better drained sites. Investigations suggested that a number of locations were unable to drain the water effectively, and to enable them to do so would require significant investment in drainage improvements.
- 3.2 At its meeting of 7 February 2013, Council agreed to allocate £500,000 to a programme of drainage investigations and works.
- 3.3 Discussions with Parks, Neighbourhoods and Edinburgh Leisure staff, as well as sports teams and park users, identified a list of 24 of the worst affect sites. A further two parks were added to this list at the end of 2013.
- 3.4 Soil and drainage investigations were also procured from the Scottish Agricultural College Consultancy Services on a phased basis and actual works

procured on a project-by-project basis following consideration of assessment results and budget availability.

- 3.5 As of October 2014, works have been completed in Inverleith Park, Roseburn Park, Seven Acre Park, The Meadows, Seafield Recreation Ground, Ravelston Park, Drumbrae Park, and Dundas Park. Works have been procured for Davidsons Mains Park and Inch Park. Procurement has been initiated for Silverknowes Park and works are in progress at Leith Links.
- 3.6 Where feasible, works are timetabled to avoid clashes with sports use. Works on football pitches are timed for summer and on cricket pitches for autumn/winter. There is also care to avoid impact on events occurring in parks.
- 3.7 Of the 26 sites identified (see Appendix 1), 14 still require drainage improvement works, the cost of which is estimated at £500,000.

## Measures of success

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- 4.1 Improved drainage of parks and pitches and greater resilience of grassland for large scale events and sports

## Financial impact

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- 5.1 The £500,000 budget allocation approved in February 2013 enabled improvement works to be carried out on the following 12 park and pitch locations throughout the city; Inverleith Park (£82,400), Roseburn Park (£14,316), Seven Acre park (£11,272), The Meadows (£103,578), Seafield Recreation Ground (£31,891), Ravelston Park (£18,817), Drumbrae Park (£33,017), Dundas Park (£34,016) Inch Park (£20,809), Davidson's Mains Park (£6,009), Leith Links (£80,142), Silverknowes Playing Fields (estimate £65,000).
- 5.2 Further funding will be required in the future if the improvement programme is to be extended to other parks and pitches. Further professional assessment work will be undertaken to accurately determine the actual costs involved.

## Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

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- 6.1 There are no impacts for risk, policy compliance or governance identified.

## Equalities impact

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- 7.1 There is no relationship between the matters described in this report and the public sector general equality duty. There is no direct equalities impact arising from this report.

## Sustainability impact

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- 8.1 Investing in drainage will be an ongoing requirement if the Council's parks and pitches are to remain resilient to the anticipated impacts of climate change and levels of usage.

## Consultation and engagement

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- 9.1 Consultation was undertaken with Neighbourhood and Parks staff along with sports teams via the Pitches Group, which includes representatives for football, rugby, cricket, Edinburgh Leisure, and Culture and Sport. Site specific consultation was also undertaken with direct users, including Roseburn Cricket Club, Leith Links Steering Group, Meadows and Bruntsfield Links Advisory Group, and Edinburgh Northern Rugby Club.

## Background reading/external references

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None

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## Links

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<b>Coalition pledges</b>	P42 – Continue to support and invest in our sporting infrastructure P43 – Invest in healthy living and fitness advice for those most in need
<b>Council outcomes</b>	CO4 – Our children and young people are physically and emotionally healthy CO10 – Improved health and reduced inequalities CO20 – Culture Sport and major events – Edinburgh continues to be a leading cultural city where culture and sport play a central part in the lives and futures of citizens
<b>Single Outcome Agreement</b>	SO2 – Edinburgh's citizens experience improved health and wellbeing with reduced inequalities in health
<b>Appendices</b>	Appendix 1 – Sites Identified Requiring Drainage Works

### Appendix 1 – Sites Identified Requiring Drainage Works

<b>Park</b>	<b>Status</b>
1. Inverleith Park	Drainage Works Completed
2. Roseburn Park	Drainage Works Completed
3. Seven Acre Park	Drainage Works Completed
4. The Meadows	Drainage Works Completed
5. Seafield Recreation Ground	Drainage Works Completed
6. Ravelston Park	Drainage Works Completed
7. Drumbrae Park	Drainage Works Completed
8. Dundas park	Drainage Works Completed
9. Leith links	Drainage Works in progress
10. The Inch Park	Procurement completed – works still to begin
11. Davidson's Mains Park	Procurement completed – works still to begin
12. Silverknowes Playing Fields	Procurement in Progress
13. Muirwood Park	Identified as requiring drainage works
14. Muirhouse Linear Park	Identified as requiring drainage works
15. Marchbank Park	Identified as requiring drainage works
16. East Pilton Park	Identified as requiring drainage works
17. Union Park	Identified as requiring drainage works
18. Hunter's Hall	Identified as requiring drainage works
19. St Margaret's Park	Identified as requiring drainage works
20. Kingsknowe Park	Identified as requiring drainage works
21. Bloomiehall Park	Identified as requiring drainage works
22. Harrison Park	Identified as requiring drainage works
23. Fauldburn Park	Identified as requiring drainage works
24. Paties Road Recreation Ground	Identified as requiring drainage works
25. Braidburn Valley Park	Identified as requiring drainage works
26. King George iv Park	Identified as requiring drainage works

