

Information/Discussion Paper

Environment Committee – 14 September 2011

Imperial and Montpellier Gardens Strategy

This note contains the information to keep Members informed of matters relating to the work of the Committee, but where no decisions from Members are needed.

1. Why has this come to scrutiny?

- 1.1** This paper has been written to update members on progress with the redesign of Imperial Gardens. It contains the proposed phasing of the main design elements, approximate time tabling, and progress with grass re-instatement since the last festival took place in Imperial Gardens. Design Proposals, and pictures of the current state of grass re-instatements in Imperial Gardens will be on display during the meeting.

2. Background and History

- 2.1** Previously, Imperial Gardens has been the main public park used by the Cheltenham Festivals. Starting from 2012, it is proposed that the Jazz Festival will take place in Montpellier Gardens in May and the Science Festival in Imperial Gardens in June. Starting in October this year, the Literature Festival will take place in both Gardens.

- 2.2** At its meeting of 26th July 2011 Cabinet resolved the following:

- 1) That authority be delegated to the Director of Operations in consultation with the Cabinet Member, Sustainability and the Council leader, to go forward with a tendering process to undertake the first phase of the proposed works in Imperial Gardens
- 2) That tentage designs for Montpellier gardens be restricted to 4700M2, (excluding walkways and gazebos) and that authority be delegated to the Director Operations in consultation with the Cabinet Member Sustainability to agree the exact figure.
- 3) At the same time, authority be delegated to the Director (Operations) in consultation with the Cabinet Member, Sustainability and the Council leader to go forward with a tendering process for infrastructure in Montpellier Gardens.
- 4) That authority be delegated to the Director (Operations) in consultation with the Cabinet Member, Sustainability and the Council leader, to submit the relevant sections of the scheme for planning approval and listed building consent.
- 5) The final decision to go ahead with works in Imperial Gardens and Montpellier Gardens is to be referred back to Cabinet for decision on the 18th October 2011 in time for completion of works over the winter 2011/12.

3. Phasing of Works

3.1 Initial Cost estimates and available budget will allow the following elements to be priced for inclusion in Phase 1:

- Upgrade to electricity, water and foul water services.
- Modifications to Eastern entrance to accommodate higher loadings and setting down area.
- Landscape enhancement to Gardens Bar area, and side of town hall.
- Self binding gravel to side of town hall.
- Landscape refurbishment to Skillicorne Gardens (excluding shelter).
- Leveling, returfing and creation of new seasonal bedding layout.
- Rose / Shrub (sustainable) planting to existing shrubberies.
- Tree planting to central path.

3.2 Works to be deferred to later phases, and not yet funded:

- Skillicorne Gardens shelter.
- Pedestrian entrances to SE and NE corners of Imperial Gardens.
- Extend use of Natratex decorative surface to remaining macadam paths in Imperial Gardens.
- Introduction of heritage railings to boundary of Imperial Gardens

4. Next steps and timing

4.1 Applications have been made for planning and listed building consent where required. At the time of writing this report construction drawings and specifications are being finalised for the landscape construction elements and will be incorporated into three separate work packages for quotation by local contractors and returned by the end of September.

4.2 It is anticipated that work will start on site once the Literature Festival has vacated Imperial Gardens in mid October and will commence with the laying out of the proposed floral bedding scheme - with the intention of planting it up for Spring 2012. This will be followed by Skillicorne Gardens, the garden bar paved area, and eastern entrance modifications. Planting of Skillicorne Gardens, shrubberies and new trees will take place in late Winter / early Spring by in-house teams. All works are planned for completion before the Science festival in May 2012. A more detailed timetable will be produced once contracts have been awarded and lead in times for labour and materials are known.

5. Grass Reinstatement

- 5.1** From 2012 onwards it is proposed that substantial turf reinstatements are undertaken in both Imperial and Montpellier Gardens immediately following the Literature festival in October and extensive drill seeding prior to the construction of Jazz and Science Festival marquees in April and May.
- 5.2** As an interim measure this year a combination of turfing and drill seeding has be implemented to reinstate badly affected areas in Imperial Gardens. Pictures of these reinstatements will be on display before and after the scrutiny meeting along with the design proposals.

Background Papers	<p>Environment Scrutiny Committee, 2nd March 2011 - Imperial and Montpellier Gardens Strategy</p> <p>Cabinet, 15th March 2011- Imperial and Montpellier Gardens Strategy</p> <p>Council, 27th June 2011 - Imperial Gardens Outline Design and Consultation</p> <p>E&BI Scrutiny Committee, 18th July 2011 - Imperial and Montpellier Gardens Strategy</p> <p>Cabinet, 26th July 2011- Outline Design and Consultation</p>
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Scrutiny Function	Environment