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**Agenda Item:** Major Projects - The Leys/Courtside Hub

**Meeting Date:** Monday 9 March 2026

**Contact Officer:** Project Officer

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The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update regarding the major capital projects that are currently in flight.

### Background

As you are aware, Witney Town Council's Open Spaces Strategy cited five themes to deliver improvements for our community: Parks, Sport, Leisure, Infrastructure & Effectiveness.

This report aims to provide you with an update on the **The Leys/Courtside Hub** project linked to Parks and Recreation.



### Current Situation

- The project remains on schedule for completion in April/May 2026
- Officers approved the temporary closure of the Skatepark at the end of February to enable Courtside to complete the landscaping phase of the project. Care was taken to ensure the closure did not coincide with the half-term holiday and Courtside were made responsible for all public communications regarding the closure
- Officers are currently in discussion with Courtside regarding the terms of the lease agreement and the arrangements for releasing project funding.
- Courtside Hub project updates can be found using the following link:
  - [Courtside at The Leys | Courtside Hubs](#)

## **Impact Assessments**

The Town Council has a duty to consider the effects of its decisions, functions and activities on equality, biodiversity, and crime & disorder. Consideration should also be given to effects on the environment, given the Council's Climate Emergency declaration in 2019.

- a) Equality – n/a
- b) Biodiversity – the project plans to achieve over 100% improvement in BNG
- c) Crime & Disorder – contractors are on site, which ensures site security and reduces risk of trespassing, vandalism and anti-social behaviour
- d) Environment & Climate Emergency – building construction consists of environmentally friendly materials, which will also improve thermal efficiency and reduce energy consumption.

## **Risk**

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

- Officers intend to phase the council's £250,000 contribution to Courtside at set milestones that are weighted towards the end of the project, to minimise the risk of any financial loss.

## **Social Value**

Social value is the positive change the Council creates in the local community within which it operates.

- Increased variety of sports will encourage Witney's residents to exercise and feel the physical and social benefits
- The completion of the Courtside Hub, coupled with new skatepark, mini-golf, renovated splashpad and excellent play area, establishes the Leys as a destination park for the area.

## **Financial implications**

- Witney Town Council's contribution of £250,000 will be segmented and phased in accordance with project milestones and acceptable level of risk.
- Work is underway to renegotiate the lease between the council and Courtside

## **Recommendations**

This is a project update however any feedback is always appreciated.