

SUBJECT: WHITTON'S PARK PLAY INVESTMENT

DIRECTORATE: COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

REPORT AUTHOR: ANTONY ANGUS – RECREATION SERVICES TEAM LEADER

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To advise the Executive of community aspirations for the improvement of play facilities in Whitton's Park.
- 1.2 To seek authority to invest Section 106 funds in Whitton's Park in order to improve the play opportunities.

2. Background

- 2.1 Whitton's Park is a key play site situated on Long Leys Road in Carholme ward. The park saw significant investment in play equipment in 2007/8.
- 2.2 The council holds a Section 106 developer contribution for play of £152,413 that can only be spent in the West End of Lincoln. This contribution must be spent by 29 November 2023 or will have to be returned to the respective developer. After extensive consideration of sites in the area, the only viable option is to enhance play opportunities in Whitton's Park with these funds.

3. Planned investment

- 3.1 Community representatives from both Long Leys Residents Association (LLRA) and West End Residents Association (WERA) have been consulted on this investment and are supportive.
- 3.2 LLRA have consulted with local residents and produced an aspirational plan for play investment in the park. They wish to be involved with any investment plan and have offered to engage with the council in this regard.
- 3.3 This investment will see play opportunities in the park greatly enhanced. It is anticipated that it would be prudent to spend roughly £130,000 at this point in time and reserve some of the fund for investment later, but before the critical date.
- 3.4 Longevity of equipment will be a key design criteria, alongside procuring a proportion of spare parts subject to routine wear and tear. This approach will minimise additional ongoing revenue costs.

4. Strategic Priorities

4.1 Let's enhance our remarkable place

This investment will enhance the play opportunities in the park and promote physical activity and health for children and young people.

5. Organisational Impacts

5.1 Finance (including whole life costs where applicable)

Capital

21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26
130,000		22,413		

Initial investment of £130,000 capital in the park with the balance anticipated in 2023/24.

Revenue

As an established play site increased revenue funding should be minimal, current estimated increases in costs are:

21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26
1,411	1,439	1,468	1,497	1,527

The above table shows the anticipated increase in costs in respect of the initial investment only. This will be revisited following the additional investment. The increase will be met within existing budgets.

5.2 Legal Implications including Procurement Rules

The Council's Contract Procedure Rules and ultimately Public Contract Regulations 2015, will be adhered when procuring a contractor to undertake the required works.

Planning permission will be a requirement and normal processes will be followed.

This proposal is in keeping with the covenants of the site and the purpose for which the site was donated to the council.

5.3 Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

The Public Sector Equality Duty means that the Council must consider all individuals when carrying out their day-to-day work, in shaping policy, delivering services and in relation to their own employees.

It requires that public bodies have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity

- Foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities

The council's long-standing approach is to ensure at the procurement stage that accessibility of equipment is a key weighted factor in order to ensure a suitable balance of equipment is provided and consideration of children and young people with any additional needs is undertaken.

5.4 Land, Property and Accommodation

The site is an existing play site.

5.5 Significant Community Impact

This project meets the aspirations of the local community. LLRA will be engaged throughout the process.

5.6 Corporate Health and Safety implications

The play area will be subject to daily inspections and an annual independent inspection.

6. Risk Implications

6.1 (i) Options Explored

- a) Return s106 funds to developer. This would not increase revenue burden, but would also not improve play provision in the area to compensate for the additional population of the developed site.
- b) Invest the s106 funds elsewhere. There are no other viable locations within the area specified in the s106 agreement.
- c) Invest in increasing the play provision in Whitton's Park. This would increase the play provision enhancing the park. A small increase in revenue budget is required for additional inspection costs.

6.2 (ii) Key risks associated with the preferred approach

The preferred approach is c – Invest in increasing the play provision in Whitton's Park. The main risks are an increase in inspection costs and a revenue future burden for equipment replacement at the end of the warranty period.

7. Recommendation

7.1 That the Executive note the aspirations for play from LLRA.

7.2 That the Executive approve the spend of £152,413 on play investment in Whitton's Park on a phased basis.

Is this a key decision?

No

Do the exempt information categories apply?

No

Does Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules (call-in and urgency) apply?

No

How many appendices does the report contain?

1 - LLRA Play Aspiration

List of Background Papers:

One. LLRA's play proposal document.

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