

Thursday, 17 February 2022

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Entertainment and Leisure

Release of Capital Contingency

Exempt Information

None

Purpose

To request the release of £50k from the Councils Capital Contingency budget to the Capital programme, for the refurbishment of existing play facilities in the borough.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. Members approve the release of £50k from the Capital contingency budget
2. The Assistant Director, Operations and Leisure in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Entertainment & Leisure be authorised to enter into contract with the most economically viable and environmentally sustainable tender received.

Executive Summary

The Council's corporate priorities are an integral influence in informing the Capital Strategy and sets the scene for how capital projects and individual proposals are assessed. The Council is committed to working with its public, peers and partners in order to:

Deliver a programme of projects, planned initiatives and work streams designed to achieve outcomes against the Corporate Priorities;

The funding requested for this report supports the Council's new vision. In addition, the new 'Living in Tamworth' priority states that the council will 'invest in neighbourhood and place environment' and by continuing to improve and invest in our play areas and taking local action this will go a long way to delivering on this priority. Whilst the council accepts this is a limited action it remains committed to ensuring the focus remains on supporting a range of very local play amenities.

An upgrade program is underway, every year we look at our latest RoSPA report in conjunction with our own surveys to identify areas in need of refurbishment or replacement. We are expecting the RoSPA report imminently so I will be well informed of what is required going forward.

The RoSPA report looks at safety and remaining 'life' of individual pieces of equipment as well as the whole area, it normally hits us in January and then we use what remaining revenue budget we have to target the worst items.

All areas and equipment are inspected at least once a week so we are aware of the condition of most areas, a piece of work bringing all this together is underway and will provide a planned programme of works going forward which we will be able to reasonably accurately cost to inform the budget setting process for 2023/24.

An existing play area within Tamworth will be refurbished to increase the play facilities and accessibility within the local community.

It is anticipated that the play area design and installation will be tendered by the spring and construction completed before the summer, weather and supply chain issues permitting.

At the same time the council is undertaking a RoSPA survey of local play facilities, and it is likely that individual items on other play areas may be identified for repair.

This report is to allocate capital contingency for the full refurbishment of a single play area and to undertake urgent works on other play equipment should it fall outside of existing budget provision.

Options Considered

The capital funding was allocated for the refurbishment of a play area is for this financial year only, there are no other options to consider at this time.

Resource Implications

The release of £50,000 of Capital contingency funding detailed above will be added to the existing Capital Programme for spend in 2022/23.

Future maintenance of these assets will be met from within GW1801 15012, maintenance of play areas.

Risk Implications Background

None

Equalities Implications

None

Environment and Sustainability Implications (including climate change)

The tender specification will insist that the play area will have a guaranteed life of at least 20 years and will be constructed of environmentally sustainable materials to meet the required specification where applicable. Further encouraging play can also increase health within our community.

Background Information

At the same time the Council is undertaking a RoSPA survey of local play facilities, and it is likely that individual items on other play areas may be identified for repair.

This report is to allocate capital contingency for the full refurbishment of a single play area and to undertake urgent works on other play equipment should it fall outside of existing budget provision.

Report Author

Sarah McGrandle – Assistant Director Operations and Leisure

This page is intentionally left blank