

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

meeting date: 19 OCTOBER 2021
 title: PLAY AREAS
 submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR COMMUNITY SERVICES
 principal author: MARK BEVERIDGE, HEAD OF CULTURAL SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To provide a programme of replacement for the play areas.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Community Objectives - To help make people's lives healthier and safer.
- Corporate Priorities - To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley.
- Other Considerations – Economic recovery from the impacts of covid will be helped with a healthy workforce.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 This report builds upon previous ones considered by Committee. It provides an outline of proposed expenditure, which could if members wish form the basis for a capital bid to be submitted as part of the budget process currently underway.

2.2 At your last meeting, committee asked that officer prepare some illustrative costing as a basis from which to take the matter forward.

3 ISSUES

3.1 Four of the 18 play areas will have some form of improvement during the current financial year. Of the rest the following is proposed;

| Play Area | Work proposed | Approximate Cost | Total Cost |
|---|---|--------------------|------------|
| Castle Field | 1. Repaint all equipment. 2. Repair/replace safety surface | £8k £25k | £33k |
| Salthill, Clitheroe | 1. Complete refurbishment with steel equipment. 2. Replace safety surface | £100k £30k | £130k |
| Colthirst (off Chatburn Rd), Clitheroe | 1. Replace multi -play unit 2. Repaint all equipment 3. Repair/replace safety surface | £20k £4k £8k | £32k |
| Edisford River Bank, Clitheroe | 1. Repaint all equipment. | £2k | £2k |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------------|-------|
| Edisford Play Area, Clitheroe | 1. Repaint all equipment. 2. Repair/replace safety surface | £3k £8k | £11k |
| Hawthorne Place, Clitheroe | 1. Repaint all equipment 2. Repair/replace safety surface | £2k £6k | £8k |
| Highfield Road, Clitheroe | 1. Repaint all equipment 2. Repair/replace safety surface | £3k £8k | £11k |
| Highmoor Park, Clitheroe | 1. Repaint all equipment 2. Repair/replace safety surface | £5k £12k | £17k |
| Low Moor, Clitheroe | 1. Repaint all equipment 2. Repair/replace safety surface | £4k £10k | £14k |
| Henthorn Park, Clitheroe | 1. Repaint all equipment. 2. Repair/replace safety surface 3. New multiplay | £5k £15k £25k | £45k |
| Procters Field Whalley | 1. Repaint all equipment. 2. New equipment 3. Safety surface for new equipment | £4k £25k £8k | £37k |
| Whalley Woodland Calderstones | 1. Extend current site and install a zip wire. | £30k | £30k |
| Woodland Park, Whalley | 1. Repaint all equipment. 2. Repair/replace safety surface. | £1.5k £5k | £6.5k |
| Kestor Lane, Longridge | 1. Repaint all equipment 2. Repair/replace safety surface | £7k £15k | £22k |
| Mardale, Longridge | 1. Repaint all equipment 2. Repair/replace safety surface | £5k £8k | £13k |
| John Smiths Longridge | 1. Repaint all equipment 2. Repair/replace safety surface | £3k £5k | £8k |
| Redwood, Longridge | 1. Repaint all equipment 2. Repair/replace safety surface | £2k £7k | £9k |
| Fielding Arms, Mellor | 1. Replace wooden equipment add multiplay, junior and cradle swings 2. New safety surface for above. | £40k £20k | £60k |
| | | | £490k |

3.2 It must be stressed that the above costs are estimates only, officers have used the most recent work undertaken as the basis for estimating the cost of the work.

3.3 Much of the equipment appears worse than it is, simply because of the state of the paint work. As evidenced by the repainting work undertaken at Procters Field, Whalley,

which transformed the multiplay piece, because the steel work itself was sound. Hence the reason for the extensive repainting programme work outlined.

3.4 A note of caution must be expressed in relation to these estimates, because of the rising costs of raw materials. Recent evidence has seen extraordinary price rises in materials costs, which are impossible to predict.

3.5 Whilst new equipment is always welcome, there is a finite amount of space in each play area, in addition 4 play areas will be improved over the coming months with s106 funding.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications.

- Resources – The budget for play areas has been outlined in previous reports and there is a comprehensive report outlining proposed expenditure in the capital monitoring report elsewhere on the agenda of this meeting. This year will see additional spending from s106 funding over and above the annual Council budget. Any increase in budget provision for future years will need to be considered as part of the Council's overall budget setting and be set against other priorities the Council may have.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – None in the context of this report.
- Political – None in the context of this report.
- Reputation – Play areas have been particularly well used over the last year and there is no indication this use will reduce, which makes their condition important to residents or visitors and reflects on the Council when their condition is poor in relation to other Council areas.
- Equality & Diversity – incorporated into the principles all new provision.

5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

5.1 Decide if a new capital bid is submitted for the play areas to cover some or all the budget estimate outlined in the report.

5.2 Consider over what period such a capital programme might be delivered.

Mark Beveridge
Head of Cultural and Leisure Services

John Heap
Director of Community Services

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

For further information please ask for Mark Beveridge 01200 425111