

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

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meeting date: 24 MAY 2022  
title: LONGRIDGE CAPITAL PROJECTS  
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR COMMUNITY SERVICES  
principal author: MARK BEVERIDGE, HEAD OF CULTURAL SERVICES

### 1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To update members on several capital projects the Council is investing in to provide better facilities for Longridge residents.
- 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 – To assist with the facilities for all ages in Longridge.

### 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Borough Council has secured investment from a s106 agreement for projects in Longridge, plus a capital allocation from the Councils' capital budget for 2022/23.
- 2.2 To-date the Council has given £12k to Longridge Cricket Club for pitch improvements, made an offer of £10k to the Sports Club based at Longridge High School. The Sports Club have responded and are most grateful for the offer. These were part of the 4 projects specified in the legal agreements between the Council and the developer several years ago when it was drawn up.
- 2.3 In addition to these two projects, the Council is also investing £70k into the Kestor Lane play area, £40k of this sum is a capital investment from the Borough Council. After some issues with the procurement process an order has now been placed with Kompan UK to build and install the equipment.
- 2.4 The other investment is in the Mardale football pitches, where c£80k will be spent on improving the pitch drainage. A topographical survey has been commissioned and this will then be followed by the actual drainage improvement works once a contractor has been appointed.
- 2.5 The Council has recently taken part in a pitch improvement programme with the Lancashire FA, which considered all the Councils playing pitches, both Longridge and Clitheroe. This involved a detailed inspection by an independent expert and recommendations for improvement works over a period of years. This report will be used to help guide the work which is undertaken at Mardale.
- 2.6 The Council recently spent £3,500 on repairs to the access road onto Kestor Lane, where several potholes had developed following the winter period. These

were exacerbated following drainage issues and water run off from the old football club building on LCC land adjacent to the field.

### 3 ISSUES

3.1 The s106 contribution which has helped to fund some of these projects is quite inflexible. The 4 projects identified were part of a legal agreement which the Council entered into with the house builder, if any of these projects were not to be delivered then the developer is entitled to their money being returned.

3.2 Future s106 developments from housing sites in Longridge will be sought which will continue to help with investment in improving the sport and leisure provision in the town. Unfortunately, these agreements take some time to reach the point where the funding is made available to the Council, as they are usually based on

### 4 RISK ASSESSMENT

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

- Resources – The s106 funding has been agreed and the Council is in receipt of the funds from the developer, the Councils' own capital funding is secure and is included within the current capital plan for 22/23.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – The s106 agreements are legally binding on the Council and the developer.
- Political – None in the context of this report
- Reputation – The investment will enhance infrastructure for residents and help to alleviate the claim that only Clitheroe is in receipt of investment in facilities.
- Equality & Diversity – the projects will facilitate both able bodied and disabled users.

### 5 CONCLUSION

5.1 The Councils' investment in Longridge will see improvements in several areas which will help a range of residents

MARK BEVERIDGE  
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JOHN HEAP  
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### BACKGROUND PAPERS

For further information please ask for Mark Beveridge 01200 425111