

<b>Subject:</b>	Improvements to Weir Play area	<b>Status:</b>	For Publication
<b>Report to:</b>	Cabinet	<b>Date:</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> December 2022
<b>Report of:</b>	Director of Communities	<b>Lead Member:</b>	Environment And Corporate Services
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>General Exception</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Special Urgency</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Equality Impact Assessment:</b>	Required:	No	Attached: N/A
<b>Biodiversity Impact Assessment:</b>	Required:	No	Attached: N/A
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## 1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That Cabinet approves the improvements and associated funding streams to upgrade Weir Play Area which will combine phase one and two of the project.
- 1.2 That Cabinet authorises officers to accept the grants and proceed to procure the necessary contractors in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.
- 1.3 That subject to the successful grant award Cabinet approves an addition to the capital programme of a new fully funded capital scheme totalling £149,763, this includes transferring £7,441 from existing Playgrounds capital scheme.

## 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This site has been identified as one for investment through an extensive survey of play areas in the Borough.
- Public Consultation has been undertaken and there is strong support for the improvements. The community and council have successfully secured 42k in funding
- The project was initially split into two phases. These have now been combined due to the need for additional funding as a result of increased industry costs

## 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The council has been working with the local community on ways to improve the play area at Weir since 2019. This is the only play facility in the immediate area and is a very well-used site.
- 3.2 The play area is identified as a priority site following an extensive survey of all play areas in the borough carried out in 2018. The council has since worked alongside Proffitts CIC to carry out public consultation and to produce detailed designs for the development of the site. The improvements originally consisted of two phases.
- 3.3 The council worked with the community to secure £42,445 of external funding from various sources including Tesco, Newground, Awards for All, Lancashire Environmental Fund and community fund raising at events. An initial proposed contribution to the scheme of £14,500 from the council Play Area capital improvement budget made the total budget for phase one £56,945.

- 3.4 The play equipment was purchased from this budget to ensure value for money at a cost of £18,500 in February 2022. The tender for the installation, safety surfaces and ancillary features was then published for contractors. However, the tender submissions received demonstrated the dramatic increase in industry costs that had taken place from the project inception to tender phase. Therefore, the budget held was insufficient to complete the project at that time.
- 3.5 In order to overcome these issues, it is therefore proposed to combine both project phases and attempt to obtain the additional external funding that will address the current shortfall and remaining aspects of the project.

#### 4. DETAILS

- 4.1 Funding has been secured from the following sources:

Lancashire Environmental Fund- £30,000  
 Newground- £10,000  
 Tesco- £1,000  
 Fund raising- £1,445

- 4.2 In order to raise the funds required to install the equipment already purchased and pay for the items in phase 2, a bid to FCC Community Action Fund has been prepared for £99,877. An input of £7,441 from the Play Area Capital Budget will be required as match funding.
- 4.3 Accounting for the £18,500 already used to purchase the equipment; this this will give a budget of £131,263 for completion of the works.4
- 4.4 Improvements in the scheme include the installation of 7 new pieces of play equipment, new safety surface for the entire play area, street furniture, and a natural play area including boulders and trim trail. The sketch design for the improvements can be seen in Appendix 1.
- 4.5 In the event that the bid is successful a new tender will be prepared for the package of works needed to deliver the scheme and advertised in accordance with the Council's constitution.

#### 5. RISK

- 5.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:
- Failure to invest in the site will risk further deterioration leading to increased maintenance liability and health and safety issues.
  - Failure to pursue the project will result in loss of funding already secured.
  - Extensive consultation has taken place with local residents who have voiced their desire for the area to be improved. To ignore this would negatively affect the council's reputation.
  - The bid to Community Action Fund is unsuccessful – the scheme would need to be revised

#### 6. FINANCE

- 6.1 The expenditure and financing for the scheme are set out in the table below:-

<b>Weir Play Area</b>		£
Project costs		
Play equipment		18,500
Installation, safety surfaces and ancillary features		131,263
<b>Total Cost</b>		<b>149,763</b>
Funded by:-		
Lancashire Environmental Fund	30,000	Secured
Newground	10,000	Secured
Tesco	1,000	Secured
Fundraising	1,445	Secured
Community Action Fund	99,877	Unsecured
	142,322	
RBC Match	7,441	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>149,763</b>	
<b>Surplus/Deficit(-)</b>	<b>0</b>	

The RBC match will be funded from the existing play area capital scheme.

The bid to Community Action Fund is not yet approved. If the bid is unsuccessful the scheme will need to be revised.

## 7. LEGAL

7.1 Under the Constitution, prior approval must be obtained from the Corporate Management Team and Cabinet to seek tenders for anything over £100k. Corporate Management Team has considered this matter and recommends its approval.

7.2 All tenders and works contracts must be carried out in compliance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and the grant funding requirements of each funder.

## 8. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Full consultation has been undertaken with residents, communities, CMT and Lead Member. Any equality implications related to the project will be given consideration in a relevant and proportionate manner.

## 9. REASON FOR DECISION

9.1 The development of Weir Play Area will mean the council is addressing sites for investment as identified through extensive surveys of play areas in the borough. The improvements to the site will mean the residents of the area will have access to first class play facilities whilst ensuring the council provides equipment that is both high in play value and in safe condition to use.

<b>Background Papers</b>	
<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>
Sketch design	Appendix 1

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# sketch design weir play area



<b>KEY</b>		wildflower plug planting		bonded rubber mulch		natural play features
		picnic tables and seats		grass mat		proposed sensory / play planting
		new bowtop railings		earth mounds		

August 2022  
NTS



**Rossendale**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL