

## **Report to Cabinet**

**Subject:** Establish a budget for Muirfield Road Recreation Ground Play Area Redevelopment

**Date:** 27 June 2019

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### **Wards Affected**

Bestwood St Albans

### **Purpose**

To obtain Cabinet approval to establish a capital budget for the redevelopment of Muirfield Road Recreation Ground Play Area from funding provided by FCC Communities Foundation Ltd (formerly known as WREN – Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd)

### **Key Decision**

This is not a key decision

### **Recommendation(s)**

#### **THAT:**

Cabinet approve the capital budget of £100,000 for the redevelopment of the Muirfield Road Play Area which is fully funded by external grant funding from FCC Communities Foundation Ltd.

## **1 Background**

- 1.1 Warren Action Group, in partnership with Gedling Borough Council Parks and Street Care submitted a funding bid for £100,000 to FCC Communities Foundation Ltd to fund the redevelopment of the play area at Muirfield Road Recreation Ground, a park which is Gedling Borough Council owned. Warren Action Group are a community group based in the Borough, they had ambitions to improve the park and have carried out extensive community consultation on the improvements. The improvement works were broken down into

three phases. The play area refurbishment is phase three of the project to improve the park. Phase one was the installation of the a Multi-Use Games Area funded by WREN and phase two, the installation of an outdoor gym area funded by Nottinghamshire County Council Local Improvement Scheme and Nottingham City Homes. As part of the funding bid for phase three, FCC Communities Foundation Ltd require a contribution from a third party funding provider, this amount is 10.75% of the amount of total funding applied for. This amount is used to unlock the landfill tax from the central regulators. For this project the funding amount applied for is £100,000, therefore the amount of the 3<sup>rd</sup> party contributory payment is £10,750 which Warren Action Group have agreed to fund and will pay directly to FCC. Therefore the cost to the Council for the redevelopment of the play area is nil, except for officer time to procure and project manage the project.

- 1.2 This play area has been identified in the Councils' Green Space Strategy as being in poor condition and requiring redevelopment, it is therefore one of the priorities of the parks department to improve the play area. Parks and Street Care have the responsibility to maintain the current play area and they will continue with this arrangement following the refurbishment. The award of funding is not considered secured until the funding agreement between FCC Communities Foundation Ltd and GBC is in place. The funding agreement cannot be completed until GBC have carried out a procurement exercise for the play area refurbishment, which will identify the winning supplier and identify the costs of individual pieces of play equipment and their installation costs. This breakdown information is used to identify the actual items FCC Communities Foundation Ltd will be funding and the information is added as an appendix to the funding agreement.
- 1.3 In order to secure a contractor and carry out the project, a budget must be established in the Capital programme.

## **2 Proposal**

That approval is given to set up a capital budget of £100,000 for the redevelopment of Muirfield Road Recreation Ground Play Area to be funded by a grant from FCC Communities Foundation Ltd.

## **3 Alternative Options**

Not to set up the capital budget and redevelop the play area at a later date

if funding becomes available. Funding is available specifically for this project, GBC do not have the authority to expend this funding amount on any other project. The funding criteria requires Gedling Borough Council to enter into an agreement with FCC Communities Foundation Ltd within 6 months of being notified of the award, if this is not achieved the funding offer will be retracted and FCC Communities Foundation Ltd will use the funds on another project.

#### **4 Financial Implications**

The total cost of the project is £100,000 to be funded by external grant funding from FCC Communities Foundation Ltd, with the required amount of 3<sup>rd</sup> party contributions to be paid directly by the Warren Action Group. Gedling Borough Council's contribution will be in the form of in-kind contributions made up of officer times and resource. The general maintenance and upkeep of the play area will be met from existing maintenance budgets.

#### **5 Appendices**

None.

#### **6 Background Papers**

None

#### **7 Reasons for Recommendations**

The local residents will; benefit from a new Play Area. This will replace the existing provision that is in a poor state. The redevelopment is compliant with the Council's current Local Plan under the heading 'Healthy Lifestyles'

Improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities

Support physically active lifestyles

Increase recreational activities and users to parks and open spaces

Reduce levels of loneliness and isolation