

## **Report to Cabinet**

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

**Date:** 5 September 2019

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### **Wards Affected**

Gedling Ward, Netherfield Ward, Trent Valley Ward

### **Purpose**

To obtain Cabinet approval to establish a capital budget for the redevelopment of Conway 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 a capital budget of £102,000 for the development of a new Conway Road Play Area which is partially funded by external grant funding from FCC Communities Foundation Ltd.

## **1 Background**

- 1.1 Netherfield Steering Group, in partnership with Gedling Borough Council Parks and Street Care submitted a funding bid for £94,500 to FCC Communities Foundation Ltd to fund the development of a new play area at Conway Road Recreation Ground, a park which is Gedling Borough Council owned. The Netherfield Steering Group oversees the development and implementation of Netherfield

Locality Plan which was approved by Cabinet in 2013. The Steering Group held a series of consultation events within the Netherfield Ward namely Netherfield Primary School, St. Georges Centre and Conway Park Pavilion. The consultation events generated a lot of discussions around how the park should be improved. Discussions were also held with the two bowling clubs based at Conway Park who were keen to see the park improved and engaged with the process. The improvement works form part of a Development Plan setting out the strategic objective to improve the park with outline designs that were approved at the various consultation events held. [Appendix 1]. Also available is a “virtual reality fly through” developed to be used as part of any funding bids and to show residents what the park could like after the improvements had been implemented. The play area development is phase one of the project to improve the park. Funding is still being sought to improve the rest of the park. As part of the funding bid for phase one, 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 £94,500, therefore the amount of the 3<sup>rd</sup> party contributory payment is £10,200 which Gedling Borough Council have agreed to fund and will pay directly to FCC. Further costs of £7,500 to the Council will be the cost of the Contract Administration works being undertaken by the Environmental Management and Design Team at Via East Midlands who formed part of the original team that developed the Improvement Plan/Strategy for the Park as well as the outline designs. Via also helped with the bid submission by providing up to date figures for the bid based on recent tenders for similar projects within Nottinghamshire. Via has performed similar roles within the Borough.

- 1.2 This area has been identified in the Councils’ Green Space Strategy as offering insufficient play provision due to it’s built up nature and would benefit from such a new development. It is therefore one of the priorities of the neighbourhood and parks department teams to improve the current offer by introducing a new play area. Parks and Street Care have the responsibility to maintain the current park and they will continue with this arrangement including the new play area following its installation. 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 with the support of the Environmental Management and Design Team at Via 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 £102,000 for the redevelopment of Conway Road Recreation Ground Play Area with £82,300 being funded by FCC Communities Foundation Ltd as per the offer letter received by the Council.

## **3 Alternative Options**

Not to set up the capital budget and develop the play area now, but do so at a later date if other 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**

### **4.1 Capital**

The total cost of the project is £102,000, this to be funded from £94,500 by external grant from FCC Communities Foundation Ltd. [Appendix 2]. However the council need to contribute £10,200 of 3<sup>rd</sup> party contributions to receive this grant. [Appendix 3]. Therefore the Net grant received will be £84,300. Alongside this are £7,500 contract administration costs to Via East Midlands funded by GBC.

<b>Project funding summary</b>	<b>£</b>
GBC Funded (£10.2k +£7.5k)	£17,700
FCC Communities Net Grant (£94.5k - £10.2k GBC Contribution.)	£84,300
<b>Total capital costs of project</b>	<b>£102,000</b>

## **4.2 Revenue**

In addition the general maintenance and upkeep of the play area will be met from a new revenue maintenance budget of £1,800 per annum for audit and inspections and general repairs.

## **5 Appendices**

1. Conway Park Development Plan
2. FCC Communities Grant approval and offer letter
3. Funding bid match funding confirmation letter [FCC Communities]

## **6 Background Papers**

## **7 Reasons for Recommendations**

The local residents will; benefit from a new Play Area. This will provide provision in an area that is currently deficient. The development 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