

FBC – Capital Bid 2023/24

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Improvements to Children’s Play Areas

Fylde Council own 17 formal children’s play areas throughout St, Anne’s, Ansdell and Lytham, with supplementary responsibility for 2 further play areas managed by charitable Trusts at Lowther Gardens and Park View Playing Fields.

The Parks and Coast Service is responsible for the formal inspection, repair and record keeping of these play areas. This service is also provided to the town and parish councils under an annual service level agreement. All items of play equipment and surfacing are inspected weekly in line with RoSPA guidance, by qualified Fylde Council play inspectors, with an independent inspection being undertaken by Fylde Council’s insurance company, Zurich, once per year.

All faults and findings are classified as high, medium or low risk and rectified in priority order based on the level of risk. Relevant repairs are then carried out or the item is permanently or temporarily decommissioned. All weekly and annual inspection results and remedial works are formally recorded and retained on a web-based inspection system to mitigate against any potential insurance claims.

In addition to the Play and Projects team resource, Fylde Council holds an operating budget to carry out repairs to the play equipment and surfacing. This budget is used for the replacement of worn parts such as nuts, bolts, shackles, seats, panels, chains in addition to small repairs to rubber safety surfacing, fencing and furniture.

However, the council does not hold a budget for the replacement of failing or decommissioned play equipment or safety surfacing. Play equipment, surfacing and associated items on the play areas are in various condition from excellent to poor. As a rough guide, the lifespan of rubber safety surface is around 10 – 15 years, with play equipment around 10-30 years dependant on type, location, material and public use.

Fylde Council has been successful in recent years working with community groups in attracting external funding, diverting Section 106 funding into play improvements and replacement, but a longer term, sustainable approach is required to address the gradual deterioration of the play facilities. Some remedial/replacement works are now required based on the formal inspection information. The priority works and estimated costs are listed in the table below.

Site	Items	Costings
Lowther Gardens	Design and installation of new play equipment to include relevant safety surfacing and parks furniture.	£80,000
Waddington Road	Remove and replace worn play equipment.	£13,000
Raleigh Close	Removal and replacement of worn safety surfacing and install new play equipment.	£17,000
Hove Road	Removal and replacement of worn safety surfacing.	£10,000
TOTAL		£120,000

The above works are required as a priority and the proposal is to request a capital budget of £120,000 for 2023/24. Partnership working will continue with community groups to gain external grant funding and the allocation of further Section 106 monies to maximise the impact of this play replacement budget and to ensure long term sustainability of the boroughs formal children’s play areas.

Capital Cost Plan:

Cost Heading	Description	Total £
Improvements to children's play areas	To carry out play area improvement works as listed above.	£120,000
Total Scheme Cost:		£120,000

Outputs (i.e. details of what the investment will specifically deliver):

- Upgrade or replacement of missing play equipment.
- Replacement of worn safety surfacing.
- Safer play surfacing.
- Improved accessibility.

Outcomes (i.e. details of the broader benefits achieved by the investment, for example community or environmental benefit, health and safety compliance, or statutory obligations):

- Safer facilities and safety surfacing.
- Better play facilities for the community.
- Borough wide sustainability of formal play provision.

Contribution to corporate objectives (i.e. how does the project achieve or help deliver priorities within the corporate plan):

Clean and green

- Deliver high quality parks and open spaces.
- Maintain and increase Green Flag status for parks and open spaces.

Budget Resource Requirements

Breakdown of initial capital costs and future revenue implications

Estimated Total Capital costs of bid (£000's): £120,000
 Improvements to Children's Play Areas

Annual additional Revenue costs arising from the bid (£000's): £ Nil

OR

Future Annual Revenue Savings achievable as a result of the bid: (£000's): £ Nil

Please provide any further details of revenue savings below:**Value and phasing of bid:**

2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	
£120,000	£000	£000	Additional capital investment required (i.e. the value of the bid)

Existing resources in the Capital Programme relating to this scheme:

2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	
£000	£000	£000	

Estimated timescales for the bid:

Start Date: April 2023

Completion Date: March 2024

Project Risks (outline any risks to delivery of the project and how these will be mitigated)

Risk	Impact	Mitigating Action
Budget not enough to keep up with failing equipment & surfacing	Some items of equipment decommissioned	The budget will be used on a priority basis based on risk and condition of equipment and surfacing