

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
HEAD OF PLACE AND CULTURE	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	5 MARCH 2024	11

IMPROVEMENTS TO CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS 2023/ 2024

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

RELEVANT LEAD MEMBER

This item is within the remit of the Lead Member for Tourism, Leisure and Culture - Councillor Jayne Nixon

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report describes a scheme included in the Council's 2023/ 2024 Capital Programme for improvements to Fylde's children's play areas. Works include the refurbishment of playground surfacing and equipment. The 2023/ 2024 Capital Programme already includes the sum of £120,000 to deliver the works approved at Budget Council 2nd March 2023. Planned works are based on a prioritised play area audit prepared by officers. The scheme has now been tendered and the report details the tender process and makes a recommendation to proceed.

RECOVERABILITY

This decision is recoverable under section 7 of part 3 of the constitution.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To authorise the drawdown of the capital expenditure of £120,000 in respect of the approved capital scheme Play Area Improvements in 2023/ 2024, as detailed within this report.
2. To approve the letting of the contract to ESP Scotland Ltd for the sum of £120,000 and to carry out the capital scheme as outlined within this report.

REPORT

1. Fylde Council holds an operating budget to carry out minor repairs to play equipment and surfacing, however it does not hold a budget for the replacement of failing or decommissioned equipment or safety surfacing.
2. A play area audit was carried out by Parks and Coastal Services in 2019. The audit showed that remedial and replacement works were required across several children's play areas. A schedule of prioritised works was compiled with associated costings. A Capital Bid to the sum of £120,000 to be funded from the Capital Investment Reserve, was submitted and approved by the Tourism & Leisure Committee on 12th January 2023.
3. A residential consultation was carried out on proposals to refurbish Raleigh Close Play Area, due to its proximity to Frobisher Drive Play Area. A residential questionnaire was formulated and posted to each resident in the immediate vicinity. The questionnaire asked residents whether they supported investment into new play equipment or preferred the site to be decommissioned and landscaped. The results of the consultation were collated, and the majority of respondents were in favour of the play area refurbishment. Officers have noted

that several residents raised concerns about potential antisocial behaviour and will ensure a proactive inspection and maintenance regime of the new play area as well as continued liaison with Lancashire Constabulary.

4. A specification for each play area was prepared and finalised in readiness for the contract tendering. The following sites were proposed for investment and improvement:
 - Lowther Gardens
 - Waddington Road
 - Hove Road
 - Raleigh Close

PROCUREMENT PROCESS & EVALUATION

5. Officers led the procurement process on a design and build basis, whereby the appointed contractor is required to design, supply the goods and carry out the installation works.
6. The tender process was undertaken via an open tendering procedure. The opportunity was advertised on 27th October 2023, via the Chest Procurement Portal with a submission deadline of the 8th of December 2023.
7. Suppliers were given a set of tender documents on which to base their submission. The evaluation included a set of suitability assessment questions followed by quality/ price questions. The tender was open to any interested company relating to play equipment and surfacing who were registered on the Chest Procurement system. Six companies were interested and submitted final tender documents.
8. The evaluation of the suitability assessment questions, including company sustainability, experience, quality management etc, was scored as PASS/ FAIL. All tenderers fulfilled the suitability assessment and proceeded through to the next stage of the evaluation process.
9. The quality evaluation questions were broken down under 5 headings and allocated weighted scorings as shown on the following table.

Table 1 - Quality Evaluation Weightings

Range of equipment and play value	30%
Design and creativity	30%
Method statement and programme	20%
Site team and sub-contracting	10%
Health and Safety	10%

Table 2 – Quality Evaluation Results

Eibe Play	ESP Scotland	Kompan	Playdale Playgrounds	Sutcliffe Play	Timotay Landscapes
64.00	70.40	62.40	64.00	56.00	54.40

10. Price evaluation was conducted using the CIPFA % difference model. The model allocates the lowest price full marks, and other scores are calculated on the percentage difference of their price and the lowest.

Table 3 - Price evaluation Results

Eibe Play	ESP Scotland	Kompan	Playdale Playgrounds	Sutcliffe Play	Timotay Landscapes
17.74	17.71	18.17	17.90	18.27	20.00

11. The combined totals from the quality and price evaluation were added together for a final score. The results are shown below.

Table 4 - Quality and Price Evaluation Results

Evaluation	Eibe Play	ESP Scotland	Kompan	Playdale Playgrounds	Sutcliffe Play	Timotay Landscapes
Price	17.74	17.71	18.17	17.90	18.27	20.00
Quality	64.00	70.40	62.40	64.00	56.00	54.40
Total Score	81.74	88.11	80.57	81.90	74.27	74.40

The highest scoring tenderer from the evaluation was ESP Scotland.

METHOD AND COST OF FINANCING THE SCHEME

12. The total cost for each play area to be included within scheme is shown in the below table.

Site Name	Price
Lowther Gardens, Lytham	£ 62,174.00
Raleigh Close, St Anne's	£ 24,927.00
Waddington Road, St Anne's	£ 9,130.00
Removals All Sites	£ 9,961.00
Site Set Up All Sites	£ 500.00
Delivery	£ 900.00
Safety surfacing	£26, 062.00
ESP Play Parks Contribution	£13,654.00
TOTAL	£120,000

13. Funding for the scheme is included within the approved Capital Programme for 2023/ 2024 for the sum of £120,000.
14. The equipment and surfacing will require ongoing maintenance, with future costs being contained within existing and approved revenue budgets.

VALUE FOR MONEY AND DETAILS OF PROCUREMENT PATH

15. To ensure that value for money is achieved, a procurement exercise has been undertaken in accordance with the council's contract procedure rules. Selection of the successful tenderer is on the basis that value for money is a key consideration, as well as the suitability of the proposed improvements.

SUMMARY

16. The proposal is to award the contract to ESP Scotland Ltd to the value of £120,000. This project will be completed by September 2024, subject to manufacturing timescales.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES	
Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	✓
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	✓
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	✓
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	✓

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	To authorise the drawdown of the capital expenditure of £120,000 in respect of the approved capital scheme Play Area Improvements 2023/ 2024 as detailed within the report; and To approve the letting of the contract to ESP Scotland for the sum of £120,000 to carry out the scheme as outlined in this report. Equipment/ surfacing will require ongoing maintenance, with future costs being contained within existing and approved revenue budgets.
Legal	The new play equipment and surfacing will comply with all applicable regulations. Procurement has followed the council's procedures.
Community Safety	The play area improvements will improve community safety on Fylde's public open spaces.
Human Rights and Equalities	The play area design specifications stipulate that play equipment is accessible and DDA compliant.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	The proposals seek to incorporate low maintenance materials and to complement existing play provision. Lifecycle costs have been considered during the tender process.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	The new play equipment and surfacing installations will be subject to detailed risk assessments and subsequent weekly inspections by qualified play engineers.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS
<p><u>Tourism and Leisure Committee 12th January 2023</u></p> <p>Supported the progression of the proposed capital bid.</p> <p><u>Budget Council 2nd March 2023</u></p> <p>Approved an addition to the 2023/ 2024 Capital Programme fully funded from the Capital Investment Reserve to the sum of £120,000 in respect of the Children's Play Area Improvements project as detailed within this report.</p>

BACKGROUND PAPERS RELEVANT TO THIS ITEM
None

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
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Attached Documents

Appendix 1 – Play Area Design Proposals.