

FBC – Capital Bid 2022/23

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Improvements to Children’s Playgrounds

Fylde Council own 17 formal children’s playgrounds 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. Parks and Coastal Services are responsible for the formal inspection, repair and record keeping of these 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 play equipment and surfacing. This budget is used for the replacement of worn parts such as nuts, bolts, shackles, seats, panels, and chains in addition to small repairs to rubber safety surfacing, signage, fencing and furniture.

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 playgrounds are in various condition from excellent to poor. The average lifespan of rubber safety surface is around 10 - 15 years, with play equipment around 10 - 30 years dependant on type, location, material, and usage.

The Council has been successful in working with community groups in attracting external funding, diverting S106 funding into play improvements and replacement, but a longer term, sustainable approach is now required to address the gradual deterioration of the play facilities, and improve accessibility. Some further remedial and 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 |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|
| Promenade Gardens | Design and installation of new play equipment and ‘all inclusive’ compliant entrances. | £60,000 |
| Ashton Gardens | Reconstruction of steps to junior slides, replacement equipment and inclusion of new family seating areas. | £15,000 |
| Mornington Meadows | Replacement and installation of additional play equipment to improve play value of existing area. | £25,000 |
| | Total | £100,000 |

The above works are required as a priority and therefore a capital budget request of £100,000 for 2022/23 is being sought. Work will continue with community groups to gain external grant funding and the allocation of further S106 monies to maximise the impact of this play replacement budget and to ensure long term sustainability of the boroughs formal children’s playgrounds.

Capital Cost Plan:

| Cost Heading | Description | Total £ |
|--|---|--------------------|
| Improvements to Children's Playgrounds | To carry out playground improvement works as listed in the table shown. | £100,000 |
| Total Scheme Cost: | | £100,000 |

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

- Modernisation of Fylde's play provision.
- Improve the play value of equipment.
- Replacement of worn and decommissioned play equipment.
- Replacement of worn safety surfacing.
- Installation of DDA compliant play entrances.

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 playgrounds.
- Improved play opportunities for residents and visitors.
- Improve playground accessibility.

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 Green Flag Award status for parks and open spaces by demonstrating continual investment and improvement of play facilities.

Budget Resource Requirements

Breakdown of initial capital costs and future revenue implications

Estimated Total Capital costs of bid (£000's): £100,000
 Improvements to Children's Play Areas

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

Value and phasing of bid:

| 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | Additional capital investment required (i.e. the value of the bid) |
|----------|---------|---------|--|
| £100,000 | £000 | £000 | |

Existing resources in the Capital Programme relating to this scheme:

| 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | |
|---------|---------|---------|--|
| £000 | £000 | £000 | |

Estimated timescales for the bid:

Start Date: April 2022 Completion Date: March 2023

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. | High. Some items of equipment decommissioned. | The budget will be used on a priority basis based on risk and condition of equipment and surfacing. |