

FBC – Capital Bid 2020/21

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No 1: 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 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 RoSPA¹ 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 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. 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
South Park, Lytham	Safety Surfacing, Equipment & Path Infrastructure	£15,077
Lowther Gardens, Lytham	Safety Surfacing, Equipment & furniture	£14,564
Ashton Gardens, St Anne’s	Safety Surfacing	£2,400
Hove Road, St Anne’s	Equipment & Safety surfacing	£3,930
Hope Street, St Anne’s	Equipment & safety surfacing	£8,281
Waddington Road, St Anne’s	Equipment	5,748
	Total	£50,000

The above works are required as a priority during 2020/21 at a total estimated cost of £50,000. The proposal is to request a capital investment of £37,621 to be used in conjunction with the Government grant of £12,379 described

¹ RoSPA - Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents

below, to provide a budget of £50,000 in 2020/21.

Fylde has recently been awarded a grant of £12,379 from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, which can be used for 'Renovating children's play areas, particularly where they have fallen into disuse or disrepair or where health and safety may be an issue;'

Extract from the grant offer letter:

*'The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (the Department) is issuing a grant of **£12,379** to **Fylde Borough Council** under powers in section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003. This will support work on those parks in your local area where you consider there is urgent need of refurbishment i.e. parks currently in disuse or at risk of closure due to health and safety concerns'.*

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 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.	£37,621
Total Scheme Cost:		£37,621

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

- Replacement of missing play equipment
- Replacement of safer surfacing
- Safer play surfacing
- Improved access for all

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):		£37, 621		
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:				
2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Additional capital investment required (i.e. the value of the bid)
£37,621	£000	£000	£000	
Existing resources in the Capital Programme relating to this scheme:				
2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	These funds are currently held by Fylde Council which will be transferred to the capital programme to create a total budget of £50,000 in 2020/21
£12,379	£000	£000	£000	
Estimated timescales for the bid:				
Start Date: April 2020			Completion Date: June 2020	

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