

**STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Cabinet**

**21 June 2022**

<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Play and Outdoor Sports Facilities Investment Plan</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	<b>Councillor Mark Deaville - Deputy Leader &amp; Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Sports</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>Gareth Knapper - Service Development Officer, Robert Wilks - Principal Officer (Leisure and Recreation)</b>
<b>WARDS INVOLVED:</b>	<b>All</b>

**Appendix A1 - A4 – Play and Outdoor Sports Facilities Investment and Delivery Plan.**

**1. Reason for the Report**

- 1.1 To update the Cabinet on the development of an investment plan for delivery of refurbishment works or full replacement of Council owned play and outdoor sports facilities across the district.

**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the Cabinet approves the report and supports the refurbishment or replacement of Council owned play areas and outdoor sports facilities across the district as detailed in the report.

**3. Executive Summary.**

- 3.1 Play and outdoor sports facilities are important assets in many of our parks and open spaces and it is important these facilities are provided, maintained and developed effectively. To ensure this happens, the proposed investment and delivery plan detailed in Appendix 1 has been developed and proposes a programme of refurbishment and/or replacement of selected facilities over a 4 year rolling period.
- 3.2 To develop the plan, quality assessments of existing Council owned play and outdoor sports facilities have been undertaken which has highlighted the facilities that require improvements, the approximate timeframe for when these

improvements need to be delivered by, and a budget estimate for how much the improvements are likely to cost.

- 3.3 The estimated cost to deliver the first 4 years of this plan is £320,000 and this amount would need adding to the medium term financial plan (MTFP) as a growth item starting in the 2023/24 financial year. The impact of this results in the additional revenue borrowing costs as detailed in section 6.4 below.
- 3.4 It may be possible to offset the amount of funding required to deliver the proposed programme of works using section 106 funds secured for these types of improvements from housing developers. Where this is possible, the funds secured will be factored into each project on a case-by-case basis, resulting in a reduced cost to the Council.
- 3.5 During the planning phase for each project, officers within the Council's Leisure and Recreation team will assess whether it is possible to secure external funding towards them. If this is possible, it will further reduce the cost to the Council for delivering each project. However, should it not be possible to secure external funding, the proposed budget request included in this report will still be sufficient to deliver all projects to the required level.
- 3.6 The District Council does not have the responsibility for refurbishing or replacing play areas and some outdoor sports facilities in Cheadle but, recognising the importance of these facilities to local residents, officers are working with Cheadle Town Council to develop an improvement plan for Tean Road Recreation ground and Churchill Road Recreation ground. This plan is expected to be completed during 2022 and funding via a number of section 106 agreements has already been identified to contribute towards delivery of any plan, once trigger points are met within these agreements.

#### 4. **How this report links to Corporate Priorities**

- 4.1 Aim 1: "To help create a safer and healthier environment for our communities to live and work". Within this aim one of the objectives is "provision of sports facilities and leisure opportunities focused upon improving health".
- 4.2 Aim 4: "To protect and improve the environment and respond to the climate emergency". Within this aim, one of the objectives is "provision of quality parks and open spaces".

#### 5. **Alternative Options**

- 5.1 To recommend that the Cabinet approve the Play and Outdoor Sports Facilities Investment and Delivery Plan at a cost of £320, 000 over a four year period from 2023-24. **(Recommended)**
- 5.2 To not recommend approval of the Play and Outdoor Sports Facilities Investment and Delivery Plan. (Not Recommended)

## 6. Implications

### 6.1 Community Safety - (Crime and Disorder Act 1998)

Parks provide a range of opportunities for people of all ages to engage in positive activities. Outdoor play and sports facilities can provide an outlet for young people and help deter them from antisocial behaviour, therefore it is important these facilities are provided and kept in a good condition.

### 6.2 Workforce

None specifically.

### 6.3 Equality and Diversity/Equality Impact Assessment

An EIA has been completed in accordance with the Council's policy.

### 6.4 Financial Considerations

The proposed Play and Outdoor Sports Facilities Investment and Delivery Plan includes a request for £320,000 of capital funds to improve identified facilities over the course of the next 4 years. This is a growth item and results in additional revenue borrowing costs of £3,680 (23/24), £13,760 (24/25), £13,760 (25/26) and £13,760 (26/27). Where it is appropriate to do so, s106 receipts will be used to reduce the reliance on the Council funding. The risk remains that should there be a delay or shortfall in anticipated s106 funding the on-going costs would have to be met by the Council.

AES are responsible for the maintenance of play and outdoor sports facilities which the Council owns. The maintenance costs associated with these schemes can be contained within existing revenue budget provision.

Key objectives proposed in the plan may have a financial implication, however, until further scoping works are undertaken these implications are unknown. Further reports detailing any projects which have a financial implication for the Council would need to be brought forward at the appropriate time.

### 6.5 Legal

There are no specific legal considerations at this stage.

### 6.6 Climate Change

All proposed developments will support the sustainable use of the

sites.

#### 6.7 Consultation

As outlined in the report.

#### 6.8 Risk Assessment

Appropriate assessment will be made of each project within the plan.

Mark Trillo

**Executive Director (Governance & Commissioning) and Monitoring Officer**

### **Web Links and Background Papers**

### **Contact details**

Gareth Knapper - Service Development  
Officer & Robert Wilks  
Principal Officer (Leisure and Recreation)  
gareth.knapper@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk,  
robert.wilks@highpeak.gov.uk

## **7 Play and Outdoor Sports Facilities – Investment and Delivery Plan**

- 7.1 Play and outdoor sports facilities are important assets in many of our parks and green spaces. They are key attractions that help children, young people and adults keep active, build confidence, gaining physical literacy and social skills.
- 7.2 It is important that these facilities are provided, maintained and developed effectively and, to ensure that this happens, the proposed investment and delivery plan (Appendix 1) has been developed. The plan highlights a proposed programme of refurbishment or/and replacement of selected facilities over a 4 year rolling period.
- 7.3 To develop the plan, quality assessments of existing Council owned play and outdoor sports facilities have been undertaken and the facilities which require improvements, the timeframe for when improvements should be undertaken, and a budget estimate for how much the improvements are likely to cost have been outlined.
- 7.4 Should the plan be approved, delivery of the identified projects will be managed by the Council's Leisure and Recreation Team. An annual review will take place where those projects that have been delivered will be removed from the plan and new projects will be brought into the cycle for delivery in future years.

- 7.5 The overall cost to deliver the first 4 years of this plan is estimated to be £320,000 and this amount would need adding to the medium term financial plan (MTFP) as a growth item, starting in 2023/24. The impact of this results in the additional revenue borrowing costs detailed in section 6.4 above.
- 7.6 There is scope to offset these costs by utilising section 106 monies that have been secured from housing developments where improvements to play or outdoor sports facilities is required. Where section 106 monies have been received by the Council, budget estimates take this into account and the request for funds has been reduced accordingly.
- 7.7 Where section 106 monies have been requested from housing developers, but not yet received, these have not been taken into account at this stage. However, as trigger points for these monies to be paid to the Council are achieved in the future, the amount of capital funds required can be reduced accordingly.
- 7.8 It may be possible in some cases to secure external funding towards some projects and, by doing so, budgets could be adjusted down accordingly. As there are no guarantees external funding can be secured at this stage, full costs have been included accordingly.
- 7.9 The District Council does not have the responsibility for refurbishing or replacing play areas and some outdoor sports facilities in Cheadle but, recognising the importance of these facilities to local residents, officers are working with Cheadle Town Council to develop an improvement plan for Tean Road and Churchill Road. This plan is expected to be completed during 2022 and funding via a number of section 106 has already been identified to contribute towards delivery of any plan once trigger points are met within these agreements.
- 7.10 A recent example of improved play facilities, where improvement works have been completed, is at Brough Park in Leek. As part of a wider improvement plan for the park, the old play area has been replaced for a new, destination standard facility which is more than three times the size of the existing one, which caters for much wider age range (0-14 years) and includes a variety of play equipment and a new multi-use games area (MUGA).