

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL

Individual Executive Decision for comment by 1 December 2022 (please send all comments to democratic.services@highpeak.gov.uk)

2 December 2022

TITLE:	Request for additional capital funds towards the Simmondley Play Area Refurbishment Project
EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR:	Councillor Damien Greenhalgh - Deputy Leader & Executive Councillor for Regeneration, Tourism and Leisure
CONTACT OFFICER:	Caz Whittle - Service Development Officer
WARDS INVOLVED:	Simmondley

Appendices Attached – None

1. Reason for the Report

- 1.1 To seek approval to allocate further capital funds towards the Simmondley Play Area refurbishment project to enhance accessibility and the safety surfacing at the site.

2. Recommendation

That the Deputy Leader & Executive Councillor for Regeneration, Tourism and Leisure approves the allocation of £30,000 from the Council's capital funds to enhance accessibility and the safety surfacing at the site.

3. Executive Summary

- 3.1 In July 2021 the Executive formally approved the High Peak Parks Strategy, including the Play and Outdoor Sports Facility Investment and Delivery Plan.
- 3.2 The Council's adopted Play and Outdoor Sports Facility Investment Plan identified the refurbishment of Simmondley Play Area as a key priority to be delivered in 2022 and the budget allocated for this improvement project is £28,000. This includes some funding from an existing s106 agreement and funding allocated within the play investment and delivery plan.

- 3.3 A tender process has been undertaken to appoint a preferred contractor with a deadline of 7th October. As part of this tender process discussions with potential contractors highlighted the fact that if the play area were to be made accessible for use by all, then a wetpour safety surface would be required which would significantly increase the costs.
- 3.4 When additional funding for this refurbishment project was requested through the Play and Outdoor Sports Investment Plan in 2021 it was believed that a budget of £28,000 would be sufficient to provide an improved and accessible play space. However, due to the recent rise in the cost of construction materials it is now clear that the current allocated budget will not be sufficient and that additional funds are required.
- 3.5 The Council is committed to investing in enhanced play provision through the Play Investment Plan. Without the play area at Simmondley being able to be fully accessed by all, its use will be restricted and certain groups and members of the community will be excluded.

4. How this report links to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 This report relates to Aim 1: Supporting our communities to create a healthier, safer, cleaner High Peak through the provision of a community facility on a play area which will increase physical activity and participation leading to healthier lifestyles. It clearly integrates communities into the delivery of the High Peak Parks Strategy and Move More High Peak strategy objectives.
- 4.2 It also links to Aim 4: Protect and improve the environment including responding to the climate emergency. The play area at Simmondley is the only play space within the village and as such is an extremely important facility. It is adjacent to the multi-use sports court which is well used by the local primary school and community. The refurbishment of the play area will not only enhance play provision within the community and increase usage but it will also protect this valuable resource for future use.

5. Alternative Options

- 5.1 The Council has two options available to it:
1. To provide funding of £30,000 from the Council's capital funds in support of ensuring that this new play facility can be used by all members of the community (Recommended).
 2. To do nothing – This will mean that the new play facility may exclude those who are less able and those using wheelchairs or pushchairs (Not recommended).

6. Implications

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

The improvements to access of this new play area will greatly enhance this key community asset within Simmondley, thus helping to create a safe and welcoming environment.

6.2 Workforce

None.

6.3 Equality and Diversity/Equality Impact Assessment

With additional funding the new play area will be fully accessible to all users who may be less able or infirm and those using wheelchairs or pushchairs.

6.4 Financial Considerations

As detailed within the report. If approved, the contribution will be met from the Council's capital funds.

There is currently £13,000 allocated in the capital programme for this project (in addition to a £15,000 contribution from S106 funding). If the further surfacing works contained within this report are approved an additional £30,000 will need to be added to capital programme making a total of £43,000. The total Council contribution will, therefore, amount to £58,000.

6.5 Legal

The Council has a duty of care to ensure that its play facilities are safe for use by the local community and are fit for purpose. Contracts for the procurement of works should be administered in accordance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the Council's Procurement Procedure Rules.

6.6 Climate Change

Encouraging local children to move more by utilising their local play facility can have a positive benefit on the environment, by removing the need to travel further away from home by car, to access suitable play facilities.

6.7 Consultation

As part of the tender process scoring, consultation has been undertaken with the local community, including the local primary school.

6.8 Risk Assessment

The facility is managed and maintained by the Council's contractor AES and is subject to a site risk assessment and regular inspection

regime. In terms of funding, there is now a shortfall for this project which needs to be secured to allow delivery of a fully accessible play space. Without this contribution there is a risk it will have limited to certain members of the local community.

Mark Trillo
Executive Director (Governance & Commissioning)

Web Links and Background Papers

[Link to the Simmondley S106 variation report](#)
[Link to the play and outdoor sports facilities investment and delivery plan](#)
[Link to the parks strategy report](#)

Contact details

Caz Whittle - Service Development Officer
caz.whittle@highpeak.gov.uk

7. Detail

- 7.1 In July 2021 the Executive formally approved the High Peak Parks Strategy, including the Play and Outdoor Sports Facility Investment and Delivery Plan.
- 7.2 The Council's adopted Play and Outdoor Sports Facility Investment and Delivery Plan identified the refurbishment of Simmondley Play Area as a key priority to be delivered in 2022.
- 7.3 The budget allocated for the improvement project is £28,000. A sum of £15,000 from an existing s106 had already been allocated to the Simmondley project and it was felt that an additional £13,000 would be sufficient to enhance the play equipment and surfacing and this was approved as part of the Play and Outdoor Sports Investment Plan.
- 7.4 A tender process has been undertaken to appoint a preferred contractor with a deadline of 7th October. As part of this tender process discussions with potential contractors highlighted the fact that if the play area were to be refurbished to a standard to enable access for all with a full wetpour safety surface, there would be a significant shortfall in the funding available.
- 7.5 When additional funding for this refurbishment project was requested through the Play and Outdoor Sports Investment plan in 2021 it was believed that a budget of £28,000 would be sufficient to provide an improved and accessible play space. However, due to the recent rise in the cost of construction materials it is now clear that the current allocated budget will not be sufficient.
- 7.6 After seeking advice on the costs of materials needed, it is evident that an additional £30,000 will be required to ensure that the play area is enhanced to a standard to enable access for all with a full wetpour safety surface.
- 7.7 The Council is committed to investing in enhanced play provision through the Play and Outdoor Sport Investment Plan. Without the play area at Simmondley being able to be fully accessible by all, with a new wetpour safety surface, its

use will be restricted and certain groups and members of the community will be excluded.