

## **HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **Individual Executive Decision**

**18 March 2024**

<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Request for additional funds to support the current Capital Play Investment and Delivery Plan</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR:</b>	<b>Councillor Damien Greenhalgh - Deputy Leader &amp; Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Planning</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>Sally Curley – Service Development Officer</b>
<b>WARDS INVOLVED:</b>	<b>Borough Wide</b>

#### **Appendices - None**

#### **1. Reason for the Report**

- 1.1 To request the additional funds required to complete the delivery of the current capital Play and Outdoor Sport Investment and Delivery Plan.

#### **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the required funding to complete the delivery of the Play Investment and Delivery Plan is approved for Manor Park Tennis Courts, Cote Heath Skatepark and Derby Road Play Area.

#### **3. Executive Summary**

- 3.1 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, physical literacy and social skills.
- 3.2 In 2021 the Play & Outdoor Sports Investment and Delivery Plan was approved by the Executive along with the High Peak Parks Strategy. The purpose of the plan is to provide a more strategic view on the quality and play value of the Council's play facilities, identifying priority sites requiring future investment and securing the funding needed to deliver these improvements over the following three years.
- 3.3 In order to develop the plan, quality assessments of existing Council owned play and outdoor sports facilities were undertaken including a timeframe for

delivery and a required budget estimate.

- 3.4 As a result of these assessments, priority sites across the Borough were identified as in need of investment as part of a rolling 4 year programme. These included Jodrell Road Play Area in Whaley Bridge, Simmondley Play Area in Glossop, Cote Heath Skatepark in Buxton, Derby Road Play Area in New Mills and Manor Park Tennis Courts.
- 3.5 Jodrell Road and Simmondley Play Area projects were successfully delivered in 2023 with Manor Park, Cote Heath and Derby Road Play Area remaining from the current plan.
- 3.6 Significant community engagement has been undertaken over the past few months with regard to all three projects and designs proposals have been developed.
- 3.7 During a market testing exercise at the end of 2023 to establish current costs it became clear that due to the high increase in materials and supply chain issues that the current budget available for these remaining projects, set in 2021, would not deliver the capital works required to enhance and improve these community facilities.
- 3.8 An uplift of £207,000 for delivery of the remaining projects has been requested and this figure has been added to the draft medium term financial plan (MTFP) as a growth item. If approved, the delivery of the remaining projects will continue to be managed by the Service Commissioning team during the year 2024/25.
- 3.9 Some s106 funding has also been allocated to the projects and where possible we will look to secure external funding towards project costs to maximise the budget available. Whilst there are no guarantees external funding can be secured at this stage, and full costs have been included on that basis, the Council does have an excellent track record of partnership working and securing external funding to develop improvements to open space and sports facilities.

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

- 4.1 Aim 1 of the Borough Plan is “Supporting our communities to create a healthier and safer High Peak” a key objective of which is the “Provision of high quality leisure facilities both in formal leisure centres and out in our communities”.
- 4.2 Aim 4 of the Borough Plan is to “Protect and Improve the Environment” with with a key objective for “Effective provision of quality parks and open spaces”.
- 4.3 Aim 5 is to be “A responsive, smart, financially resilient and forward thinking Council”.

## 5. **Alternative Options**

5.1 There are two alternative options available to the Council:-

1. That the Council approves the additional funding required to deliver the remaining play projects identified in the Play Investment and Delivery Plan **(Recommended)**

2. Do nothing (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.

### 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 uplift to deliver the remaining play projects during 24/25 is £207,000. Provision has been made in the Medium Term Financial Plan to cover this cost. 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.

### 6.5 Legal

There are no specific legal considerations at this stage.

6.6 Climate Change

None specifically.

6.7 Consultation

Consultation and co-design with local communities is always factored into the delivery of any of the play improvement projects.

6.8 Risk Assessment

Appropriate assessment will be made as per each project within the plan.

Mark Trillo  
**Executive Director (Governance & Commissioning)**

**Web Links and  
Background Papers**

All papers in relation to the proposed works

**Contact details**

Sally Curley

Sally.Curley@highpeak.gov.uk

**7. Detail**

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, physical literacy and social skills.

7.2 It is important that these facilities are provided, maintained and developed effectively.

7.3 The Council has a successful track record of delivering capital play and outdoor sports improvement projects over several years mainly utilising s106 funding or external grant funding.

7.4 In 2018, £90,000 was secured from the Landfill Tax Communities fund to refurbish the play area on Bench Road in Fairfield as well as providing a new outdoor fitness trail which was identified by the local community as something they would like to utilise. The play area and fitness trail have proved extremely popular being closely located to both infant and junior schools, providing opportunities for children and families to be active before and after school.

- 7.5 In 2019 the play area at Whitfield Recreation Ground was completely revamped adding significantly improved play value to this important community greenspace. This project was instrumental in developing the Friends of Whitfield Greenspaces who initially come together to co-design the new play facility.
- 7.6 In 2021 the Play & Outdoor Sports Investment and Delivery Plan was approved by the Executive, along with the High Peak Parks Strategy. The purpose of the plan is to provide a more strategic view on the quality and play value of the Council's play facilities, identifying priority sites requiring future investment and securing the funding needed to deliver these improvements over the following three years.
- 7.7 In order to develop the plan, quality assessments of existing Council owned play and outdoor sports facilities were undertaken including a timeframe for delivery and a required budget estimate.
- 7.8 As a result of these assessments, priority sites across the borough were identified as in need of investment. These included Jodrell Road Play Area in Whaley Bridge, Simmondley Play Area in Glossop, Cote Heath Skatepark in Buxton, Derby Road Play Area in New Mills and Manor Park Tennis Courts.
- 7.9 Jodrell Road and Simmondley Play Areas are similar in size and it was agreed to undertake refurbishments to both sites at the same time, with a view to appointing one contractor to deliver the improvements.
- 7.10 Community engagement was undertaken in both Whaley Bridge and Simmondley. An on-line survey was produced for both areas which provided options and designs for comment and residents living adjacent to both sites were leafleted to inform them about the consultation. In addition, community drop-in events were also held for people to look at the play options available as well as talk to officers, at Whaley Bridge Transshipment Warehouse and Simmondley Primary School.
- 7.11 Following a tender exercise, Kompan Play Company were appointed to deliver both schemes and Jodrell Road Play Area was completed in March 23 with Simmondley following in April. Both sites benefitted from full refurbishments increasing the longevity and play value of these important spaces with new accessible surfacing and a flush accessible roundabout installed at Simmondley.
- 7.12 Significant consultation has already taken place over the last few months regarding the delivery of the remaining three projects within the Play Investment and Delivery Plan.
- 7.13 In terms of Derby Road Play Area, working with Youth Matters in New Mills, officers have attended youth club sessions in order to co-design the play area with local children and young people and this project is now ready to be tendered.

- 7.14 At Cote Heath, engagement with the skatepark users was undertaken on site during last summer at the community Xplorer events held in the park and designs are currently being developed.
- 7.15 Similarly at Manor Park, engagement with park users has been undertaken over the last few months and an on-line survey was developed and promoted on various social media channels. The results of this engagement has allowed the development of a proposed design which will need to be tendered.
- 7.16 In 2021 when the Play investment plan was approved, the costs required to deliver these projects were included at the time. However, due to significant increases in the cost of materials and processes over the last 2 years, as well as supply chain issues, these approved costs will now not allow these facilities to be enhanced to meet the needs and expectations of the local community in terms of delivering an enhanced/refurbished play facility.
- 7.17 An uplift of £207,000 for delivery of the remaining projects has been requested and this figure has been added to the draft medium term financial plan (MTFP) as a growth item. If approved, the delivery of the remaining projects will continue to be managed by the Service Commissioning team during the year 2024/25.
- 7.18 We have been able to allocate some s106 funding to the projects and where possible will look to secure external funding towards project costs to maximise the budget available. Whilst there are no guarantees external funding can be secured at this stage, and full costs have been included on that basis, the Council does have an excellent track record in partnership working and securing external funding to develop improvements to open space and sports facilities.