

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Executive - Individual Executive Decisions

1 October 2024

TITLE:	Approval of Capital Funding for the High Peak Play Investment & Delivery Plan 2024
EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR:	Councillor Damien Greenhalgh - Deputy Leader & Executive Councillor for Regeneration, Tourism and Leisure
CONTACT OFFICER:	Sally Curley - Senior Strategy & Partnerships Lead
WARDS INVOLVED:	All

Appendix 1 – Updated Play & Outdoor Sport Investment and Delivery Plan 2024-27.

1. Reason for the Report

- 1.1 To seek approval to allocate the capital funding required to deliver year 1 (2024/25) projects included in the updated Play & Outdoor Sports Investment and Delivery Plan 2024-27.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the capital funding required to deliver year 1 (2024/25) projects, identified in the updated Play & Outdoor Sports Investment and Delivery Plan 2024-27, is approved.

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 As several of the projects identified in the initial Play and Outdoor Sports Investment and Delivery Plan have already been delivered and the remaining ones will be completed this year, an updated plan has now been developed and proposes a continued programme of refurbishment or/and replacement of selected facilities over the next 4 year rolling period (see Appendix 1).
- 3.4 Four key sites have been identified for year 1 delivery which include Pavilion Gardens cableway replacement and mound resurfacing, Manor Park Toddler Play Area refurbishment, Newshaw Lane climbing unit replacement and Ashwood Park Tennis and Sports Courts refurbishment.
- 3.5 The overall cost to deliver year 1 of the plan is estimated to be £195,000 and it is proposed that this amount be added to the recently approved medium term financial plan (MTFP). If approved, the delivery of the year 1 projects will continue to be managed by the Leisure team during the year 2024/25.
- 3.6 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.
- 3.7 It also may be possible in some cases to secure external funding towards some of these projects and by doing so, budgets could be adjusted down accordingly. Whilst there are no guarantees that external funding can be secured at this stage, and full costs 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.
- 3.8 As part of the review process, the Leisure team will be producing information to showcase the projects delivered and this will be shared with Members in the future.

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 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 capital funding required to deliver year 1 projects identified in the updated Play & Outdoor Sports Investment and Delivery Plan 2024-27. **(Recommended)**
2. Do nothing (not recommended).

6. Implications

6.1	<u>Community safety, including safeguarding and prevention of terrorism</u> 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	<u>Workforce</u> None.
6.3	<u>Equality and Diversity/Equality Impact Assessment</u> Opportunities to re-design and re-develop play facilities will ensure that sites are accessible, wherever possible, to all members of the community. New play equipment can offer opportunities for less able bodied children as well good design of play spaces for those neurodivergent children and young people.
6.4	<u>Financial Considerations</u> The request to deliver year 1 projects (2024/25) of the updated Play & Outdoor Sports Delivery and Investment Plan is £195,000. No provision was made for this in the Medium Term Financial Plan approved in February 2024. If approved, this amount would need to be added to the capital programme in-year and would potentially require additional borrowing, attracting an annual revenue cost of £13,240 in debt financing charges. 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	<p><u>Legal</u></p> <p>There are no specific legal considerations at this stage.</p>
6.6	<p><u>Climate Change and Sustainability</u></p> <p>The play spaces identified in this report are integral parts of community parks and greenspaces, so their enhancement will help to protect these vital open spaces across the Borough. Ensuring that we provide good quality play spaces within walking distance of local communities, mean that residents, families and individuals can access free play and enjoy physical activity without the need to travel to neighbouring towns (or further afield) thus reducing car use and encouraging walking and cycling to the spaces.</p> <p>In terms of the materials used in manufacture of play equipment and construction, the Council is committed to addressing sustainability issues with suppliers at tender stage.</p>
6.7	<p><u>Conservation and Enhancement of Biodiversity</u></p> <p>As these play areas are within larger parks and open spaces, there are opportunities to enhance the surroundings for the conservation of nature, where appropriate, so children and young people have opportunities to connect with nature in the spaces where they play and interact. The inclusion of more 'natural play' can be suitable at certain sites, which include things like grass mounds, log seating, and sensory planting.</p>
6.8	<p><u>Consultation</u></p> <p>Consultation and co-design with local communities is always factored into the delivery of any of the play improvement projects.</p>
6.9	<p><u>Risk Assessment</u></p> <p>Appropriate assessments will be made as per each project within the plan.</p> <p>These projects have been identified as a priority for year 1 due to the current condition of some of the equipment. There is a risk that equipment may need to be removed due to safety concerns. Approval of the planned programme for year 1 will look to reduce this risk.</p>

Mark Trillo
Executive Director (Governance & Regulatory)

**Web Links and
Background Papers**

Contact details

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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 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. Completed projects have been undertaken at the following sites:

Site	Year
Bench Road Play Area (Fairfield)	2019
Whitfield Rec	2020
Bankswood Park Pump Track	2022
Jodrell Road Play Area	2023
Simmondley Play Area	2023

There are 3 remaining sites from the final year of the previous plan where further capital funds have been approved and which are to be completed this year:

- Cote Heath Skatepark (Buxton)
- Derby Road Play Area (New Mills)
- Manor Park Sports Courts (Glossop)

- 7.5 An updated Play & Outdoor Sports Investment and Delivery Plan (2024-27) has now been developed and proposes a continued programme of refurbishment or/and replacement of selected facilities over the next 4 year rolling period (see Appendix 1).

7.6 Approval is sought to deliver year 1 (2024/25) projects which will continue to be managed by Service Commissioning and will include an annual review process where projects that have been delivered will be reclassified, and any new projects included in the cycle for delivery in future years.

Year 1 (2024/25) projects include:-

- Pavilion Gardens cableway replacement and mound resurfacing
- Manor Park Toddler Play Area refurbishment
- Newshaw Lane climbing unit replacement
- Ashwood Park Tennis and Sports Courts refurbishment

7.7 The overall cost to deliver year 1 of this plan is estimated to be £195,000. No provision has been made for this in the Medium Term Financial Plan approved in February 2024. If approved, this amount would need to be added to the capital programme in-year and would potentially require additional borrowing, attracting an annual revenue cost of £13,240 in debt financing charges.

Site	Year	Capital Funds Requested
Pavilion Gardens	24/25	£50,000
Manor Park Toddler Play	24/25	£60,000
Newshaw Lane	24/25	£15,000
Ashwood Park	24/25	£70,000
		£195,000

7.8 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.

7.9 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.

7.10 It also may be possible in some cases to secure external funding towards some of these projects and by doing so, budgets could be adjusted down accordingly. Whilst there are no guarantees external funding can be secured at this stage, and full costs 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.

7.11 As part of the review process, the Leisure team will be producing documentation to showcase the projects delivered and this will be shared with Members in due course.