

Corporate Policy & Resources



Date of meeting Monday 15 April 2024

Title	<i>Woodthorpe Road play area upgrade</i>
Purpose of the report	To make a decision
Report Author	<i>Jackie Taylor Group Head Neighbourhood Services</i>
Ward(s) Affected	Ashford Town Ward
Exempt	No
Exemption Reason	<i>Not applicable</i>
Corporate Priority	Community Environment Services
Recommendations	<p>Committee is asked to:</p> <p>1) Authorise the Group Head of Neighbourhood Services to commence a tender for the procurement of play area equipment</p> <p>2) Delegate authority to the Group Head Neighbourhood Services and Chair of Environment & Sustainability to appoint the chosen supplier/s</p> <p>3) Authorise the Group Head of Corporate Governance to enter the contract with the selected supplier</p>
Reason for Recommendation	<p>The Southampton to London pipeline (SLP) project has created a negative impact on the community whilst the works were ongoing. By way of giving back to the community Esso agreed to fund an £85k upgrade of equipment within the play area on Woodthorpe Road Recreation Ground.</p>

1. Summary of the report

What is the situation	Why we want to do something
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of the SLP, Esso agreed to contribute £85k towards the upgrade of play facilities on Woodthorpe Road which have been impacted due to the SLP project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This money has been ring fenced for spend on this play area which is now need of an upgrade.
This is what we want to do about it	These are the next steps

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procure equipment to meet the needs of residents and visitors who make use of this valuable play facility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete a procurement exercise for the purchase and installation of new equipment to replace existing equipment which is now outdated.
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1.1 This report seeks permission from committee to commence a tender exercise for the purchase and installation of play equipment, funding for which has been made available by Esso as part of the SLP project.

1.2 The funding will allow for improvements to the existing play equipment and surfaces providing where possible impact absorbing play surfaces.

1.3 The procurement exercise will require tender returns to evidence and quote for design, supply and installation of playground equipment.

2. Key issues

2.1 Esso have agreed that as the play area and surrounding green spaces have been impacted by the SLP over a protracted period of time that by way of a contribution to the local community they will contribute £85k towards the upgrade of play equipment within this very popular play area on Woodthorpe Road Ashford.

2.2 The allotments and parks strategy officer has been in contact with ward Cllrs from Ashford Town Ward to seek their views on what equipment they would like to see replaced and/or improved within the play area.

3. Options analysis and proposal

3.1 As the residents and users of this very popular facility have been impacted over a prolonged period of time due to the SLP works Esso directed this funding to be made available for the play area upgrade and there are therefore no other options to consider.

4. Financial management comments

4.1 This funding has already been made available and there are no additional financial implications for the borough.

4.2 These play areas are already in existence and are therefore already budgeted for in terms of insurance, on-going maintenance, and repairs.

5. Risk management comments

5.1 The procurement exercise will ensure that the proposals for this area come in within the budget parameters.

5.2 The funding has already been received and there are no financial risk issues.

5.3 Following the correct procedure will ensure that we get best value from the potential suppliers.

6. Procurement comments

6.1 Procurement has been supporting the project to date and will continue to support the tendering exercise for a suitable contractor to meet the project requirements, to ensuring value for money is achieved from a compliant tender process.

6.2 The value of the works is well below the threshold at which the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 apply. For this value of works a tender with a minimum of three contractors is required.

7. Legal comments

7.1 The legal team have been consulted and have no further comments

8. Equality and Diversity

8.1 The equipment within the play areas is freely accessible to all members of the community falling within the desired age group. Consideration for inclusive play and the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) regulations will be considered during the tender evaluation stages.

9. Sustainability/Climate Change Implications

9.1 Environmentally sustainable procurement is the commissioning, purchase, and management of goods, works and services in a way that reduces or negates negative environmental impacts within the supply chain. The evaluation of tenders received will consider four interconnected focus areas of environmentally sustainable procurement being: -

- Climate Change mitigation and adaptation.
- Prevention of pollution.
- Sustainable resource use and consumption; and
- Protection and restoration of biodiversity.

10. Timetable for implementation

10.1 The documents to enable this procurement exercise to commence have already been created. As soon as authority to proceed has been given by CPRC the tender exercise will begin.

11. Contact

11.1 Jackie Taylor
Group Head Neighbourhood Services
01784446411

Background papers: There are none.

Appendices: There are none