

**Report of: The Community Projects Officer**

**To: Community and Resources Committee**

**Subject: Additional Funding for Victoria Park Play Area from Capital budget.**

**Date: 12/10/2023**

**Reference:**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT:** For C & R committee members to consider TDC officers using TDC Play Area funds to make improvements to Victoria Park Play area in addition to secured external funding.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

TDC officers along with a specifically set up community group have secured funding to deliver an improved play space for our community and visitors, within Victoria Park. Now that funding has been secured and design submitted and approved, there are additional works required to fully complete the project.

## **2. REPORT**

The design submitted by Play Area specialists Kompan, allows there to be huge improvements to the play space. However, the external funding of £280,000 only gets us so far. It is recognised that there are a few additional works that we would still like to be achieved to fully complete the project on the Bidefort and Infant areas. This would save us from having to do these additional jobs in the future, also saving on costs by having completed at the same time of all other works.

These additional works include:

- New wet pour safety surfacing for basket swing & current slide - £5,500
- Replacement of mini trampoline - £13,000
- Widening the planed pathway from 1.5m to 1.8m to allow for additional wheelchair/pushchair space
- Lockable safety hatch for new tower, limiting anti-social behaviour and damage – approx. £2000.00
- New benches within the infant area (replacing old concrete wooden benches and new picnic style benches near new centre piece item – approx. £2000.00
- Replacement item in junior area – approx. £10,000
- Additional skip - £840

Estimated cost for all the above - £33,340 **plus** cost of pathway widening.



External Funding for Victoria Park Play Area is as follows:

**Victoria Park Play Area**

Bridge Trust	£19,382
Bideford TC	£10,000
Rural Prosperity Fund	£150,347
Community Fundraising	£1,000
Bideford Bridge Trust	£100,000
<b>Total External Funding</b>	<b>£280,729</b>

Re allocate Play area programme budget	£40,000
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Total Project Budget	<b>£320,729</b>
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TDC play area capital reserve budget has funds available after completion of works throughout the last couple years since the inception of the new play area strategy. Some sites that had allocated capital funds in the budget have not been used as the works have been maintenance or had allocated S106 funds instead.

Remaining funds will be used at play sites where there is a recognised need for additional improvements over the next 2-3 years, as allocated when the reserve fund was established.

**3. IMPLICATIONS**

Legal Implications

None

Financial Implications

If committee does not agree to use these available capital funds, the works will get completed at a later date but will costs more to do the works separately and will also have implications on availability of some items of play whilst works are completed. It is TDC officers preferred option to complete the works all at the same time so that the public really benefit from everything being new once opened.

Human Resources Implications

None

Sustainability/Biodiversity Implications

None

Equality/Diversity

None



### Risk Management

Some of the proposed additions would help to reduce the risk of injury, damage and anti-social activity on the site.

### Compliance with Policies and Strategies

The project is identified as a priority in the council's Play Strategy

### Data Protection (GDPR) Implications

None

### Climate Change

Completing the project in one go will mean less vehicle journeys made to site.

### Ward Member and Lead Member Views

Support of lead of leisure member Cllr Lyndon Piper

Date of Consultation – 12/10/2023

## **4. CONCLUSIONS**

The allocation of these available funds would mean a full completion of the Victoria Park Play Area project. Reducing costs of future works and providing a completed destination play area for Bideford.

## **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

For this committee to approve TDC officers use available capital funds allocated for play spaces, at Victoria Park Play Area

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- Play Area design of Victoria Park by Kompan

### **Officers consulted.**

- Senior Capital Accountant & Deputy S151 Officer
- Finance Manager (s.151)
- Property team technical/health and safety officers

Contact Officer: Community Engagement Officer

