

## Report of the Executive Director

**PRIDE IN PARKS – PLAY AREA AND PARKS/OPEN SPACE IMPROVEMENTS**1. Purpose of report

To update Members on the Pride in Parks initiative.

2. Background

Since April 2018 funding has been allocated to undertake improvements to the Borough owned play areas that were identified as high and medium priority sites in the play strategy and to the Town and Parish Councils that maintain their own parks and outdoor recreational facilities to enable improvement and renovation works to be undertaken at these sites.

This report provides an update on progress made on the 2021/22 Pride in Parks Initiative, the completion of a scheme which rolled forward from 2020/21 together with proposals for 2022/23 and beyond.

3. Financial implications

The 2021/22 Capital Programme allows funding for 2 schemes. Further details are provided in the Appendix.

**Recommendation**

**The Committee is asked to NOTE the progress on the schemes in the capital programme as part of the Pride in Parks initiative.**

Background papers

Nil

**APPENDIX****Schemes 2020/21****Dovecote Lane Recreation Ground, Beeston**

Consultation was undertaken during summer 2020 and a scheme to fully refurbish this very popular play area was prepared, featuring new modern climbing units and a full range of equipment for younger children, all with new rubber surfacing. A successful bid was made to FCC Community Foundation for £73,500 and this was used along with £47,250 from the Council's capital programme and £5,000 from United Living, the Council's housing modernisation and construction partner. The works started in March and were completed in June 2021. Feedback has been very positive and from general observation a significant increase in footfall has taken place.

**Schemes 2021/22**

All the High Priority Schemes within the Borough Play Strategy have now been funded and work undertaken to address the issues. The next phase of works concentrates on the schemes identified as Medium Priority where works need to be undertaken in the period 2020-23. In the 2021-22 Capital Programme there is £105,000 (excluding capital salaries) allocated for 2 schemes.

**i) Pasture Road Recreation Ground, Stapleford**

Consultation was undertaken during summer 2021 and a scheme to fully refurbish the play area and install adult fitness equipment was prepared. A funding bid was made to FCC Communities Foundation and in December 2021 confirmation was received that £49,500 had been awarded towards the project. As with all FCC awards there is a requirement to provide a 10.75% third party contribution to secure the award. For this scheme the required £5,320 has been provided by the Council's Construction Partner United Living Property Services. With £55,000 (excluding capital salaries) from the Council's capital programme and the £49,500 allocation from FCC this gives a total of £104,500. Tenders are being prepared for the project with a potential start date of March 2022.

The original capital allocation for this scheme was £75,000. The funding bid to FCC allowed a more expansive scheme to be designed matching the requirements identified in the consultation. With the success of the award there is however now a balance of £20,000 in the programme. This will be held as a contingency for this scheme and then rolled forward for use as part of the schemes identified in the 2022/23 Capital Programme in the Budget Papers elsewhere on the agenda

**ii) Play Area Improvements**

A number of play areas, whilst not requiring a full refurbishment, do require some remedial works. The Play Strategy identified that priorities may change during the period of the strategy due to issues such as increased usage of sites, vandalism and equipment failure. This budget recognises these changes and allows for the site specific issues to be addressed without undertaking a full refurbishment of the

particular site. The installation of rubber impact absorbing surfacing has been made at Hall Om Wong in Kimberley, Hickings Lane Recreation Ground in Stapleford and Inham Nook Recreation Ground in Chilwell. At Queen Elizabeth Park in Stapleford a large replacement play unit has been installed.

The works costing £30,000 (excluding capital salaries) are funded from the Council's Capital Programme.

### **Schemes 2022/23 and beyond**

The Councils Play Strategy 2017-2025 identifies very high, high, medium and lower priorities for improving Children's Play Facilities. The very high and high priorities have been completed. The medium priorities are now in the process of being actioned. The scheme at Pasture Road Recreation Ground as identified in the report is one of these. The other outstanding medium priorities are at Jubilee Park, Eastwood, Bramcote Hills Park, Bramcote and The Spinney Open Space at Nuthall. These are all included in the proposed 2022/23 Capital Programme. The proposed forward capital programme for 2023/24 and 2024/25 allows for the completion of the one outstanding medium priority site at Banks Road, Toton and for the lower priority sites. In 2023/24 Sandgate Open Space, Bramcote and Queen Elizabeth Park, Stapleford are the 2 schemes proposed. In 2024/25 Cator Lane Recreation Ground, Chilwell and Redbridge Drive Nuthall are the schemes identified.