

| REPORT TO | ON  |
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| CABINET   | Wednesday, 14 <sup>th</sup><br>October 2020 |



| TITLE  | PORTFOLIO                    | REPORT OF                                  |
|--|------------------------------|--|
| Refurbishment of Playgrounds at Hurst Grange Park, Penwortham & Bellis Way, Walton-Le-Dale | Cabinet Member (Environment) | Director of Neighbourhoods and Development |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Is this report a <b>KEY DECISION</b> (i.e. more than £100,000 or impacting on more than 2 Borough wards?)        | Yes |
| Is this report on the <b>Statutory Cabinet Forward Plan</b> ?  | Yes |
| Is the request outside the policy and budgetary framework and therefore subject to confirmation at full Council? | No  |
| Is this report confidential?   | No  |

## PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To bring the refurbishment projects for the playgrounds at Hurst Grange Park, Penwortham and Bellis Way, Walton-Le-Dale before members and to seek permission to spend the allocated capital budgets and award the contract to the Preferred Bidder for Hurst Grange Playground identified by the procurement processes.

## PORTFOLIO RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That Cabinet grants permission for the following:
  1. To spend the allocated £225,000 capital budget for the Refurbishment of Hurst Grange Park Playground
  2. To award the contract for the refurbishment of Hurst Grange Park Playground to Bidder 1 in Table 1
  3. To spend the allocated £30,000 capital budget for the refurbishment of Bellis Way Playground, increased to a maximum of £60,000 subject to a successful external funding bid by the Friends of Bellis Way Playground.

## REASONS FOR THE DECISION

3. The current capital programme includes a number of play areas identified for improvement. Hurst Grange Park and Bellis Way Playgrounds have funds allocated in this financial year and bids have been invited on a design and build basis.

## CORPORATE OUTCOMES

4. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Excellence, Investment and Financial Sustainability |   |
| Health, Wellbeing and Safety                        | X |
| Place, Homes and Environment                        | X |

Projects relating to People in the Corporate Plan:

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Our People and Communities | x |
|----------------------------|---|

## BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

5. The report *Creating Playful Communities* by Play England (2011) suggests improving opportunities for play provides additional benefits to the simple fun and enjoyment that it gives to children and young people:
- Play is important for children's health – both physical and mental. Active physical play can contribute to reducing levels of childhood obesity.
  - Access to play and informal recreation opportunities can help to reduce anti-social behaviour
  - Providing play opportunities brings communities together and is a strong force for community cohesion.
6. A previous playground refurbishment programme ran from 2003 to 2012 and refurbished a number of the council's children's play areas. However, the programme ended before several sites were improved and these are now being prioritised under the current refurbishment programme.
7. Hurst Grange Park Playground was last comprehensively refurbished in 1998, with the addition of a new group swing in 2010. As Hurst Grange Park is classed as Penwortham's Principal Park, the playground is intended to serve a wider area than a local neighbourhood play area. The Playground remains well used by the public, but the layout and equipment is now dated and the site scores poorly for accessibility and inclusivity, especially when compared with the more modern designs of Worden Park, Leyland and Withy Grove Park, Bamber Bridge, the borough's other Principal Park Playgrounds.
8. Bellis Way Playground is a small neighbourhood play area, set within an area of public open spaces in the Walton Park development. The close proximity of neighbouring houses makes the site unsuitable for equipment for older children where more disturbance may be expected. An alternative site for a playground for older age groups is being looked at as part of the development of surrounding areas. The existing playground has only a single swing left and is therefore insufficient for the locality it serves.

9. The Friends of Bellis Way Playground have submitted a funding bid to a local grant funder for £30,000 towards the improvement of the playground. If successful, the budget can be doubled from £30,000 to £60,000 and therefore bidders will be invited to submit a scheme to reflect the available budget.

## PROPOSALS

### Hurst Grange Park Playground

10. It is proposed to refurbish Hurst Grange Park Playground to provide a modern accessible and inclusive playground for Toddlers (ages 2-6) and juniors (ages 7-12). Although the space available and setting wouldn't allow for a facility on the scale of Worden or Withy Grove Park playgrounds, the budget will allow for a good range of equipment for both age groups including a sand pit and 'landmark' item such as a tall (up to 7m) climbing tower and slide, that are generally limited to the principal facilities.
11. The contract is classed as a Services contract due to the design element and therefore the contract value exceeds the OJEU threshold above which the tender must be advertised across the EU. Therefore, an approved framework (ESPO) was utilised to allow a 'further competition' tender process to be undertaken with a pre-qualified list of bidders who have been included on the framework through an OJEU approved process.
12. Bidders were notified of the project budget and asked to design a scheme providing maximum value for the budget available. 1 tender submission was received before the closing date and has been evaluated in accordance with the evaluation criteria. The details are listed in Table 1 below. Tender Number 1 is an acceptable quality, compliant tender and is recommended for acceptance.
13. The preferred bidder is based in the UK and under the Social Value element of the bid has undertaken to source plant and materials from the South Ribble area and anticipates that 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the contract value will be spent locally. In addition, the bidder has offered some training opportunities on site during the works.

**Table 1 – Hurst Grange Park Playground**

| Tender | Within Budget?<br>PASS/FAIL | Quality Score (100%) |
|--------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1      | <b>PASS</b>                 | <b>96</b>            |

## **Bellis Way Playground**

14. The £30,000 budget allows for the installation of a small range of toddler equipment with new surfacing and perimeter dog proof fencing to be installed. A £60,000 budget (if the Friends Group's funding bid was successful) would allow a greater range of toddler equipment to be provided with the area of the playground extended slightly to the sides. An extension to the north would be avoided to maintain the playground's distance from neighbouring houses.
15. Designs for the playground will be invited through the Chest in accordance with the council's Contract Procedure Rules with bidders asked to design a scheme for the available budget (£30,000 or £60,000). The bids will be assessed according to the evaluation criteria and the successful scheme will be the design that gives the greatest value for the budget available.

## **CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT AND OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION**

16. Consultation was carried out for Hurst Grange Playground between 20<sup>th</sup> July and 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2020 and for Bellis Way Playground between 19<sup>th</sup> August and 6<sup>th</sup> September 2020. The consultations invited the public to submit their thoughts on the current sites and give views about suggested possible items of new equipment.
17. The information was provided on the council's website with letters sent to surrounding houses and signs displayed on site providing the weblink. The consultations were also advertised on social media by the council and by the Friends Groups at both sites. Consultation replies have been reviewed and fed into the design brief for bidders.
18. Details of the playground consultation have been sent to the Chairs of the relevant My Neighbourhood Hubs and there will be further engagement as the projects progress, if given approval to proceed at this stage by Cabinet.

## **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

19. The option of doing nothing and leaving the sites in their current condition was rejected as both sites are now in need of refurbishment to provide quality facilities.
20. The option of providing junior equipment at Bellis Way and teen/adult equipment within the playground at Hurst Grange Park was rejected due to limitations on space and the proximity of surrounding houses.

## **AIR QUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

21. The proposals will not give rise to any negative air quality issues. Care shall be taken to ensure any work minimises the overall environmental impact in terms of carbon emissions and reduction in the use of single use plastics as identified in the corporate priorities.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

22. A number of risks linked to the current site designs will be addressed through the improvement proposals. The project risk register identifies other key risks, the majority of which will be mitigated by the procurement process followed.

## **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPACT**

23. The new play areas would be more inclusive and accessible by design.

## **COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER**

24. The Capital Programme for the financial year 2020/2021 includes a budget of £500,000 for the refurbishment of 4 play areas. Of this budget £225,000 has been allocated to Hurst Grange Park Playground and £30,000 to Bellis Way Playground.
25. The Friends of Bellis Way Playground have applied for a grant of up to £30,000 that could contribute to the scheme if successful and therefore permission to increase the budget to £60,000 has been requested, subject to the success of the external funding bid. If funding is not successful only £30k will be spent and the budget also reduced.

## **COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**

26. With regard to both proposals the council's Contract Procedure Rules have been complied with. In particular an EU compliant Framework has been used for the proposals relating to Hurst Grange Park.
27. The Council will be bound by the terms and conditions it enters into with any external suppliers and contractors. The proposed installation of a tall item of equipment up to 7m in height will be subject to planning consent and any associated conditions.

## **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Council Budget Report including capital programme details for 2020/21 - 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020  
Application for Planning Permission for a tower up to 7m high within the playground

### **There are no appendices to this report**

Jennifer Mullin  
Director of Neighbourhoods and Development

|   |              |                                |
|---|--------------|--------------------------------|
| Report Author:                              | Telephone:   | Date:                          |
| Greg Clark (Senior Parks Technical Officer) | 01772 625561 | 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2020 |