

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Customer and Digital (Introduced by Cabinet Member (Finance, Property and Assets))	Cabinet	Wednesday, 17 November 2021

Is this report confidential?	No
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Is this decision key?	Yes
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<b>Savings or expenditure amounting to greater than £100,000</b>	Significant impact on 2 or more council wards
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## Refurbishment of The Holme Playground, Bamber Bridge

### Purpose of the Report

- To bring the refurbishment project for the playground at The Holme Playing Field, Bamber Bridge before members and to seek permission to award the contract to the Preferred contractor identified by the procurement processes.

### Recommendations to Cabinet

- That Cabinet grants permission for the following:
  - To award the contract for the works Bidder 1 in Table 1, Appendix A

### Reasons for recommendations

- The current capital programme includes a number of play areas identified for improvement. The Holme Playing Field Playground has funds allocated in this financial year and bids have been invited on a design and build basis.

### Other options considered and rejected

- The options of doing nothing and leaving the site in its current condition or carrying out partial refurbishment works were rejected as the site is now over 20 years old and in need of full refurbishment to provide quality facilities that meet modern standards for design and accessibility.

### Corporate priorities

- The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

An exemplary council	Thriving communities
A fair local economy that works for everyone	<b>Good homes, green spaces, healthy places</b>

## Background to the report

6. 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.
7. 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.
8. The Holme Playing Field Playground was last comprehensively refurbished in 1999 and whilst it remains well used by the public, 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 playground recently refurbished around the borough.

## Proposals

9. It is proposed to refurbish the Holme Playground to provide a modern accessible and inclusive playground for Toddlers (ages 2-6) and juniors (ages 7-12) and teens.
10. The contract is classed as a Services contract due to the contractor's 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.
11. Bidders were notified of the project budget and asked to design a scheme providing maximum value for the budget available. 3 tender submissions were received before the closing date and has been evaluated in accordance with the evaluation criteria. The details are listed in Table 1 in Appendix A. Tender Number 1 is an acceptable quality, compliant tender and is recommended for acceptance.
12. 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 20-30% of materials will be sourced locally. In addition, the bidder has offered some learning opportunities on site for local school children during the works.
13. The approved capital programme includes a total budget of £225k for this scheme.

## **Consultation Carried Out**

14. Consultation was carried out for the Holme Playground between 14<sup>th</sup> April and 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021. The consultations invited the public to submit their thoughts on the current sites and give views about suggested possible items of new equipment.
15. The information was provided on the council's online consultation portal with letters sent to surrounding houses, signs displayed on site and advertised through the council's social media channels. Consultation replies have been reviewed and fed into the design brief for bidders.
16. 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.

## **Climate change and air quality**

17. The work noted in this report impacts on the following areas of climate change and sustainability targets of the Council's Green Agenda:
  - Reducing waste production.
18. The following remediations have been undertaken to limit the environmental effect:
  - Waste materials arising from the demolition of the existing playground including timber, metal, stone and rubber, will be reused and recycled where possible minimising the amount of material disposed of at landfill.

## **Equality and diversity**

19. The new play area will be more inclusive and accessible by design.

## **Risk**

20. 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.

## **Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer**

21. The Capital Programme includes a total budget of £650,000 for the refurbishment of 4 play areas in addition to the ones refurbished in 2020/21. Of this budget, £225,000 has been allocated to The Holme Playing Field Playground.

## **Comments of the Monitoring Officer**

22. The council's Contract Procedure Rules have been complied with. In particular an EU compliant Framework has been used.
23. The Council will be bound by the terms and conditions it enters into with any external suppliers and contractors.

## Background documents

Council Budget Report including capital programme details for 2021/22 - 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021

## Appendices

Appendix A – (Confidential) Tenders Received for Refurbishment of the Holme Playground

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