

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Communities (Introduced by Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member (Property, Assets, Commercial Services and Major Developments))	Council	Wednesday, 19 July 2023

New Budget for Tardy Gate Play area and Skate Park

Is this report confidential?	No
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Is this decision key?	Not applicable
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Purpose of the Report

1. This report is asking Council to approve the addition of a new budget in the Council's approved capital programme for the refurbishment of Tardy Gate Play Area, including the ball court skate area.

Recommendations to Council

2. That Council approve the inclusion of a new budget in the Council's capital programme of £275,000 for the refurbishment of Tardy Gate Play Area, including the ball court and skate area.
3. In order to fund this, that Council agree to the virement of £275,000 from the existing Neighbourhood Improvement Fund capital scheme budget to a new budget for the Tardy Gate Play Area project in Lostock Hall.

Reasons for recommendations

4. To progress the aspirations for the investment in Tardy Gate play area at Lostock Hall, a new budget of over £100,000 is required to be added to the Council's approved capital programme which requires a full Council decision.

Other options considered and rejected

5. The Council could decide not to take this project forward, however, the development of community facilities in the Lostock Hall area is seen as a priority by the Council. This project has also been identified as an objective within the Community Hub Plan.

Corporate priorities

6. Relevant Corporate priorities highlighted in bold

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

Background to the report

7. Over recent years the Council has embarked on a programme of play area renewal to refurbish the oldest sites and to local community hub and political aspirations. Play areas that have been refurbished and renewed in recent years have included:

- a. Hurst Grange Park, Penwortham
- b. Birch Avenue, Penwortham
- c. Ryden Avenue, Leyland
- d. Strawberry Valley Park, Leyland
- e. Bellis Way, Walton-Le-Dale
- f. The Holme Playing Field, Bamber Bridge
- g. Worden Park, Leyland
- h. Seven Stars, Leyland
- i. Leadale Green, Leyland
- j. Haig Avenue, Leyland
- k. Moss Side, Leyland

8. The programme of playground improvement for the financial year 2023/24 currently has earmarked the refurbishment of the following play areas. The budget for these schemes is already in place:

- a. New Longton Play Area
- b. Longton Play Area
- c. King George V playing field (Penwortham) Play area

9. Over recent months the local community in Lostock Hall through the Community Hub have been asking that the Council consider investment in the Tardy Gate play area site, which currently comprises of a large black bitmac area with the following facilities last refurbished in 2006/7:

- a. A fenced toddler and junior play area
- b. Items of equipment geared towards older children
- c. A ball court with goal ends and basketball hoops and open sides
- d. Four small items of skate equipment including a ramp and grind rails
- e. A youth shelter.

10. Adjacent to the large bitmac area is a grass football pitch to the south and a grass area to the east that may be suitable for moving/extending skate facilities into.

11. The Lostock Hall area is a busy part of the Borough where there are opportunities for investment into the community facilities. This proposed new budget in the capital programme will allow a project to go forward which will improve children's play facilities on the Tardy Gate site. The proposed project is a key ambition in the Community Hub plan and will be welcomed by the local community of Lostock Hall.

The Proposal

12. The proposal that is been put before Council is the setting up of a new budget for the improvement of children's facilities on the open space at Tardy Gate Lostock Hall.
13. The proposed budget for the project would be £275,000 funded through virement from the existing capital programme budget for neighbourhood improvements which is currently unallocated.
14. The project will be finalised and funded by the budget once set up and agreed by Councillors will include the following elements:
 - a. The refurbishment and renewal of the existing play area
 - b. The refurbishment and improvement of the ball court area
 - c. The improvement of skate/wheeled facilities
 - d. An improvement of the appearance and design of the play area
15. The final project will be tendered as a design and build contract to include the elements above against the budget available for the project on a fixed price basis. This is the usual approach that is taken with regards to improving play areas across the Borough.

Consultation

16. As part of forming a brief for bidders, a consultation exercise will take place with the local community ensuring local views and aspirations help shape the planned project.

Climate change and air quality

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

Equality and diversity

18. One of the key ambitions of the project above is to increase Equality of accessibility to the Children's community facilities available on Tardy Gate. A full equality impact assessment will be undertaken to ensure the team consider equality prior to the design stage of the works.

Risk

19. A Risk Register is in place for capital improvement works to play areas.
20. There is always a risk of misuse and vandalism of play areas and therefore design specifications seek to ensure equipment and other facilities are as robust as possible whilst remaining attractive and providing high levels of play value.

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

21. An unallocated budget of £360k is in place within the capital programme for Neighbourhood Improvement schemes. Therefore, there are sufficient funds available within this budget to complete the virement of £275k required to set up the new capital scheme for Tardy Gate Play Area and Skate Park.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

22. The proposal to establish a budget to fund improvement works to the Tardy Gate play area is reasonable and justified within the body of the report.

Background documents

There are no background papers to this report.

Appendices

Appendix A – An existing plan of the site

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Date Created: 26/06/2023

Tardy Gate Play Area, Lostock Hall

Author:



Map Scale: 1:5,000
Map Centre: 354,367 425,877

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