Chichester District Council

Cabinet 7 January 2024

Play Area Refurbishments

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The appointment of Supplier 3 be approved by Cabinet using the ESPO framework 115_21 (Outdoor Playground, Fitness & Sports Facilities and Equipment). This being an approved framework and in compliance with the council's Contract Standing Orders.
- 2.2 Authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member and Director of Corporate Services to mobilise the project including:
 - 2.2.1 Concluding discussions with the City Council on collaboration with the potential to enhance the schemes proposed. This being on the basis that any collaboration will not result in increased capital or revenue costs for the District Council.
 - 2.2.2 Conducting a final stage of public consultation on the proposals, refining plans in response to feedback and finalising the schemes to proceed.
 - 2.2.3 Award of contract using the approved terms and conditions from the framework agreement.

3. Background

- 3.1 In January 2024 Cabinet agreed the refurbishment of the council's play areas should be a priority and approved the allocation of funds from reserves to enhance the budget available.
- 3.2 At the Council meeting in July a budget of £814k was approved as well as delegated authority to continue negotiations with the City Council on a potential collaboration. It was agreed that a further report would be taken back to Cabinet to present the final schemes and seek approval for contract award.
- 3.3 During the summer of 2024 officers carried out public consultation with park users and stakeholders to understand key requirements that should be included in the refurbishment specification.
- 3.4 Consultation confirmed the play areas at Priory Park, Oaklands Park, Sherborne Road, Amphitheatre and Whyke Oval were perceived to be dated and in need of complete

- replacement. The consultation also helped to identify requirements and important considerations for any new schemes.
- 3.5 Feedback from users of Florence Park confirmed the play area is in good condition, well used and highly valued. From an environmental perspective it is considered wasteful to replace the play area at this stage so some enhancements and the addition of new items will take place in the Spring. The need for replacement will be monitored and funds drawn from the Asset Replacement Programme when the need arises. It is estimated this will be around five years from now.
- 3.6 With the remaining play areas, suppliers were invited to tender for refurbishment on a disclosed budget basis, using the approved ESPO framework agreement. A budget of £50k was allocated to the Amphitheatre and £150k to each of the remaining play areas; a total of £650k.
- 3.7 Three submissions were received from reputable suppliers. The tenders were appraised against criteria that focussed on community benefit, play and quality values. The results of the tender evaluation can be found in exempt Appendix 1.
- 3.8 Appendix 2. contains artist impressions provided by Supplier 3 for each scheme. This gives a good indication of what can be achieved with the budget available. It does not show what could be achieved if the City Council collaborates. Officers believe the impressions show an improvement on existing provision. Any contribution from the City Council will only enhance this further.

4 Outcomes to be Achieved

- 4.1 The appointment of a reputable and reliable supplier to refurbish the council's play areas.
- 4.2 The opportunity to collaborate with the City Council on enhanced play provision within the city.
- 4.3 The provision of high quality play areas that serve their communities, provide great play value and attract visitors from further afield due to their reputation.

5 **Proposal**

- 5.1 It is proposed that Supplier 3 is awarded the refurbishment contract based on achieving the highest quality score. Officers appraised submissions against set criteria with Hampshire Procurement Services providing moderation and compliance support.
- 5.2 Discussions with the City Council are required to agree the level of collaboration. Once agreed the supplier can develop a second set of proposals, which can be used for public consultation. Officers within the Public Relations team have produced a communications plan to support this.
- 5.3 Following public consultation proposals will be refined and finalised enabling contract mobilisation.
- 5.4 Officers will continue to work behind the scenes on the tasks required to facilitate delivery i.e. planning permission, Historic England consent and stakeholder engagement.
- 5.5 It is hoped work on site will commence following the Easter holidays with a target of completion by August. There is a lot to do before work can start on the ground, so delegated authority is requested under 2.2. to enable timely decisions and progress.

- 5.6 Opening ceremonies will take place as schemes are completed and our 'new' play areas promoted through the usual channels.
- 5.7 It would be the intention to report back to Cabinet on the achievements of the project a year after completion.

6 Alternatives Considered

- 6.1 Do nothing; run existing play areas to end of life and do not replace. This was not previously considered to be a viable option by Cabinet or Council.
- 6.2 Reduce the budget; this would result in reduced play provision and draw criticism from stakeholders that have set expectations.

7 Resource and Legal Implications

- 7.1 At its meeting in January 2024 Cabinet agreed the allocation of £440k from the Asset Replacement Programme and £374k from reserves to support the project. This was approved by Council in July. As noted above, the refurbishment of Florence Park will be delayed so budget will be held in the ARP to enable this in the future.
- 7.2 The City Council has suggested that a contribution of 50% overall may be available. This requires confirmation and agreement on how the contribution would be applied, including ongoing revenue costs.
- 7.3 The Operations Manager and officers from the Green Spaces team at CCS will continue to manage the project.
- 7.4 Throughout the project the council's Public Relations team has been engaged. The team will assist with the next phase of consultation as scheme proposals are presented to park users for comment.

8 Consultation

- 8.1 Consultation has already been carried out with park users and stakeholders to inform the specification and scheme requirements.
- 8.2 A second stage of public consultation and stakeholder engagement will be undertaken to refine the schemes proposed before work commences on site.
- 8.3 Permissions and approvals will be required for schemes in conservation or historic settings.

9 Community Impact and Corporate Risks

- 9.1 The provision of refurbished, new, or enhanced play areas will have a positive impact on residents and visitors. Through the promotion of challenge, creativity, social interaction, and laughter, play can be a key ingredient of physical and mental wellbeing among children and families.
- 9.2 Costs have risen sharply within the play industry in recent years. Manufacturing quality can also be inconsistent as some suppliers aim to improve their profit margins. To mitigate these risks submissions have been scrutinised, and the contract award based on best value i.e. creative but solid, fit for purpose and well-constructed equipment.

10 Other Implications

Are there any implications for the following?		
	Yes	No
Crime and Disorder		Х
Biodiversity and Climate Change Mitigation		X
Human Rights and Equality Impact – Every opportunity has been	Х	
taken to introduce inclusive play equipment and options where it is		
practicable to do so.		
Safeguarding and Early Help		X
General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)		Х
Health and Wellbeing – Promoting physical and mental development	Х	
and wellbeing through challenging, creative and fun play provision.		

11 Appendices

Appendix 1 (exempt part 2). Tender submission evaluation scores Appendix 2. Scheme proposals - Artist Impressions

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted











