

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No

meeting date: 22 OCTOBER 2013

title: ADDITIONAL CAPITAL APPROVAL - JOHN SMITH'S PLAYING FIELD

submitted by: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

principal author: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To consider a request for the addition of a capital scheme in the current year's capital programme.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Councils Ambitions – to be a well-managed Council providing efficient services based on identified customer needs.
- Community Objectives – to make people's lives safer and healthier and more specifically, improve outcomes for children and young people.
- Corporate Priorities: See above.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The capital programme for 2013-2016 was approved by Special Policy and Finance Committee on 12 February 2013 and by Full Council on 5 March 2013.

2.2 Any capital expenditure over and above what has already been approved must be agreed by this Committee, and then by Policy and Finance Committee.

2.3 John Smith's Playing Field was one of three of the Borough's parks awarded diamond jubilee status to commemorate the diamond jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Plaques featuring deeds of dedication have been installed at the entrance of the parks, giving them protected status as recreational outdoor spaces for future generations.

3 ISSUES

3.1 After a recent independent inspection the current play equipment at John Smith's Playing Field has been deemed no longer fit for purpose and is in need of a complete replacement. Additionally, concern has been expressed by users of the park about the quality of play equipment provided.

3.2 Longridge Social Enterprise Company is involved in general environmental improvements throughout the town and they have identified improvements at John Smith's Playing Fields as a priority for the town (through consultation with park users).

3.3 Replacement of the existing play equipment would lead to an increase in the current year's capital programme of £24,420.

3.4 External funding of £20,226 has already been secured from the Sita Trust. The balance of funding for the scheme of £4,195 can be met from existing budgets.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

The approval of this report may have the following implications

- Resources – the scheme would be fully funded from external SITA trust grant monies and from existing budgets
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – Contract Procedure Rules will be followed in undertaking the scheme
- Political – none identified
- Reputation – The scheme demonstrates a positive response to public involvement/concerns about their local community
- Equality and Diversity – none identified

5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

- 5.1 Approve the capital scheme for improvements to play equipment at John Smith's Playing Fields, Longridge totalling £24,420 into the current year's capital programme, subject to approval by Policy and Finance Committee.

JOHN HEAP
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS – None

REF: JCH/JCH/COMM/22 October 2013

For further information please ask for John Heap, extension 4461

7 October 2013