

Report To:	CABINET	Date:	1st OCTOBER 2018
Heading:	PLAY STRATEGY FOR THE RURAL AREA/ GREEN SPACE PROJECTS		
Portfolio Holder:	COUNCILLOR HELEN-ANN SMITH, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (OUTWARD FOCUS)		
Ward/s:	SELSTON, JACKSDALE, UNDERWOOD, STANTON HILL AND TEVERSAL		
Key Decision:	YES		
Subject to Call-In:	YES		

Purpose of Report

To provide an overview of proposed green space and play area investment, with a focus on the Rural area in Year 1. The proposals included in this report will in the first instance be considered through the Council's Capital Gateway Process and subject to the outcome of that evaluation, will be proposed for support by Cabinet and the subsequent approval of Council.

Recommendation(s)

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the proposed Play Area Schemes for the Rurals included in this report which are to be considered and evaluated via the Council's Capital Gateway Process.
2. Notes that subject to evaluation via the Process criteria there is currently an estimated net funding shortfall of £117,375 for these proposed schemes which would, (in the absence of alternative funding being identified) need to be funded from Prudential Borrowing.
3. Notes grant offers from Nottinghamshire County Council's Local Improvement Scheme for a total of £78,000 for schemes at Roundhills Recreation Ground, Sutton Lawn and Kingsway Park, Kirkby, secured by local groups and supported by Cllr.R.E.Madden and Nottinghamshire County Councillor Samantha Deakin.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

This report is to update Cabinet on Key Projects within the Council's Corporate Plan and brings together a long term programme of investment for our communities to enjoy the District's Parks and Open Spaces. The importance of the investment is demonstrated by Cabinet's commitment to mainstream funding through the Capital Programme as part of a four year investment plan.

Successful grant allocation from Nottinghamshire County Council's Local Improvement Scheme will allow for the schemes at Roundhills Recreation Ground, Sutton Lawn and Kingsway Park, Kirkby to be progressed.

Alternative Options Considered

Not to secure funding and deliver the projects. The projects within the Rural area have been developed working with Selston Parish Council. If approved each project would be subject to detailed consultation with local communities.

Detailed Information

Ashfield is well known for its award winning parks and green spaces and there is a need for ongoing investment to ensure that good quality facilities are provided for the local community and visitors. It is proposed that a four year plan will deliver improvements across the four main areas, starting with the Rural area for the delivery of projects in 2019.

There is a need to rationalise play areas in the Rural area, to improve quality and remove play areas which are surplus to requirements. Officers have been supporting Selston Parish Council to produce a play strategy, using the catchment areas developed as part of the Council's Public Open Space Strategy. From the work undertaken it is recommended that the following schemes are evaluated through the Council's Capital Gateway Process and subject to the outcome of that Process be proposed for inclusion within the updated Capital Programme, which will include details of how each supported scheme will be funded.

Friezeland Recreation Ground - gym equipment

Project cost: £14,000

Amount secured: £10,846

Shortfall: £3,154

The project has a shortfall of £3,154. It is proposed that this amount could be allocated from the Section 106 (£10k) available in the Rurals.

Friezeland Recreation Ground – scooter park

Project cost: £33,600

Amount secured: £15,604

Shortfall: £17,996

It is proposed that the remaining £6,846 of unallocated S106 referred to above could be used for the project, leaving a shortfall of £11,150. If this project is supported through the Gateway Process this £11,150 would be funded through Prudential Borrowing.

Multi Use Games area at Main Road Recreation Ground, Jacksdale

Project Cost £84,000

Amount Secured £3,496 (Selston Parish Council)

Shortfall £80,504

If this project is supported through the Gateway Process this £80,504 would be funded through Prudential Borrowing.

As part of the programme the play area at Pye Hill Recreation Ground, Jacksdale will be removed. The play area is surplus to requirements as the residential areas nearby are mainly covered by the

provision at Main Road Recreation Ground and Westwood Recreation Ground, both of which have received significant investment in recent years.

We will continue to support Selston Parish Council with a phased programme to rationalise the number of play areas within the Rural area, focusing on the quality of provision over the number of play areas to meet the needs of communities in the future.

Corporate Plan Priority Projects

Jacksdale Car Park Expansion

Project Budget £25,721

Amount secured £0

Shortfall £25,721

If this project is supported through the Gateway Process this £25,721 would be funded through Prudential Borrowing.

To rationalise and expand the current parking provision adjacent to Jacksdale Community Centre from the current capacity of 37 (plus 2 disabled parking bays) to 55. At peak times there is a shortage of parking at this site which is used for the community centre, doctor's surgery and visitors accessing the walking trails in the area.

Wharf Road, Stanton Hill

Repair works are required to the retaining walls and other features at this green space site. The site is a gateway into Stanton Hill. The estimated cost of the works is £44,000

Brand Lane

Due to issues with the width of Brand Lane and cars being able to pass, it is proposed to provide informal parking bays on the land to the rear of the properties on Brand Lane (to the rear of Brierley Industrial Park). The cost of this work is estimated to be £6,000.

If the above two projects are supported through the Gateway Process, the £50,000 set aside from the 2017/18 Outturn underspend in the Asset Repair and Renewal Reserve could be allocated to the Wharf Road and Brand Lane sites, Stanton Hill for improvement works.

Nottinghamshire County Council's Local Improvement Scheme funding

Members are asked to note that £78,000 has been secured from the Local Improvement Scheme by local groups, supported by the Council for the following schemes: Roundhills play area (£30,000), secured by Sutton Junction Residents Association. Sutton Lawn play area (£28,000) secured by Friends of Sutton Lawn and Kingsway Park football pitch (£20,000) secured by Ashland Rovers FC. Applications were supported by Cllr.R.E.Madden and Nottinghamshire County Councillor Samantha Deakin.

The increased budget for the schemes will be reflected in the next Capital Programme update to Cabinet in November. The grant funding will enable the schemes to be progressed, providing much needed improvements to the play facilities at Roundhills Recreation Ground and Sutton Lawn and an upgrading of the main football pitch at Kingsway Park to a Step 7, supporting the development of local teams.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

Implementation of the projects will support the Council's priorities of Health and Well-being and Communities and Environment.

Legal:

There are no legal implications as a result of the recommendations in this report. Each individual scheme may have legal issues and these would be dealt with on a scheme by scheme basis.

Finance:

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	No direct financial implications at this stage. These will be confirmed once the proposed capital schemes have been considered through the Capital Gateway Process. If all of the above schemes are subsequently supported this will require additional net funding of £117,375 which would need to be secured via Prudential Borrowing. There are no additional General Fund Revenue implications for the schemes in Kirkby and Sutton. Any additional Revenue implications for the schemes in the Rural area will be the responsibility of Selston Parish Council.
General Fund – Capital Programme	
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	

Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
None identified	Not applicable

Human Resources: No HR issues have been identified.

Equalities: No Equalities issues have been identified. An Equalities Impact Assessment is in place for green space projects.

Other Implications: A Communication plan has been produced to support the implementation of the projects.

Community Safety: ensure that the car park design restricts opportunity for gatherings given the current spikes in these types of issues. Designing out crime at the earliest stage is essential.

Reason(s) for Urgency

Not applicable.

Reason(s) for Exemption

Not applicable.

Background Papers

Not applicable.

Report Author and Contact Officer

Sarah Daniel

Place Team Leader

s.daniel@ashfield.gov.uk, 01623 457249