

**Cabinet**

**Head of Community and Environmental Services**

**15 November 2016**

**Report No. COMM1623**

**Key Decision – No**

**Manor Park Playground- Renewal**

**Summary and Recommendation:**

The Council is finalising a public consultation on the preferred design for a new playground at the Manor Park Aldershot. The playground will cost £150k and we have £115k available from developer's contributions. We had hoped to secure the remaining £35k from Landfill Tax but have been unsuccessful on this occasion.

This report seeks approval to use £35k from the Council's capital resources in 2016/17 to enable the Manor Park playground to be completed.

**Introduction**

- 1.1 The Manor Park Playground is in need of renewal and following public consultation a design brief was agreed and given this is a large facility a spend of £150k was set, with completion in 2016/17.
- 1.2 A number of companies have submitted their playground designs and those meeting the design brief and costings, are available on line for residents to vote for their preferred choice.
- 1.3 It was anticipated that this playground would be funded from developers' contributions and a grant of £50k from the Landfill Tax. The Council have on this occasion been unable to secure the grant and we have a maximum of £115k available from developers' contributions.
- 1.4 Play supports the Council's priorities around health by encouraging active lifestyles, helps tackle obesity in children, enables personal development and social interaction.
- 1.5 Unlike small facilities, these larger playgrounds are more popular as they enable a wider age range of children, particularly siblings, to play together and attract residents from further afield.

## **Alternative Option**

- 2.1 The Council could restrict the funding available to this project by only using the available developers' contributions (£115k). This would require the reduction of the playground by around a quarter by either removing a major item or several smaller items of play equipment, which would significantly reduce its play value. This would be noticeable to those residents that have been involved in the design and consultation.
- 2.2 Given it is becoming more difficult to secure sufficient developers contributions and Landfill Tax grants, we will review both our playground strategy and the procurement of new facilities to ensure we have appropriate funds.

## **Implications**

### **Legal Implications**

- 3.1 The Council have collected the maximum number (5) of developer's contributions for this scheme.

### **Financial and Resource Implications**

- 3.2 To complete the proposed large-scale playground (£150k) will require approval to use £35k from the Council's capital resources in 2016/17.

### **Equalities Impact Implications**

- 3.3 Unlike the current playground this new facility will be inclusive and Disability Discrimination Act compliant.

## **Conclusions**

- 4.1 The current playground is at the end of its life and has limited play value. The new facility will be more attractive with higher play value and is inclusive. The replacement of this playground has been agreed as part of the Council's overall playground strategy and is supported by Ward Councillors and the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Youth.

## **Recommendation**

- 5.1 Cabinet to approve a variation to the 2016/17 Capital Programme of £35k to enable the new Manor Park playground to be completed.

### **Background Documents:**

Playground Strategy, Design brief, public consultation and submitted designs

### **Contact Details:**

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