

MOOR ROAD RECREATION GROUND – NEW FACILITIES

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

This paper seeks Cabinet approval for the Head of Democracy, Strategy and Partnerships (DSP) to proceed with the installation of new facilities at Moor Road recreation ground, following successful funding awards from Sport England and Prospect Estate Big Local (PEBL). A sum of £543,330 is included in the 2019/20 Capital Programme subject to a business case being presented to Cabinet to confirm that all funding has been secured. The project is also subject to receiving planning permission.

Due to the revision of the scheme, the cost of the project is now estimated to be £470,000. Funding has been secured against this cost, which includes £20,000 from the Car Park Enhancements (CPE) Earmarked Reserves, and the Cabinet is also requested to approve this drawdown and a bid to include a sum of £1,020 in the revenue estimates for 2020/21 onwards for inspection costs of the facilities.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 For some time, the Council has been developing ways of improving the health and well-being of residents in this part of Farnborough. This project is to install new recreation facilities at Moor Road recreation ground that will appeal to all ages, and encourage more people to enjoy their open spaces and become active.
- 1.2 The Cabinet received a report in 2017 following a consultation with local residents, setting out a vision for the recreation ground. At that time, this was endorsed and a scheme was developed for comprehensive facilities. However, since that time, some changes have been made and this paper explains the background, the details of the current scheme, along with the cost and funding sources/issues. The project is scheduled for implementation in 2019/20.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Moor Road recreation ground, which is approximately three hectares in size, is situated in the heart of Cherrywood Ward and is easily accessible by a wider population of 30,000 residents, that includes 6,500 pupils from fourteen schools. The existing on-site recreation facilities consist of grass pitches, a run-

down playground, and a rebound wall for ball games. Cove Brook runs alongside the ground with its multi-user, all weather pathway.

2.2 There are a number of local sporting organisations delivering a wide range of recreational activities, which support community safety, health and wellbeing and neighbourhood renewal plans.

2.3 The strategic context for this project is as follows:

- Cherrywood Ward is one of the Borough's most deprived wards where childhood obesity rates, and the number of inactive adults are amongst the highest in Rushmoor.
- The area was one of those highlighted in the 2015 Indices of Multiple Deprivation and is regarded a priority neighbourhood for renewal and encouraging healthy lifestyles.
- The project complements the Prospect Estate Big Local Plan (PEBL)
- The project is a priority within the Rushmoor Council Business Plan 2019/2022 and will support the themes around Place, People and Partnerships by providing a nice environment for families and a range of sporting and physical opportunities as well as seeking to improve health outcomes.

3. DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL AND CONSULTATION

Original and Revised Scheme

3.1 The original consultation involved over 200 local people including adult residents, and young people from three local schools, and the Prospect Youth Club. Consultees prioritised the following facilities:

- New Playground
- Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) with basketball and football goals
- BMX pump track
- Exercise equipment - activity zones

3.2 Additional public consultation has since taken place regarding the playground which has formed its final design.

3.3 A skate park was also chosen by residents as a priority, and it was envisaged that a skate park at Moor Road would be a direct replacement for the town centre facility that was coming to the end of its life, and that a future town centre replacement would not fit into the Civic Quarter proposals. However, consultation with young people around the existing town centre skate park has concluded that there is a strong desire to retain the facility in that area. As a result, the current proposals do not include this. The provision of a skate park nearer to the town centre will be discussed with the Rushmoor Development Partnership.

- 3.4 In addition to installing the new facilities, it is necessary to upgrade and enlarge the existing car park from its current capacity of sixteen spaces, to fifty, which will include three accessible parking bays.
- 3.5 Briefings on the proposals have been given to the Prospect Estate Big Local Partnership, Ward Councillors, and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. There has been strong support for the project although some issues have been raised in relation to community safety, especially around lighting.
- 3.6 A planning application was submitted in early July to reflect the revised design and a decision on this is expected at the Development Management Committee on 14th August. An outline site plan showing the facilities is attached.
- 3.7 **Alternative Options**
The Council originally held funding through developers' contributions to replace only the playground, but it was felt that a stand-alone facility was insufficient for this site given the catchment, the population, and the ward's childhood obesity issues and low adult exercise participation rates. The original consultation also supported the provision of a community building with hall/café/toilets, but the cost of such a facility would be prohibitive. This could be considered at a later date should funding be identified.

4. PROJECT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Risks

One of the main risks is the potential for costs to escalate, and this risk has been reduced by making a contingency allowance within each facility cost. There is also potential for procured contractors to go into liquidation during the contract, and exceeding timeframes. This risk can be reduced by selecting known contractors through the process and ensuring the timescales are manageable and extendable due to bad weather. During building works, there is potential for issues with ground works, such as discovery of contamination, or beneath ground obstacles. This is unlikely given the investigations already undertaken, including a flood risk assessment, and the shallow depth of any in-ground work required.

4.2 Legal Implications

There will be a requirement from both PEBL and Sport England to complete the project by the end of the financial year, and this is achievable with the existing project plan.

4.3 Financial and Resource Implications

The total cost of the project is £470,000, including contingencies. Quotations have already been obtained from suppliers and a cap can be placed on individual elements of expenditure. The project is entirely funded by external funding/earmarked reserves as follows:

£303,000	Section 106 developers contributions
£97,000	Prospect Estate Big Local
£50,000	Sport England
£20,000	Car Park Enhancements (CPE) Earmarked Reserves

4.4 There will be minor additional financial implications to the grounds and maintenance budget as follows:

- **BMX track** - £560 per annum inspection costs. Grass cutting and strimming will be absorbed within the existing grounds and maintenance contract. The use of a tarmac and an upgraded specification will alleviate the need for surface repairs, and it is therefore possible to obtain long guarantees from contractors on this basis.
- **Multi-Use Games Area** - £560 per annum inspection costs. Very little maintenance is required on these facilities as experienced with others in the Borough. It is therefore possible that this facility will require no maintenance for at least five years, and possibly longer.
- **Exercise machines** – Minimal annual inspection costs as this can be included with the playground inspection for which a budget already exists. Cost of maintenance and repairs are not yet clear, but long guarantees and robustness of equipment will form part of the procurement which will reduce the risk of repairs and regular ongoing maintenance.

4.5 A budget already exists within the grounds and maintenance contract to cover costs of inspection and repairs to the existing playground, and this will be used to meet costs associated with the new playground. The inspection costs of £1,020 for the BMX track and MUGA will need to be included in the budget.

4.6 **Other Implications**

Low level anti-social behaviour exists in this area, and it is envisaged that provision of these new facilities will act as a diversionary measure. Given the comments that were made at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the provision of lighting will be kept under review. The infrastructure for additional lighting has been included as part of the project.

5. **IMPLEMENTATION**

5.1 Once approved, procurement for the facilities will occur from late August and September with the installation works likely to commence late October. The project management of the various contracts will be undertaken through the Council's Building Services Team. There will also be some further local consultation on the design of the play facilities.

5.2 Assuming good weather, it is likely that all facilities will be installed and available for use early spring.

6. **CONCLUSIONS**

6.1 The project represents a significant scheme for the area which supports key themes set out in the Council's Business Plan. It will provide a unique facility in this part of the Borough and has taken advantage of the funding opportunities that exist. It will encourage more people to engage in exercise and activity and to take pride in their community.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Site plan with proposed facilities and locations

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Moor Road recreation area



Key



1. BMX/pump track £50k



2. Playground £220k
(including groundworks)



3. Outdoor gym £40k

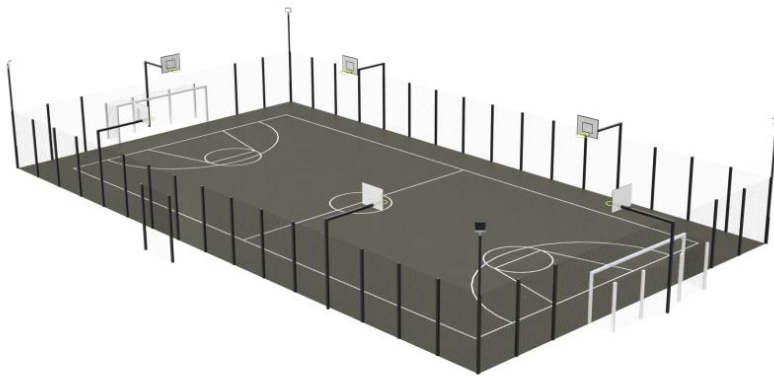


4. Multi-use games area (MUGA) £90k

5. Improved car parking £70k



BMX Pump Track



Multi Use Games Area



Activity Zone