



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Cabinet

Tuesday, 7 April 2026

Report of Councillor Paul Stokes
Deputy Leader of the Council, Cabinet
Member for Leisure and Culture

Award of Contract for Play Equipment Repairs and Operational Inspections

Report Author

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Purpose of Report

To approve the award of contract to the preferred supplier for the provision of play equipment repairs, supply of new equipment and monthly operational inspections across the South Kesteven district for five years.

Recommendations

Cabinet is asked to:

- 1. Approve the contract award for the provision of play equipment repairs, supply of new equipment and monthly operational inspections across the South Kesteven district to KOMPAN Limited at a cost of £50,000 per annum for a period of three years with the option to extend for a further two years.**
- 2. Delegate authority to the Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Culture to extend the contract by up to a further two years should this be required.**

Decision Information

Is this a Key Decision?	Yes
Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	No
What are the relevant corporate priorities?	Connecting Communities Effective Council
Which wards are impacted?	All Wards

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance and Procurement

- 1.1 The Council's current contract to provide the monthly operational play equipment inspections comes to an end in March 2026. In line with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules a procurement exercise has been undertaken to identify a preferred supplier. The annual anticipated spend level is in accordance with budgeted levels however the exact expenditure level may vary due to the responsive nature of some of the necessary works.
- 1.2 The award of a contract to the preferred supplier will ensure that there is a formal contract in place for a period of three years with the potential to extend for a further two years.

Completed by: Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer

Procurement

- 1.3 A compliant procurement process has been followed by running a further competition under ESPO framework to identify a preferred supplier for the provision of play equipment repairs, supply of new equipment and monthly operational inspections across South Kesteven. This process has been supported by Welland Procurement and conducted in accordance with best practice and the Procurement Act 2023 to ensure that the principles of transparency, equity and fairness have been adhered to.

Completed by: Helen Baldwin (Procurement Lead)

Legal and Governance

- 1.4 A compliant procurement exercise has been undertaken, and the recommended action is in line with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

Completed by: James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager

Risk and Mitigation

- 1.5 To satisfy the requirements of BS EN1176 Zurich Insurance undertake six monthly independent inspections of all the play equipment.

Completed by: Tracey Elliott, Governance & Risk Officer

Health and Safety

- 1.6 The Council has a responsibility to maintain its play areas and to minimise the risk of harm for those using them and has a defined inspection and maintenance regime in place to satisfy the requirements of the Health and Safety Executive and BS EN1176 (the British and European Playground Standard). As part of the inspections all play equipment is risk assessed using an industry standard 5 x 5 severity / likelihood matrix.
- 1.7 The Health and Safety Executive recommend that at least one inspection is undertaken every year by an independent suitably qualified body such as The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA), to ensure the long-term safety of the site, equipment and ancillary items. This annual inspection meets the Council's legal and insurance responsibilities, as well as complying with the requirements of BS EN1176. As detailed in paragraph 1.5 Zurich Insurance undertake the inspection on behalf of the Council.
- 1.8 In addition to this the Council through its defined inspection regime, employs qualified staff to undertake weekly visual inspections. The award of contract to KOMPAN will provide a qualified inspector to undertake monthly operational inspections. All inspection findings will be recorded in real time on KOMPAN's play inspection app, which Council Officers will also have access to so they can record the findings of their weekly visual inspections.
- 1.9 Following the installation of any new play equipment an independent post installation inspection is carried out to ensure that the playground meets modern standards and has been installed correctly.

Completed by: Philip Swinton, Head of Health, Safety, Emergency Planning and Compliance

2. Background to the Report

- 2.1 The Council's Corporate Plan (2024-27) sets out the Council's ambition to be 'A thriving District to live in, work and visit' with the aim of encouraging physical activity to support healthy lifestyles and reduce health inequalities. Underpinning this are the key priorities for the Council of 'Connecting Communities' and being an 'Effective Council'.

- 2.2 The provision of high-quality play areas supports the Council's corporate ambitions and provides opportunities for improved health and wellbeing outcomes for local communities.
- 2.3 The Council's Play Area Strategy, which was adopted by Cabinet on 9 July 2024, sets out a defined inspection regime for its play areas across the district that it is responsible for. Weekly visual inspections are undertaken by trained Council Officers, and the monthly operational inspections are currently undertaken by a third party company.
- 2.4 Due to the current contract for the monthly operational inspections coming to an end in March 2026, a tender opportunity was launched in January 2026 through the ESPO framework - 'Outdoor Playground, Fitness & Sports Facilities and Equipment – Design, Supply, Delivery, Installation, Maintenance and Inspection'.
- 2.5 The Framework also allowed for the supply and repair of play equipment to be included as part of the tender opportunity. As the Council does not currently have a preferred supplier in place for undertaking these duties the decision was made to include this requirement. The contract tender was for a three-year period with the option to extend for a further two years.
- 2.6 A total of three expressions of interest were received which subsequently resulted in two formal tender submissions.
- 2.7 The tenders were evaluated with 60% of the available score being awarded for quality and 40% relating to price. Welland Procurement supported the evaluation of the tenders and the moderation of scoring.
- 2.8 Following evaluation KOMPAN Limited have been identified as the preferred supplier with an overall score of 98%. The contract will cover the following:
- Monthly operational play area inspections
 - Unlimited user access license to KOMPAN's real time play inspection app and software
 - Annual servicing of Cableways (Zip-wires)
 - Independent post installation inspections for any new equipment installed
 - Repairs and remedial maintenance to play equipment which will be agreed in advance
 - Equipment lifespan information will continue to be monitored to help with the planning and prioritisation of refurbishment and equipment replacement
- 2.9 As part of the new contract arrangement Officers will move across to recording their weekly visual inspections of play equipment onto KOMPAN's real time play inspection app. Officers will also have access to the portal to view all the reports in one place and they will be able to download copies of all inspection reports, allowing the Council to retain full overall control.

3. Key Considerations

- 3.1 A compliant tender exercise has been undertaken to identify a preferred supplier to ensure the continuation of the monthly operational play equipment inspections, as well as providing the Council with a preferred supplier for the supply and repair of equipment. The proposed contract is for a period of three years with the option to extend for a further two years.
- 3.2 The management and oversight of the contract with KOMPAN will help the Council to fulfil both its legal and health and safety obligations, minimising the risks of harm to those using it, and providing well maintained equipment.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1 The Council could adopt an in-house model for its monthly operational inspections should a new contract not be pursued. However, this approach would require additional resources to complement the existing team and would not provide the Council with independent assurance.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 5.1 The contract with KOMPAN Limited provides the Council with independent assurance on the condition, suitability and maintenance of play equipment across the district. It will also assist the Council to prioritise investment and replacement of equipment.
- 5.2 A compliant procurement exercise has been undertaken to identify a preferred supplier and following the expiry of the appropriate standstill period the contract needs to be formally awarded.