



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL



Non-key Decision

Councillor Robert Reid

Cabinet Member for Housing and Property

Gonerby Hill Foot Park Grantham Replacement of Play Equipment

To accept the award of grant funding from the FCC Communities Foundation Limited, and the commencement of a procurement process to deliver replacement of the equipment.

Report Author

Michael Chester, Team Leader – Leisure, Parks and Open Spaces



01476 406080



Michael.chester@southkesteven.gov.uk

Approved for
publication:

Councillor Robert Reid, Cabinet Member for Housing
and Property

12 December 2022

Recommendation to the decision makers

1. The Cabinet Member is asked to delegate authority to the s151 Officer to accept the offer of grant funding from the FCC Communities Foundation Limited together with the third-party funding sourced by the Gonerby Hill Foot Park Action Group, to replace the play equipment at Gonerby Hill Foot play park.

1 The Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to agree receipt of funding to support the replacement of the play equipment at Gonerby Hill Foot Park Grantham, working alongside the Gonerby Hill Foot (GHF) Park Action Group. Successful delivery of the project will provide improved facilities for the local community utilising grant funding awarded by FCC Communities Foundation Limited.

2 Available Options Considered

- 2.1 The Council's Corporate Plan 2020 to 2023 contains the key priorities of investing in the health of local communities and improving parks and open spaces. The GHF Park Action Group has identified the need for improved facilities at their local play park, an asset which is owned by the Council. Rejuvenation of the play equipment would provide the local residents with more opportunities to enjoy being in the open air and taking part in informal activity.
- 2.2 The GHF Park Action Group has worked closely with the local community to recognise the need for improved play park equipment by undertaking a survey (which attracted 294 responses) and a questionnaire with a neighbouring Nursery in the village of Great Gonerby.
- 2.3 As a result of the work undertaken by the GHF Park Action Group, a funding application was submitted to FCC Communities Foundation Limited to support the project costs of improving the play equipment within the park.
- 2.4 On 20 October 2022, confirmation was received from FCC Communities Foundation Limited the grant application for £100,000.00 had been successful and allocated towards the eligible costs of the project, subject to payment of £10,750.00 third party match funding.
- 2.5 In addition to the grant award mentioned above, the GHF Park Action Group also contacted local businesses to seek further funding towards the costs of the overall project to maximise the opportunity for play equipment improvements within the park. An additional £29,931.60 has been secured from local business and organisations to support the project.
- 2.6 The additional funding secured will be used to cover the £10,750.00 third party funding required to be paid to FCC Recycling (UK) Ltd as per the grant conditions. This results in an overall combined funding amount of £119,181.60 towards the project.

3 Preferred Option

- 3.1 As a result of the successful funding amount, officers from the Council have met with the Chairman of the GHF Park Action Group to discuss how best to proceed with the project. As part of discussions, the FCC Communities Foundation Limited has confirmed the grant funding will be paid to the Council as the owner of the play park.
- 3.2 To ensure compliance with the Council's financial procedures, advice has been received from procurement colleagues that it would be appropriate to access the Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO) framework for the procurement of the works, undertaking a mini competition to ensure best value from the £119,181.60 funding available.
- 3.3 To ensure there is no financial risk to the Council, the procurement process will not begin until all funding has been received from the third-party funding sources. Funding has already been confirmed by FCC Communities Foundation Limited. Funding from FCC would then be drawn down following the payment of invoices.

4 Reasons for the Recommendation

- 4.1 The play park equipment, whilst regularly inspected and maintained, is of an age that it is not meeting the needs of the local community.
- 4.2 The grant funding available to fully fund new play equipment at Gonerby Hill Foot play park and will provide much needed investment at the play park and increase usage within the local community.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 The Council has supported the GHF Action Group in submitting an application to the FCC Communities Foundation Limited that will fund new play equipment. This bid has been successful and the Council, as the owner of the asset will take the leading role in delivering the project. The funding arrangements are varied including contributions and donations from a range of third parties. The Council will need to ensure all pledged monies are received in advance of any orders placed to ensure the Council is not taking any financial risks delivering the project. Should any pledged sums not be collected then the scheme will need to be reduced accordingly. The Council has committed £5k (the maximum) from its community grant scheme and this is included in the total project cost. Procurement will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

Financial Implications reviewed by: Richard Wyles, Chief Finance Officer (s151 officer)

6 Legal and Governance Implications

- 6.1 The Council will need to satisfy itself on the appropriateness of the terms and conditions associated with the grant funding. Advice received in respect of procurement activities is set out in the report and the necessary processes will be followed in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

Legal Implications reviewed by: Graham Watts, Assistant Director of Governance (Deputy Monitoring Officer)

7 Equality and Safeguarding implications

- 7.1 Not applicable to this report.

8 How will the recommendations support South Kesteven District Council's declaration of a climate emergency?

- 8.1 Not applicable to this report.

8.2

Report Timeline:	Date decision due to be made	19 December 2022
	Call-in deadline	29 December 2022
	Date decision effective (subject to call-in)	30 November 2018