



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL



Non-key Decision

18 March 2024

Report of Councillor Richard Cleaver,
Cabinet Member for Property and
Public Engagement

Beeden Park Play Area Refurbishment - Grantham

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

Report Author

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

 Michael.chester@southkesteven.gov.uk

Approved for
publication:

Councillor Richard Cleaver, Cabinet Member
for Property and Public Engagement

25 March 2024

Recommendation to the decision maker

- 1. The Cabinet Member for Property and Public Engagement is asked to provide delegated authority to the Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer to accept the offer of grant funding from the FCC Communities Foundation Limited in the sum of £100,000, together with the third-party funding from the Rotary Club of Grantham in the sum of £5,000 in order to fund the replacement of play equipment at Beeden Park Grantham.**

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

- 1.1 The Council has submitted an application to the FCC Communities Foundation Limited that will fund new play equipment at Beeden Park play area. An offer of funding totalling £100,000 has been received.
- 1.2 As part of the FCC Communities Foundation grant conditions, a £10,750 contribution is to be paid by the Council to FCC Recycling UK, which is a condition of the overall grant allocation from FCC Communities Foundation. This equates to 10.75% of the funding provided by them.
- 1.3 In addition a contribution of £5,000 has been committed by the Rotary Club of Grantham.
- 1.4 Any remaining financial shortfall that is identified once the quotations have been received from the play equipment suppliers will be met from previously held funds specific to the location of Dysart Road Grantham.
- 1.5 Procurement for the scheme of refurbishment will need to be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

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

Procurement

- 1.6 Procurement will need to be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. 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.

Completed by: **Juan Liu, Procurement Officer**

Legal and Governance

- 1.7 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.

Completed by: **Graham Watts, Assistant Director of Governance and Public Protection and Monitoring Officer**

2. The Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 The purpose of this non-key decision report is to agree receipt of funding to support the refurbishment of the play area at Beeden Park, Grantham. Successful delivery of the project will provide improved facilities for the local community utilising grant funding awarded by FCC Communities Foundation Limited with a £5,000 third-party contribution from the Rotary Club of Grantham.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council's Corporate Plan 2024 to 2027 contains the key priorities of Connecting Communities by encouraging sport and physical activity to support healthy lifestyles and reduce health inequalities. Ward Members from the Earlesfield Ward initially identified a need for improved facilities at Beeden Park in Grantham, an asset owned by the Council. It was considered refurbishment of the play area, would provide local residents with more opportunities to enjoy being in the open air and taking part in informal activity.
- 3.2 Working with the local community to recognise the need for improved play park equipment, a survey was undertaken to establish the views of the local community.
- 92.11% of respondents agreed improvements to the park were necessary
 - 92.68% said they would use the park more often if improvements were made.
- 3.3 Support was also received from local schools and nurseries in the area.
- 3.4 As a result of the work undertaken, a funding application was submitted to FCC Communities Foundation Limited to support the project costs of improving the play equipment in the park.
- 3.5 On 15 March 2024, confirmation was received from FCC Communities Foundation Limited, the grant application of £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 by the Council.
- 3.6 In addition to the grant award (mentioned above), the Rotary Club of Grantham were approached to seek further funding towards the overall project to maximise the opportunity for play equipment improvements in the park. Agreement in principle was given on 10 January 2024 to provide a grant of £5,000, as the project aligned with their aims of Community, Health and Youth.
- 3.7 As a consequence, the Council will cover the £10,750.00 third party funding required, which will be paid to FCC Recycling (UK) Ltd as per the grant conditions.

3.8 Additional funding of £22,345 towards the project will be covered by the Council from funds held on the balance sheet for works in the vicinity of Dysart Road. This results in an overall combined funding amount of £127,345 towards the project.

4. Other Options Available

4.1 The award of funding provides the Council with a significant contribution to refurbish a play area in a priority Ward. The Council could decide not to accept the award of funding and either fund the refurbishment from its own budgets or not proceed.

5. Preferred Option

5.1 The preferred option is to accept the funding award and proceed with a procurement exercise to secure a suitably qualified contractor.

5.2 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. This involves undertaking a mini competition to ensure best value from the £127,345 funding available.

5.3 Funding has already been confirmed by the FCC Communities Foundation Limited and the remaining funding is being covered by the Council. To minimise the financial risk to the Council, following the procurement process, an award of contract will not be implemented until the third-party funding has been received from the Rotary Club of Grantham. Funding from FCC would then be drawn down following the payment of invoices.

6. Reasons for the Recommendations

6.1 the reason for the recommendation is whilst the play park equipment is regularly inspected and maintained, it is of an age where it is not meeting the needs of the local community.

6.2 The grant funding available will provide much-needed investment at the play park and increase usage within the local community in line with the Council's corporate vision.

Report Timeline:	Date decision due to be made	5 April 2024
	Call-in deadline	12 April 2024
	Date decision effective (subject to call-in)	13 April 2024