



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Officer Delegated Decision

01 October 2024

Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive
and S151 Officer




Acceptance of grant from South Kesteven UK Shared Prosperity Fund for Play Area Project – SK-2205

This Officer Delegated Decision (ODD) report seeks approval to accept a funding grant award of up to £100,000 from the South Kesteven UK Shared Prosperity Fund and to create the relevant budgets as detailed within the report.

Contact

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

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Decision made by:	Richard Wyles – Deputy Chief Executive and S151 Officer
Decision:	To accept a funding grant of up to £100,000 and creation of relevant budgets to fund the investments identified.
Public or Exempt:	Public
Reasons for exemption:	N/A
Conflicts of interest:	No
Policy compliant:	Yes
Details of delegation:	The Council's Financial Regulations allow the Deputy Chief Executive and S151 Officer to approve grant awards within the limits set out in the Financial Regulations (Constitution).

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 financial implications are detailed within the main body of the report.

Completed by: **Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and S151 Officer**

Legal and Governance

1.2 The Deputy Chief Executive and S151 Officer has the necessary delegated authority to take this decision.

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

2. The Purpose of the Report

2.1 Following the equipment life span audits undertaken on the Council's play areas across the District earlier this year that the Council are responsible for managing and maintaining, along with the development of the Play Area Strategy (the Strategy) and accompanying Action Plan, the Council applied to the South Kesteven UK Shared Prosperity Fund for a grant of up to £100,000 for capital improvements across its play areas.

2.2 This grant being applied for was in addition to the approved £100,000 capital budget for the current financial year being funded by the Local Priorities Reserve (LPR).

2.3 The capital improvements identified were to replace equipment which has previously been removed and not replaced due to their condition in the following play areas:

- Troughton Walk – South Witham (Swing Set)
- Empingham Road – Stamford (Embankment Slide)
- Arnoldfield – Grantham (Nest Swing and Zip Line)

2.4 From the initial quotations received the total value of these capital improvement works are in the region of £48,000.

- 2.5 There is also a Swing Set at Empingham Road – Stamford that needs replacement earlier than initially planned due to there being rot present in the wooden frame. It is estimated that this will cost no more than £12,000.
- 2.6 In addition to this Officers are exploring potential improvements to the range of Outdoor Fitness Equipment in Dysart Park – Grantham, up to a value of £40,000. Officers are currently in the process of meeting with Contractors to work on a design proposal for this project and to bring it to cost certainty.
- 2.7 This brings the total value of capital improvements across four of the Council's play areas to circa. £100,000.
- 2.8 As a result, permission is being sought to use the UKSPF grant funding allocation to fund the existing capital budget of £100,000 agreed by Council 29th February 2024.
- 2.9 The Strategy's Action Plan also identifies additional investment required across the Council's play areas due to ongoing wear and tear and equipment reaching the end of its natural life. It is proposed that a revenue budget of £100,000 is created to carry out these works, funded from the Local Priorities Reserve.
- 2.10 Whilst this list is not exhaustive, the following works have been identified as part of the Strategy Action Plan and will look to be completed using budget allocated to the revenue fund during the current financial year:
- Andrew Road – Stamford (See Saw, Safer Surfacing and Edging)
 - Arnoldfield – Grantham (Net Bridge and Rope Traverse)
 - Churchfield Close – Deeping St James (Roundabout)
 - Elizabeth Road – Stamford (Basketball Hoop)
 - Empingham Road – Stamford (Toddler Slide, Double Flat Swing)
 - Foxglove Road – Stamford (Springy, Spinner and See Saw)
 - Harrowby Lane – Grantham (See Saw, Carousel and Bench)
 - Manor Close – Langtoft (Cradle Swing and Safer Surfacing)
 - Princess Drive – Grantham (Swing Sets)
 - Troughton Walk – South Witham (Net Bridge, Balance Beams and Boulders)
 - Tyndal Road – Grantham (Multi-play Climber)
- 2.11 Should this budget be approved from the LPR, whilst all efforts will be made to undertake the works as identified in paragraph 2.9, it might be necessary to redirect the budget to undertake other more serious works which are identified that pose a health and safety hazard to users of the play area or equipment.

3. Available Options Considered

- 3.1 Spend on Play Areas is discretionary for the Council and it's important that the management and investment into them demonstrates value for money and that

the resources invested deliver the Council's key priorities. The ability to use grant funding to invest in the Council's play areas is more fiscally prudent and therefore the 'do nothing' option has been discounted.

4. Preferred Option

- 4.1 To accept an offer of grant funding of £100,000 from the South Kesteven UK Shared Prosperity Fund and use this to fund the existing capital budget and to apply the budgeted capital financing from the Local Priorities Reserve to a new revenue budget of £100,000.

5. Reasons for the Decision(s)

- 5.1 To use the most appropriate financial resource to provide ongoing investment into the Council's play areas.

Signed by: **Richard Wyles**

Dated: 01 October 2024