



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Officer Delegated Decision

12 August 2026

Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive
and S151 Officer

Refurbishment of Arnoldfield Play Area - Grantham

This Officer Delegated Decision (ODD) report seeks approval to allocate a reserve movement of £50,000 from the Grantham Special Expense Area (SEA) Reserve and to award a contract to HAGS UK for £100,000.00 for the refurbishment of the play area at Arnoldfield – Grantham.

Contact

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

 Michael.chester@southkesteven.gov.uk

Decision made by:	Richard Wyles – Deputy Chief Executive and S151 Officer
Decision:	1) To allocate a budget of £50,000 from the Grantham SEA Reserve, to contribute towards the overall refurbishment costs of Arnoldfield Play Area – Grantham. 2) To award a contract to HAGS UK for a value of £100,000 to undertake the works.
Key or Non-Key? (A Key Decision has a value of 200k or over, or is a significant impact on two or more wards)	Non-Key
For call-in (only applies to Key Decisions)	N/A
Public or Exempt:	Public
Reasons for exemption:	This report is not exempt from publication.
Conflicts of interest:	No
Policy compliant:	Yes

Details of delegation:

- 1) Financial Regulations, Appendix A – Authorised Limits of the Financial Regulations: Approval to use General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Reserves with the exception of the relevant Working Balances. The Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer has the appropriate delegation to release funds from the Grantham SEA Reserve up to a value of £150,000.
- 2) The Deputy Chief Executive and S151 Officer is authorised under Part 3 (c) for Delegated Powers to Officers, item 28 (Tendering) of the constitution to accept tenders and award contracts to contractors on behalf of the Council in the following circumstances:
 - a) Following a tender process strictly in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and Financial Regulations
 - b) For carrying out works and/or the provision of goods and/or services

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 Officers have developed a specification for the refurbishment of the play equipment at Arnoldfield Play Area – Grantham, which is deteriorating faster than expected due to its ageing timber structure.
- 1.2 The specification has been distributed to three suppliers for tendering in line with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules with three submissions being received. These have been evaluated against the specification and HAGS UK have been identified as the preferred supplier.
- 1.3 The total value of the refurbishment project is £100,000 exc. VAT which will be funded from already established general fund revenue budgets for the purpose of play area improvements at a cost of £50,000 and then the remaining £50,000 will be funded from the Grantham SEA reserve.

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

Procurement

- 1.4 Officers have developed a specification and sought three written quotations from approved Council suppliers for the procurement of the works, to ensure best value. This is compliant with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. These have been reviewed against the specification developed for the refurbishment and HAGS UK have been chosen as the preferred supplier.

Completed by: Helen Baldwin (Procurement Lead)

Legal and Governance

- 1.5 The Deputy Chief Executive and S151 Officer has delegated authority to award a contract to contractors for the carrying out of works in accordance with Delegation 28 (Tendering), Part 3 (c), Delegated Powers to Officers in the constitution provided the award is compliant with the Contract Procedure Rules and Financial Regulations. The detail of this compliance is as set out in the Procurement section (above).
- 1.6 The Deputy Chief Executive and S151 Officer is authorised to release funds from the Grantham SEA Reserve. This is in accordance with the Council's Constitution - Financial Regulations, Appendix A – Authorised Limits of the Financial Regulations: Approval to use General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Reserves with the exception of the relevant Working Balances.

Completed by: Emma Powley (Interim Democratic Services Manager)

2. The Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 The Council's Corporate Plan 2024/27 contains the key priorities of Connecting Communities by encouraging sport and physical activity to support healthy lifestyles and reduce health inequalities. The use of approved revenue budgets allocated specifically for play area improvements along with funds from the Grantham SEA reserve, can help support this aim by improving the assets owned by the Council.
- 2.2 Following the approval of the Council's Play Area Strategy in July 2024 and the development of an action plan to support this Strategy, Officers have identified the need to accelerate the refurbishment of this play area due to the deterioration of the timber structures. Officers have already had to remove part of the multi-play unit due to the timber supports rotting and becoming damaged.
- 2.3 A specification has been developed detailing the Council's requirements which will see all timber structure play equipment removed and will also complement the future design principles of the Council's Play Area Strategy.
- 2.4 The Council has received three written quotations in response to the specification developed. These have then been reviewed and the decision made to award the

contract to HAGS UK, whose proposal offered high levels of play value, inclusivity and fully utilised the space available. The proposal also included the removal of the older existing bark pits and replacing these with wet pour surfacing, which will help to reduce the ongoing maintenance costs.

3. Available Options Considered

- 3.1 The Council could choose not to provide the additional investment from the Grantham SEA reserve to undertake the improvements required and just use the already existing budget, however this would not be sufficient to replace all the deteriorating wooden equipment and would therefore increase the ongoing maintenance costs in the future. Therefore, this option has been discounted.

4. Preferred Option

- 4.1 To allocate an additional budget of £50,000 from the Grantham SEA reserve towards the overall refurbishment costs and to award a contract to HAGS UK to undertake the replacement of play equipment at Arnoldfield – Grantham.

5. Reasons for the Decision(s)

- 5.1 A procurement exercise has been undertaken receiving three submissions. Following evaluation HAGS UK submission offered best value in terms of quality and provided additional play equipment to fully maximise the budget available providing an overall enhancement to the play area.

Signed by: **Richard Wyles**

Dated: **12 August 2026**