

Agenda Item No.

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**CABINET MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC POLICY, ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET**

10 January 2017

Report of the Chief Executive

**COMMUNITY PRIORITIES PROGRAMME – APPLICATION FOR FUNDING
FOR LANGER FIELD PARK PLAY SPACE**

1. Purpose of the Report

To approve an application from Councillor Dave Allen for Community Priority Programme funding of £24,000 to provide a new play space at Langer Field Park in Chesterfield.

2. Information and Analysis

Background

At Cabinet on 24 May 2016, Members agreed to establish a £2.271 million Community Priorities Programme using one off resources identified from General Reserves. It was agreed at the meeting that any projects requiring funding of £20,000 or above would need to seek approval by the Cabinet Member for Strategic Policy, Economic Development and Budget.

The Community Priorities Programme aims to support the development of projects which meets real identified needs, supports communities and families, build community capacity and are sustainable. All projects need to meet the following criteria:

- Support activity benefiting the designated Lower Super Output Area (LSOA).
- Support the aims and objectives of the Thriving Communities programme.
- Link into Thriving Communities activity in areas where work is currently being piloted where possible.
- Be time limited and not require ongoing funding from the Council.
- Complement, not duplicate other funding sources such as the Public Health Locality Fund, the Members Community Leadership Scheme etc.
- Show how activity can be sustained beyond the life of the funding.

- Meet an identified need which can be evidenced through for example, the English Indices of Deprivation, the Derbyshire Quilt etc.
- Be delivered within agreed timescales.
- Show how local people have helped in the design of identified activity or have been consulted or engaged.
- Show what difference will be made.

An application for funding of £24,000 under the Community Priorities Programme has been submitted by Councillor David Allen towards a new play space at Langer Field Park. Langer Field Park Community Group (LFPCG) is a constituted group of Rother residents committed to improving health and wellbeing by providing and developing a green space. The project aims to provide an accessible and inclusive equipped play area for children of all ages. It is intended that the facilities are educational, active and fun and the area will be landscaped, safe and be open all year round. There is no current provision of accessible play equipment in the Rother Electoral Ward. In addition 42% of households which equated to 1263 households in the area, do not have access to either a car or a van, which is significantly higher than Chesterfield at 27.1%. They are unable to easily travel to play areas elsewhere as the cost of fares and or admission prohibits this.

The total project costs are £69,947.57 and Viridor Credits has approved funding of £47,439.25. Viridor require a third party contribution of £4,743.93 and this will be met from the grant from the Communities Priorities Programme. This third party contribution will be used to lever out monies from the Landfill Communities Fund. The remaining £19,256.07 of the Community Priorities grant will contribute towards the play equipment. The facility will consist of an inclusive oyster roundabout, activity play panels, swings for all, trim trail and crawl tunnel, two storey multi-play, twin view multi-play and seating areas made of recycled materials. LFPCG will provide the shortfall of £3,252.25.

Consultation has taken place with all the local schools from which they have received letters of support. They have had messages of support on both LFPCG and Friends of Rother Facebook page. Various health surveys have been undertaken which have identified that local residents think that play equipment will help to improve the health and wellbeing of their children and grandchildren and help reduce anti-social behaviour. LFPCG also carried out a specific consultation survey with local people to gauge their support to determine who their preferred supplier for the play equipment would be. Local residents have been consulted about the site location to aim to minimise any possible disturbance. It will be next to an existing kick about area and an outdoor gym as they are compatible uses. The spoil from the site excavations will be used to build landscape sloped borders featuring natural play. The Group plan to plant some trees later in the year to soften the play space and give some natural shade and screening of the facility

Recreation and playgrounds are a fundamental part of developing a child's health and well-being and critical to their development and learning. This will be a high quality and diverse play area for everyone to enjoy and play in a safe and secure environment for many years to come. A playground also allows parents, carers and relatives of children and young people in the area to come together to form new friendships and networks of support, increasing levels of social capital and support networks within the area, particularly for those who feel socially isolated. Play and recreation plays an important role in the community, promoting health and wellbeing, social inclusion and community participation. In order to help achieve sustainable communities by reducing the need to travel, opportunities for recreation need to be provided locally.

Innovative play equipment has many benefits for children, families and the wider community, as well as improving health and quality of life. Children's access to good play provision can:

- Increase their self-awareness, self-esteem and self-respect.
- Improve and maintain their physical and mental health.
- Give them the opportunity to mix with other children.
- Allow them to increase their confidence through developing new skills.
- Promote their imagination, independence and creativity.
- Offer opportunities for children of all abilities and backgrounds to play together.
- Provide opportunities for developing social skills and learning.
- Build resilience through risk taking and challenge, problem solving, and dealing with new situations.

It is estimated that approximately 250 people currently use the park and this is anticipated to increase to 2000 following installation of the equipment. The current annual footfall for the park is 4,360 and this is anticipated to increase to 44,360 following the installation of the equipment. The park amenities are open and fully accessible 24 hours per day, 365 days per week. Structured play sessions will be organised once the facility is completed to improve the health and wellbeing outcomes and occupy the children during the holiday periods.

The information contained in the application, as submitted, meets the selection criteria as set out above.

3. Financial Considerations

The total cost of £24,000 can be met from the Community Priorities Programme budget. Viridor Credits require a third party contribution of

£4,743.93 and this will be met from the grant from the Communities Priorities Programme. This third party contribution will be used to lever out monies from the Landfill Communities Fund. To ensure that there is compliance with the Council's Financial Regulations, all approved projects will be issued with standard conditions of grant and will be subject to monitoring and evaluation.

4. Equality and Diversity Considerations

The Community Priorities Programme will ensure that the funding set aside will be targeted to the most deprived and disadvantaged areas of the county.

5. Social Value Considerations

The Community Priorities Programme will support the development of projects in the 50% most deprived LSOAs in the county, engaging with local people and supporting the improvement of the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the communities concerned. The play facilities will provide activities which support children and young people to be active and improve their health and wellbeing. Currently families and young people from the area and surrounding communities have to travel to access facilities of the standard being proposed. The new facilities will cut down on journeys made to other facilities and enable those who were unable to travel to other locations to access the facilities.

6. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered; legal, prevention of crime and disorder, environmental, human resources, health, property and transport considerations.

7. Background Papers

- The English Indices of Deprivation - Report to Cabinet - 3 November 2015
- Reserves Position report to Cabinet - 26 January 2016
- Community Priorities Programme report to Cabinet – 24 May 2016
- Community Priorities Programme application for Langer Field Park Play Space – December 2016

8. Key Decision

No

9. Call-in

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report? **No**

10. Officer's Recommendations

That the Cabinet Member for Strategic Policy, Economic Development and Budget approves the application for £24,000 for Langer Fields Park Play Space.

Ian Stephenson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE