

# Arun District Council

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>Environment Committee – 15 June 2023</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Play Area Improvements 2023/24</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Philippa Dart – Director of Environment and Communities and Joe Russell-Wells – Group Head of Environment and Climate Change</b>
<b>LEAD MEMBER:</b>	Councillor Sue Wallsgrove
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>Beach, Brookfield</b>
<b>CORPORATE PRIORITY / POLICY CONTEXT / CORPORATE VISION:</b> Improvements at Lion's Den, Brookfield Adventure and Bluebell play areas will implement the Council's Vision that aims to provide infrastructure that supports wellbeing, through easily accessible and safe greenspace, and encourage our community to embrace healthy and active lifestyles. The improvements support the delivery of the objectives set out in the Council's Play Strategy 2018-2028. The play areas are designated priorities in the Play Strategy and the Council is committed to ensuring that these play areas are improved in line with best practice.	
<b>DIRECTORATE POLICY CONTEXT:</b> The improvement projects at Lion's Den, Brookfield Adventure and Bluebell play areas sit within the Environment and Communities Directorate plan.	
<b>FINANCIAL SUMMARY:</b> Full Council on 9 March 2023 approved the following capital budget for 2023/24 play area improvements as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• £100K at Lion's Den</li><li>• £80K at Brookfield Adventure</li><li>• £25K at Bluebell play area</li></ul> There may be opportunities for partnership funding contributions to increase the available budget.	

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. This report seeks approval to drawdown the funding allocation from the Arun District Council (ADC) capital funding budget 2023/24, for expenditure at Lion's Den, Brookfield Adventure and Bluebell play areas to meet the requirement of the Play Strategy 2018-2028. The report also seeks approval to award construction contracts for the delivery of the play area enhancements.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is requested to:

- 2.1. Approve the drawdown and expenditure of £205K funding allocated from the capital play budget plus any other partnership funding that may be made available to carry out improvements at Lion's Den, Brookfield Adventure and Bluebell play areas and deliver an objective from the Council's play strategy 2018-2028.
- 2.2. Approve that a procurement process is undertaken for design and build contracts and to enter into contract(s) for up to £205K (subject to recommendation 2.3) with preferred bidder(s) in order to carry out play area improvements at Lion's Den, Brookfield Adventure and Bluebell play areas.
- 2.3. Delegate authority to Officers to increase the contract value(s) at recommendation 2.2 should additional funding become available ahead of, during, or following the procurement process.

## **3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 3.1. This report provides a summary of the proposed projects to make improvements at Lion's Den, Brookfield Adventure and Bluebell play areas in Littlehampton. The report recommends that the funding allocated from the capital play funding budget should be drawn down and allocated for expenditure at the play areas, and that contracts are awarded to the preferred suppliers following a procurement process for the delivery of the schemes.

## **4. DETAIL**

### **4.1 Budget**

The Council has identified £205K funding from the capital play budget for necessary play area improvements at Lion's Den, Brookfield Adventure and Bluebell play areas in Littlehampton.

### **4.2 Background**

#### **Lion's Den**

The current play area at Lion's Den on Littlehampton's East Green is very popular with a range of different timber play equipment, some of which are showing signs of wear and tear and would benefit from being renewed. The play area is designated a 'District Priority' in the Council's play strategy 2018-2028 as it plays a significant role for both residents and visitors to the area. This means that the Council is committed to ensuring that the play area is improved in line with best practice to ensure it is one of the council's good quality play areas.

The play area would benefit from being updated and enhanced to improve the condition of the play area and provide better play opportunities for all ages. In

addition, the inclusivity of play area could be improved, with the provision of play equipment for those with a range of different abilities and incorporation of inclusive and sensory play equipment, and with improvements to accessibility for those with impaired mobility.

#### Brookfield Adventure

The play area at Brookfield is designated a 'Parish Priority' in the Council's play strategy 2018-2028 as it plays a significant role for residents within a parish area. The current Brookfield adventure play area comprises predominantly timber items which are extremely popular, some of which has degraded over time and would benefit from being updated. In addition, the fencing needs replacing.

The play area could be improved with the provision of different play features that offer play challenge for a range of different ages and abilities. In addition, the play area could be improved in terms of inclusivity for those with limited mobility and those in wheelchairs, to ensure that equipment can be accessed from a seated or standing position.

#### Bluebell

Bluebell play area is located in a residential area and provides play opportunities for the younger age range. The play area is designated a 'Parish Priority' in the Council's play strategy 2018-2028 as it plays a significant role for residents within a parish area. Small scale improvements will be made to update the play offering for younger age groups (children up to the age of 12).

### 4.3 Proposed Scope

It is proposed to enhance the existing play areas at Lion's Den, Brookfield Adventure and Bluebell including installation of new play equipment for a range of ages and improvements to the surfacing. Improvements will also be made to the inclusivity and accessibility of the play areas to ensure play opportunities for a range of different abilities.

### 4.4 Public Consultation

The Council will carry out public consultations to determine the opinions of local site users which will feed into the design briefs for the proposed improvements.

### 4.5 Procurement

Following the public consultations, the Council will undertake a tender process to procure a preferred supplier to carry out the improvement works.

#### 4.6 Programme

The following table sets out the expected work programme:

<b>Project Activities</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Public Consultation	Summer 2023
Tender Process for designs	Autumn – Winter 2023
Delivery	Spring – Summer 2024

### **5. CONSULTATION**

- 5.1. Consultation will be carried out with the public and stakeholders including Littlehampton Town Council to obtain local opinions and determine the key requirements for the play area improvements. These key requirements will feed into the design brief issued to the play companies.

### **6. OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

- 6.1. To approve the recommendations as set out in the report.
- 6.2. To not approve the recommendations and delay the improvement projects at Lion's Den, Brookfield Adventure and Bluebell play areas.

### **7. COMMENTS BY THE GROUP HEAD OF FINANCE/SECTION 151 OFFICER**

- 7.1. The Council's approved Capital Programme includes funding of £255,000 for Play Areas and the costs of the proposals in this report will be funded from that budget.

### **8. RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 A risk assessment and method statement will be produced by the Principal Designer and the project will be delivered in accordance with the Construction, Design and Management (CDM) Regulations 2015.

### **9. COMMENTS OF THE GROUP HEAD OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE & MONITORING OFFICER**

- 9.1. The contracts for all projects will be procured in accordance with the Council's contract standing orders and relevant legislation.

## **10.HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT**

- 10.1 There are no human resources implications arising out of this report.

## **11.HEALTH & SAFETY IMPACT**

- 11.1 The project will be delivered in accordance with the Construction, Design and Management (CDM) regulations 2015. Risks will be considered by the project team and play contractor/designers during the design phase, and health and safety will be managed by the play contractor as Principal Designer during the construction works. Proposed improvements will address degradation and wear and tear and thereby reduce potential health and safety risk.

## **12.PROPERTY & ESTATES IMPACT**

- 12.1 The Council will retain responsibility for the enhanced play areas. The projects will result in improvements to council assets as well as additional maintenance obligations.

## **13.EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) / SOCIAL VALUE**

- 13.1. The play area improvements at Lion's Den, Brookfield Adventure and Bluebell Drive will help to improve the social and environmental well-being of the residents of Littlehampton, by providing better quality, safe play facilities for use by the whole community.
- 13.2. The improvements would allow the inclusivity at these play areas to be improved with the provision of play equipment for those with a range of different abilities. This would offer play opportunities for those in wheelchairs and with limited mobility, with the incorporation of inclusive and sensory play equipment which can be accessed from a seated or standing position.

## **14.CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT/SOCIAL VALUE**

- 14.1. Environmental sustainability will be addressed at design stage to ensure that the council reduces its carbon footprint, its impact on the environment and the use of natural resources during the play area improvement works. Contractors will be required to provide evidence of their environmental sustainability policies, including any carbon impact footprints, and demonstrate how these will be applied/reduced on the project.

## **15.CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT**

- 15.1. Improvement of play facilities helps to provide better services for communities to help reduce crime and disorder within Arun and offers the opportunity to build stronger communities who have confidence in their local services.

## **16. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT**

- 16.1. The proposed scheme fulfils the freedoms and rights within the Human Rights Act 1998. There are no negative implications in terms of human rights impacts.

## **17. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION / DATA PROTECTION CONSIDERATIONS**

- 17.1. There are no specific Freedom of Information or Data Protection issues arising from the proposals in the report.

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### **CONTACT OFFICER:**

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### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:**

[Play Strategy 2018-2028](#)