



Portfolio Holder Report

The portfolio holder will make a decision on this item after seven days have elapsed (including the date of publication).

Report of:	Portfolio Holder	Date of publication
Mark Billington, Corporate Director Environment	Councillor Simon Bridge, Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder	13 January 2022

Refurbishment of Children's Playgrounds at Hawthorne Park, Thornton and Scotts Green, Winmarleigh

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To seek approval to assign the remaining unallocated playground refurbishment capital budget and utilise capital receipts for refurbishment works to the children's playgrounds at Hawthorne Park, Thornton and Scotts Green, Winmarleigh.

2. Outcomes

- 2.1 Facilitate and support the improvement and use of parks and open spaces.
- 2.2 Develop a long term strategy for sustainable leisure and wellbeing provision across Wyre.
- 2.3 Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That the Council's 2021/22 Capital Programme be amended to include refurbishment works to the children's playgrounds on Hawthorne Park, Thornton and Scotts Green, Winmarleigh using £10,242 from the unallocated playground refurbishment capital budget and £13,258 from capital receipts.
- 3.2 That procurement of a supplier(s) to undertake the works is progressed and the Portfolio Holder authorises the Corporate Director Environment to appoint the supplier(s), complying with Financial Regulations and Financial Procedure Rules.

4. Background

- 4.1** The playground facilities on Hawthorne Park in Thornton have been in operation since the phased development of the park started in 2006 when a working partnership with Hawthorne Park Trust was formed.
- 4.2** The council own the land and are responsible for the maintenance and day to day upkeep of the site. The Trust, as the steering group, have a 50 year lease for the site and have been successful at securing external funding for the improvements on site.
- 4.3** The play facility was installed in three phases and in 2009 play equipment was provided for older children including the rubber surfacing under the equipment to ensure the necessary safety standard was met.
- 4.4** The existing wet pour rubber surface on the site has been deteriorating for a number of years. The condition has been monitored regularly by officers and the annual external playground inspector's report confirms it is necessary to take remedial action.
- 4.5** The surfacing needs work to improve the quality of its impact absorbency and to reduce the risk of injury from falls onto the surface.
- 4.6** The playground site at Scotts Green, Winmarleigh was externally funded back in 2006 by the Winmarleigh Village Hall Committee's application for a Doorstep Green Scheme administered by the Countryside Agency. The Village Hall Committee requested that the council accept responsibility for the management of the play equipment.
- 4.7** In 2006 it was reported that the council would absorb the cost of this playground management within our existing budgets and at the end of normal life expectancy (fifteen years) we would replace it to current standards.
- 4.8** The playground is now in need of investment to retain its integrity as a safe playground to use. The rubber safety surfacing has visual signs of shrinking and lifting resulting in trip hazards across the site and the timber supports on one of the swing units has significant rot at ground level.

5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1** Options have been investigated for the refurbishment of the safety surfacing on Hawthorne Park and overlaying with a synthetic carpet is proposed.
- 5.2** The synthetic carpet can be installed over the top of the existing surface thereby reducing the disposal costs. The new surfacing, unlike the rubber is thermally stable and brushing with a sand infill on a regular basis will extend the life expectancy of the playground by at least a further eight years.

- 5.3** The playground at Scotts Green should receive investment to address the trip hazards caused by the surface shrinkage and the timber swing unit should be replaced with a more suitably constructed unit to extend the longevity of the site.

6. Delegated functions

- 6.1** The matters referred to in this report are considered under the following executive function delegated to the Open Spaces Portfolio Holder (as set out in Part 3 of the council’s constitution): “To consider matters relating to parks, open spaces, playing fields, playgrounds and allotments.”

Financial and legal implications	
Finance	The schemes are to be added to the council’s Capital Programme for 2021/22, to be funded by the remaining unallocated Playground Capital budget (£10,242) and capital receipts (£13,258).
Legal	The contract(s) for goods and services to deliver the works will comply with the Council’s Financial and Contract Procedure rules.

Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
sustainability	x
health and safety	✓

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	✓
climate change	x
ICT	x
data protection	x

Processing Personal Data

In addition to considering data protection along with the other risks/ implications, the report author will need to decide if a ‘privacy impact assessment (PIA)’ is also required. If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in the collection and processing of personal data for the first time (i.e. purchase of a new system, a new working arrangement with a third party) a PIA will need to have been completed and signed off by Data Protection Officer before the decision is taken in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

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List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
None		

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