



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
Kathy Winstanley, Assistant Director of Environmental Services	Councillor Simon Bridge, Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder	18 November 2024

Capital Projects - Improvements to Hawthorne Park, Thornton

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To seek approval for improvements to the playground on Hawthorne Park, Thornton, using funds totalling £90,000 as detailed below:

- Lancashire Environmental Fund (grant) £40,000
- Hawthorne Park Trust (fundraising) £10,000
- Wyre Community Lottery (award) £10,000
- Wyre Parks Improvements Fund (reserve) £30,000

and for the scheme to be added to the 2024/25 Capital Programme.

2. Council priorities

2.1 Place and climate – A cleaner, greener and more sustainable place.

2.2 People and communities – Residents live happier, healthier and safer lives.

3. Recommendations

3.1 That approval is given to use the various funding contributions totalling £90,000 to enhance the current play offer on site.

3.2 That the council's 2024/25 Capital Programme be amended to include the addition of new equipment to the playground on Hawthorne Park, Thornton.

3.3 To grant approval for the council to act as lead project manager for the project, including administering the funding, procuring equipment and overseeing the works and installation of equipment.

- 3.4** That approval is given to amend the council's annual maintenance and inspection programme for children's playgrounds to include this new equipment and manage future upkeep within existing revenue budgets.

4. Background

- 4.1** The playground facilities on Hawthorne Park have been in operation since the phased development of the park commenced in 2006 when the working partnership with Hawthorne Park Trust was formed.
- 4.2** The council own the land and are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the site. The Trust act as the steering group and have a 50-year lease for the site. They have a successful record of securing external funds and undertaking fundraising activities to ensure ongoing improvements to the playground on Hawthorne Park.
- 4.3** The existing children's playground is now 17-years old and has reached the end of its life. This project will replace and upgrade the site's equipment with modern and inclusive play equipment to support users of all abilities.
- 4.4** This site upgrade includes the removal of most of the existing play equipment replacing it with two multi-activity units, a sand activity unit, a swing set and rotating and rocking items; it will also include replacement surfacing.
- 4.5** The new play equipment is suitable for use by children below 12-years of age, complementing the remaining equipment, which is targeted at a teenage cohort to make the site facilities appropriate for use by a broader range of ages.
- 4.6** Several consultations took place involving a wide range of stakeholders across the local community, with overwhelming support in favour of age appropriate, accessible equipment.

5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1** The council will administer and oversee the installation of the new equipment.
- 5.2** The council will accept the various funding contributions totalling £90,000 and incorporate this project within the 2024/25 Capital Programme. Including a draw-down from the Capital Investment Reserve (Wyre Parks Improvements Fund) of £30,000.
- 5.3** The annual maintenance and inspection programme for children's playgrounds will be updated to include this new equipment; it is anticipated that ongoing repair and maintenance works will have negligible impact on the existing parks and open spaces revenue budget.

6. Alternative options considered and rejected

6.1 An options appraisal, onsite assessment and public consultations were undertaken in conjunction with Hawthorne Park Trust to determine the most suitable and cost-effective solution for the playground and the recommendations in this report reflect this piece of work.

7. Delegated functions

7.1 The matters referred to in this report are considered under the following executive function delegated to the Street Scene Parks and 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, Legal/MO and Climate Change implications	
Finance	The cost of this new playground equipment on Hawthorne Park is expected to be £90,000. This is to be funded by a Lancashire Environmental Fund grant (£40,000), a donation from Hawthorne Park Trust (£10,000), a Wyre Community Lottery award (£10,000) and additional funds from the Parks Improvements Fund (£30,000) which is held within the Capital Investment Reserve. Ongoing revenue costs will be met from within existing parks and open spaces budgets.
Legal/MO	A formal agreement will be entered into with the supplier and the contractor for goods, works or services to deliver the scheme and will comply with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.
Climate Change	This project has an overall positive climate impact, any negative implications such as the production and installation of the new equipment will be mitigated by the fabric of the equipment (up to 50% recycled materials used), that the equipment can be recycled at the end of its life and that the play equipment can help to encourage people to get outdoors which promotes healthy living and active travel.

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
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	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
N/A		

List of appendices

None