



Report To:	Boston Town Area Committee
Date:	11 th June 2026
Subject:	BTAC Play Area Improvements 'Aspirations'
Purpose:	To provide information on the 'aspirations' of potential improvements identified during the tour of open spaces on 25 th September 2025.
Key Decision:	No
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Claire Rylott, Portfolio Holder for Green Spaces and Travel
Report Of:	Victoria Burgess, Service Director – Neighbourhoods
Report Author:	Carl Beacock, Group Manager - Street Scene & Commercial Services Scott Higgins, Leisure Services & Contracts Manager
Ward(s) Affected:	All BTAC Wards
Exempt Report:	No

Summary

This report presents the outcomes of the 2025 biennial tour of BTAC-managed open spaces and play facilities, highlighting a range of proposed 'aspirations' improvements identified by Members & officers. These proposals focus on enhancing accessibility, inclusivity, environmental value, and overall user experience, while recognising increasing financial pressures and the need for sustainable long-term management.

Members are asked to prioritise which improvements should be progressed to full costing, enabling officers to seek funding opportunities that will maximise community benefit across the open spaces within the Committee's responsibility.

Recommendations

That the Committee determine 1which of the proposed 'aspirations' improvements should be taken forward for full costing.

Reasons for Recommendations

To seek Members views on potential improvements to open spaces and play facilities in the BTAC area.

Other Options Considered

Do nothing.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Members of BTAC carry out a biennial tour of the open spaces and play facilities within the Committee's remit to assess their condition, identify maintenance needs and highlight opportunities for enhancement. The most recent visit took place on 25th September 2025, following the previous tour on 23rd July 2023.
- 1.2 The 2025 tour generated a 'aspirations' of potential improvements across several sites, reflecting Member observations and priorities. This report summarises those suggested enhancements and provides an updated overview of all BTAC-managed open spaces to support informed decision-making.

2. Report - 'aspirations'

- 2.1 BTAC Members are asked to prioritise the improvements outlined below so officers can progress detailed quotations and explore funding options for delivery. For any projects approved, officers will also seek to secure external funding wherever possible to maximise BTAC's investment.
- 2.2 BTAC's approach to its parks will be increasingly shaped by rising costs, long-term sustainability, and the need to deliver inclusive, accessible spaces that meet a wide range of community needs. There is a growing emphasis on combining traditional play provision with environmental enhancements, biodiversity, and green infrastructure to maximise wider health and wellbeing benefits. The detailed park-by-park proposals and improvement priorities are set out in Appendix A.
- 2.3 **Ingelow Avenue Play Park** - Separate report to be presented to 23 July BTAC meeting.
- 2.4 **Woodville Row Play Park** - Focus on low-cost, high-impact improvements that significantly enhance accessibility and inclusivity, including the installation of compacted stone pathways for year-round access. Expand sensory and inclusive play features to diversify the offer, and increase seating provision, particularly accessible benches, to better support families, carers, and older visitors.
- 2.5 **Broadfield Lane** - Build on a strong existing offer by expanding inclusive play opportunities, particularly through wheelchair-accessible and sensory equipment. Introduce more imaginative and varied play features such as zip wires, diverse swing

types, and rockers to broaden appeal and ensure the site continues to meet a wide range of user needs.

- 2.6 **St John's Road Park** - Maintain the park's strong performance through proactive repair and replacement of ageing equipment, particularly deteriorating slides. Enhance the play experience with additional climbing, agility, and creative elements, ensuring the site continues to evolve while protecting its current quality and popularity.
- 2.7 **Burgess Pit** - Position the site as a flagship for environmental and ecological enhancement by increasing tree planting, creating a community orchard, and introducing wildflower areas to support biodiversity. Complement these improvements with seating and nature-focused features such as bird boxes to encourage community engagement and wellbeing
- 2.8 **Sheltons Field** - Strengthen inclusivity by introducing accessible swings, roundabouts, and ground-level sensory play features, alongside installing a 5-way swing to encourage wider participation. Address lifecycle needs through the replacement of ageing equipment such as the scramble net and targeted repairs to safety surfacing to maintain quality and safety.
- 2.9 **Central Park** - Prioritise major investment in pathway restoration to improve accessibility across the park and support events, healthy activity, and inclusive use. Complement this with continued enhancements such as interactive surface markings for younger children, ensuring the park retains its status as a flagship, high-quality destination space.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1. The 'aspirations' of improvements identified through the 2025 site visits identified options for enhancing BTAC-managed open spaces. By prioritising schemes that improve accessibility, inclusivity, and environmental value, the Committee can ensure that investment is targeted where it will deliver the greatest community benefit.
- 3.2. Subject to Member approval, officers will progress selected projects to detailed costing and funding exploration, with a view to report back at a future meeting.

Implications

South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

None.

Corporate Priorities

The proposed improvements align with Partnership priorities around healthier communities, environmental sustainability, and inclusive access to services. Enhancing open spaces supports wider objectives linked to wellbeing, place-making, and community resilience.

Staffing

Delivery of the proposals will be managed within existing service structures. Specialist support may be required for design, procurement, and project delivery depending on the scale of schemes taken forward.

Workforce Capacity Implications

There will be a manageable increase in officer workload associated with developing detailed costings, procurement, and project management. This will be prioritised within existing resources, although large-scale schemes may require phased delivery to ensure capacity is not overstretched.

Constitutional and Legal Implications

All proposed works will be delivered in accordance with the Council's Constitution, including procurement rules and decision-making processes.

Data Protection

None.

Financial

At this stage, the proposals represent a 'aspirations' with no committed expenditure. External funding opportunities will be explored to minimise impact on Council budgets.

Risk Management

None.

Stakeholder / Consultation / Timescales

The proposals are informed by Member site visits. Further stakeholder engagement may be undertaken for larger schemes. Timescales will depend on Committee prioritisation, funding availability, and procurement processes.

Reputation

Investment in parks and open spaces is likely to have a positive impact on the Council's reputation by demonstrating commitment to community wellbeing, environmental improvement, and inclusive services.

Contracts

None.

Crime and Disorder

Well-designed and maintained parks can contribute positively to community safety by encouraging greater use and natural surveillance. Improvements to layout, visibility, and activity may help reduce opportunities for anti-social behaviour.

Equality and Diversity / Human Rights / Safeguarding

The proposals place a strong emphasis on accessibility and inclusive design, ensuring parks are usable by people of all ages and abilities. This supports the Council's duties under the Equality Act 2010 and promotes fair and equitable access to public spaces.

Health and Wellbeing

Enhancements to parks and play areas will support physical activity, mental wellbeing, and social interaction, contributing to improved health outcomes and supporting wider public health objectives.

Climate Change and Environment Impact Assessment

Not undertaken.

Acronyms

BTAC – Boston Town Area Committee

Appendices

Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report:

Appendix A Park Development

Background Papers

No background papers as defined in Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the production of this report.

Chronological History of this Report

A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body.

Report Approval

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