



# B O S T O N

## B O R O U G H C O U N C I L

REPORT TO:	BOSTON TOWN AREA COMMITTEE (BTAC)
DATE:	20 MARCH 2019
SUBJECT:	BTAC WORKING GROUP REPORT: PLAY AREA IMPROVEMENTS
REPORT AUTHOR:	HEAD OF PLACE AND SPACE
EXEMPT REPORT:	No

### **SUMMARY:**

Following the 2018 play site tour BTAC members requested details of potential future play area improvements to BTAC play areas to enable the committee to continue its investment in outdoor play areas.

At the 30 January 2019 BTAC Meeting, Members proposed that £40,000 be allocated to support open space improvements and that the Open Spaces Working Group be tasked with preparing detailed proposals for the expenditure and reporting back to the Committee as soon as practicable.

This report outlines the outcomes of the Open Spaces Working Group following the 30 January BTAC meeting and its proposals for the use of £40,000 allocated to support Open Spaces improvements.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That this committee:

- i) Consider the potential improvements identified in the report.
- ii) Consider inspection and ongoing maintenance costs.
- iii) Propose to Cabinet, the use of £24,950 for play area equipment in Shelton's Field, St John's Park and Central Park.
- iv) Propose to Cabinet, the use of remaining £15,050 to match a Boston Big Local grant for provision of a Pirate Ship on Woodville Road Play Area subject to quotes.

## **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

To provide an improved play offer to residents and visitors.

## **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

Not to approve the play area improvements.

## **REPORT:**

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION:**

- 1.1 Following the 2018 tour of BTAC open spaces and play facilities, members established a Working Group to develop plans for the improvement of play facilities in the BTAC Area.
- 1.2 The BTAC Working Group subsequently developed a “Wish List” of play area improvements across the BTAC equipped play areas which was then presented to the 7 November 2018 meeting. The Working Group reported its prospective play area improvements to the 30 January BTAC Meeting, where Committee Members were informed that to realise all the improvements in full, there would be a cost to the Committee of between £108,727 and £127,727, depending on the outcome of a bid for external funding through Boston Big Local (BBL).
- 1.3 At the 30 January 2019 BTAC Meeting, the Committee determined that £40,000 from the reserves be allocated to support open space improvements and that the Open Spaces Working Group be tasked with preparing detailed proposals for the expenditure and reporting back to the Committee as soon as practicable.

### **2.0 PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS**

- 2.1 Following the 30 January BTAC Meeting, the Working Group debated the list of improvements and agreed to prioritise St John’s Park and Shelton’s Field. The Working Group tasked the Play & Physical Activity Officer to obtain quotes in line with Boston Borough Council’s Procurement Regulations, from Play Equipment suppliers on behalf the Working Group, as detailed in 2.2, Table 1.

## 2.2 Table 1 – Wish list for each play area

Site	Improvements	Available Funding
St Johns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play Panels – Musical, Manipulative</li> <li>• Goal Posts</li> </ul>	£ 4,674
Sheltons Field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Higher Slide</li> <li>• Four Tower Unit with two bridges</li> <li>• Play and Stay with Net</li> <li>• Crazy Scrambler Springer</li> </ul>	£18,431
	<b>TOTAL SPEND</b>	<b>£23,105</b>

- 2.3 The Working Group met to evaluate the quotes at its 20 February 19 meeting and agreed that a spend of £23,105 would provide the new equipment needed on both St John’s Park and Shelton’s Field. A breakdown of the preferred quote is appended for reference. (Appendix A). The Group also determined it would like to support the upgrading of an entrance gate, so it was proposed that £1,800 of the budget be set aside to support the cost of a replacement gate.
- 2.4 The Working Group also discussed proposals for the use of the remaining £15,095 set aside for further improvements. The Group had at its 7 November 18 meeting, previously discussed a bid to BBL for a grant of £19,000 towards a Pirate Ship to be located at the Woodville Road Play Area. This project had subsequently been picked up by the press following its inclusion in the 30 January BTAC meeting and BBL has since provisionally approved a grant, subject to Board approval, which will be known in April 2019. The Working Group agreed that this was a good option to propose the matching of the remaining £15,095 against the BBL grant, for provision of a Pirate Ship on Woodville Road Play Area subject to further quotes being sought from Play Equipment Providers.
- 2.5 Future budgets will include increased costs associated to the maintenance of any new play equipment, once any warranty periods end. Additional inspection costs will be incorporated in future year’s budgets from 2019/20 financial year onwards.
- 2.6 Any improvements agreed by BTAC will be subject to Contract Procurement Regulations and any expenditure over £10,000 will be subject to Cabinet approval. Once approval is granted, works will be issued to a relevant supplier so they can be delivered as soon as practicable.

**3.0 Conclusion**

3.1 The Working Group Members were pleased with the progress of improvements already carried out on BTAC open spaces and felt these had made a significant contribution to improving the quality of those spaces provided in the town and that the plans discussed for further development will encourage greater more positive use of public open spaces.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The financial implications are outlined in 2.1 to 2.4 of this report.

**LEGAL & EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

The Council is required to conform to the requirements of the EU Procurement Directive and its own Contract Procurement and Procedure Rules Part 4 (H) of the Constitution.

The Council is required to comply with the public sector equality duty. A full equality impact analysis will be undertaken at the appropriate time to ensure that any new equipment intended for procurement will consider the needs of all individuals.

Recreation Power to provide a wide range of recreational facilities Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19

**ANY OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

**NONE**

**CONSULTATION**

Consultation on this proposal has taken place with the General Public (as previously reported), the Chairman of BTAC and the Town Centre (and BTAC liaison) Portfolio Holder.

**APPENDICES**

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

APPENDIX A	Equipment for St John’s Park and Shelton’s Field.
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**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**

None

## FINANCE PROFORMA

### BOSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PROFORMA FOR EXECUTIVE APPROVAL OF THE RELEASE OF RESOURCES (CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUDGETS)

FROM: RACHEL CHATTERTON

THIS PROFORMA PROVIDES THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE ATTACHED
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REPORT: BTAC Working Group report: Play area improvements  
REPORT DATE: 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019

<b>OPTION 1</b>	£ Year 1 2019/20	£ Year 2 2020/21	£ Year 3 2021/22	£ Year 4 2022/23	£ Year 5 2023/24
<b>Revenue</b>					
Additional costs	2,000	2,060	2,120	2,190	2,250
<b>Total Revenue Cost</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2,060</b>	<b>2,120</b>	<b>2,190</b>	<b>2,250</b>

<b>Funding required:</b>		<b>Considered by:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
Total capital cost	£0	BTAC	20.03.19
Revenue cost	£10,610		

#### Financial Services Comments

The total cost for 5 years is £10,610. These costs include the maintenance, inspection and the increased insurance costs associated with the additional play equipment.

The amount for 2019.20 will be funded from the currently unallocated sum. The costs for future years will be included in the next budget and medium term financial strategy update.

#### Risk

#### Procurement

#### Value for Money Efficiency

This FP is valid for 3 months from FP date	If this FP is no longer required please advise Finance	If there are changes to the original report it may invalidate this document, it must be reviewed by Finance.