

Report Title:	Improvement to Edgeside Park Play Facilities		
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	15 th July 2026
Report of:	Director of Operations	Cabinet Portfolio:	Environment and Corporate Services
Cabinet Lead Member:	Councillor Lythgoe	Wards Affected:	Whitewell and Stacksteads
Key Decision:	☒ Forward Plan	☒ General Exception	☐ Special Urgency
Integrated Impact Assessment:			
Required:	No	Attached:	No
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Valley Plan Priorities	Thriving Local Economy: This involves securing new inward investment, creating a sustainable economy, matching local skills with future job opportunities, and supporting town centres as unique destinations.	☐
	High Quality Environment: This includes having a "clean and green" local environment, reducing the borough's carbon footprint, improving waste and recycling rates, and delivering new homes with a good mix of housing tenures.	☒
	Healthy & Proud Communities: This priority focuses on improving the health and physical/mental wellbeing of residents, reducing health inequalities, ensuring access to better leisure facilities and health services, and fostering a sense of pride in the community.	☒
	Effective & Efficient Council: The aim is to provide good quality and responsive services, embrace new technology, be a financially sustainable council with a commercial outlook, and ensure sound governance.	☐

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Green Spaces Team has secured a budget of £140,000 allocated to improving the existing play facility aimed at children ages 8 years and above at Edgeside Park, Waterfoot which feature in the Council'. The budget is made up from funding from Pride in Place (£90k), Derbyshire Environmental Trust (DET) (£20k) and RBC capital (£30k). This will be spent on replacing the current equipment and surfacing. The report requests acceptance of the external grant of £20,000 and authority to be delegated to the Director of Operations to tender the project and to appoint the successful contractor at the end of this process.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Cabinet authorises acceptance of the £20,000 from DET and approves the budget of £140,000 for the new play area?
- 2.2 That Cabinet authorises officers to go out to tender for the works and authorises the Director of Operations to accept the most advantageous bid in consultation with the Lead Member.

3. BACKGROUND AND REASON FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1 Refurbishment of the existing play facility in the Park's upper section is a priority from the Edgeside Park Masterplan and forms part of the Council's Capital Programme.

- 3.2 The Pride in Place board awarded £90,000 to the project. A further £20,000 has recently been awarded from DET and £30,000 has been used from Green Spaces Capital.
- 3.3 A tender has been prepared with a brief to allow play companies to base a design upon utilising the available budget. This will be evaluated by a panel of officers in order to award to the most advantageous bidder.
- 3.4 The tender will be published in July with a target of the work being completed by the end of 2026 which will ensure compliance with grant funding conditions.
- 3.5 The current play area is over 35 years old, is no longer fit for purpose, and is an eyesore which detracts from the overall appearance of the park.

4. RISK

- 4.1 Failure to invest in the site will risk deterioration leading to increased maintenance liability and health and safety issues.
- 4.2 Extensive consultation has taken place with local residents who have voiced their desire for the area to be improved. To ignore this would negatively affect the Council's reputation.
- 4.3 The external funding obtained has provided an opportunity to improve a council asset with minimal expenditure for the Council

5. SECTION 151 OFFICER COMMENTS (FINANCE)

- 5.1 It is recommended that cabinet accept the grant monies in order to ensure that project delivery is in line with budgets. There is a contribution of £30,000 from RBC capital budget to this scheme.

6. MONITORING OFFICER COMMENTS (LEGAL)

- 6.1 The budget envelope is over £100k therefore the approval of Corporate Management Team and Cabinet is required prior to the expenditure and advertisement of the opportunity.
- 6.2 The tender will be carried out in full compliance of the Council's Constitution and Procurement Act 2023.

7. INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 As this is a contract for works there are no equality implications.
- 7.2 The design brief has specified that there must be inclusive and accessible features incorporated.

8. POLICY/STRATEGY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The improvements to the play facilities are a high priority from the Edgeside Park Masterplan.

9. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The improvements will contribute towards the legacy of Rossendale Borough Council as being committed to providing first class facilities for residents.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 N/A.