

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (CIF) 2023/2024 – ADDITIONAL PLAY EQUIPMENT IN WHITEHOUSE PARK

Summary: The Council is asked to consider match funding for additional play equipment at Whitehouse Park which has come about from a re-evaluation of an unsuccessful Community Infrastructure Fund application for 2023/2024.

1.0 Community Infrastructure Fund Application 2023/2024

- 1.1 In 2022, the Council submitted an CIF application to Milton Keynes City Council (MKCC) for match funding for additional play equipment at Whitehouse Park. The cost of the equipment was estimated at £26,600, and if successful, the cost to Whitehouse Community Council would be £13,300, with MKCC paying same. (See Annex 1 – CIF Application 23/24)
- 1.2 Later that year, Milton Keynes City Council requested that the Council increases the application to £30,000 to allow for further contingency and potential rise in costs. This was over the £10% contingency allowed for in the original application.

2.0 Location of Play Equipment

- 2.1 According to a survey, Whitehouse residents considered that there was very little play equipment available, particularly for toddlers. The Parks Trust was contacted about the installation of additional toddler equipment in Whitehouse Park (see Annex 2).

3.0 Outcome of Application

- 3.1 Whitehouse Community Council's application had scored high in MKCC's assessment, but other applications from other parish and town councils had scored higher. This meant that the application for 2023/2024 was unsuccessful.

4.0 Re-Evaluation of Application

- 4.1 Due to some of the successful applications not going ahead, MKCC re-evaluated those application that had been unsuccessful and considered that there were sufficient monies available to match fund the Whitehouse Community Council application.
- 4.2 The application was submitted in 2022 for work to commence in 2023/2024. If the Council wishes to go ahead with the project, then invoices for the project need to be submitted to Milton Keynes City Council before the end of March 2024. Further, permission will need to be re-sought from The Parks Trust.

5.0 Cost of the Project

- 5.1 Even with increase in costs, the project is still likely to come in within the £30k budget.

5.2 News of the re-evaluation of the application was made after the Council had set its budget for 2024/2025.

5.3 Acceptance of the monies will mean a commitment of £15k from Whitehouse Community Council and this will need to come from the Council's agreed 2024/2025 reserves, which had been set at just over £58,000. If the project goes ahead, the 2024/2025 General Reserve will be reduced to just over £43,000.

6.0 DECISION

6.1 The Council to consider going ahead with the installation of toddler play equipment at Whitehouse Park, subject to the agreement of The Parks Trust.

6.2 That, if the Council goes ahead with the project and if The Parks Trust agrees to the installation, then

- (a) the project is to commence immediately to ensure invoices are submitted to Milton Keynes City Council prior to 31 March 2024; and**
- (b) the project is to be funded from the Council's 2024/2025 General Reserve.**