

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

**Summary: The Council to consider the recommendation of the Working Group on the type of toddler play equipment to be installed at Whitehouse Park.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 (excluding matting), and if successful, the cost to Whitehouse Community Council would be £13,300, with MKCC paying the same. 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.

**2.0 Location of Play Equipment**

2.1 Following a local 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.

**3.0 Outcome and Re-Evaluation of Application**

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

3.2 Due to some of the successful applications not going ahead, MKCC re-evaluated those applications that had been unsuccessful and considered that there were sufficient monies available to match fund the Whitehouse Community Council project for the provision of toddler play equipment.

**4.0 Project Activity**

4.1 The Council met with The Parks Trust and Jupiter Play to discuss the type of equipment to be installed at Whitehouse Park. Due to increases in costs, the Working Group had a re-think about the equipment to be installed. Considering the location, the equipment needed to tie in with existing older children's play equipment, allowing for flow of access.

**5.0 Type of Equipment**

5.1 The Working Group looked at three pieces of play equipment that would provide diverse play value. This would consist of climbing, swinging, twisting and balance.

5.2 The survey had highlighted that there was no play equipment in Whitehouse for children with disabilities and the Working Group considered that this may be a good opportunity to provide a bespoke swing set. However, this would add approximately £4k to the project. Another matter to consider is that the location is on grass and wheelchair access would be difficult, so it is likely that it could be used only half of the year.

## 6.0 Cost of the Project

At its meeting in January 2024, the Council agreed £15k from the Council's reserves to put towards the play equipment. However, since the original application, the cost of equipment and in particular, installation costs have increased significantly.

6.1 Following discussions with Jupiter and The Parks Trust, the Working Group considered various options and decided that the equipment should consist of three pieces:

- Climbing Frame with slide (multiplay).
- Swing set with either 2 x Cradle Swings or 1 x Cradle and 1 x Accessibility.
- Balance Beam

## 7.0 Options

7.1 The play pieces have been narrowed down to 2 options:

Company	Cost	Considerations
FHS	Up to £41,186	Very high quality Robinia. Bright and cheerful.
Vinci	Around £29,000	High Quality Robinia. Wood finishes which fits in well with existing older children's play equipment at the park.

Both come with a 15-year guarantee.

8.2 The options are set out in more detail at Annexes A and B.#

## 8.0 Future Maintenance

8.1 It was agreed at the January meeting that the Council would enter into an agreement with The Parks Trust that will see the Parks Trust incorporating maintenance inspections and costs into their existing contractual maintenance arrangements, and that Whitehouse Community Council would be liable for end of life / full replacement costs.

## 9.0 DECISION

9.1 **The Council to consider the toddler play equipment options put forward by the Working Group.**

## OPTION 1 – FHS



Varioset Lucy with Slide

Cradle Seat Swing Set  
with one cradle swapped  
for an accessibility swing

Balance Beam

The Varioset Lucy comes with a very small slide and the higher slide is attached as an option.

The combination swing set would be a double cradle swing or one of the cradle seats swapped for an accessibility seat which can be used by young children with disabilities.

The balance beam would be located between two sets of steps to form a walkway towards the other pieces of equipment.

The wooden structures will fit in with the older children's wooden play equipment already situated in the park.

A breakdown of the costs is as follows:

Varioset Lucy:	£15,090
High Slide for Varioset Lucy	£1,455
Swing Combo 2.1m High (1 x Huck Midi Sit Up Seat and 1 x Cradle Seat)	£6,400
Balance Beam (rounded timber)	£675
Grass Matting	£4,005
Preliminaries / Set-Up	£4,000
Installation	£6,000
Post Installation Inspection	£445
Delivery & Custom Charge	£3,116
<b>Total Cost (exc. VAT)</b>	<b>£41,186</b>

Milton Keynes Council has agreed to pay a maximum of £15k towards the project. If the Council agrees with the revised equipment, the cost to the Council would be up to £26,186. The additional cost of £6,186 would need to come from the Council's reserves.

The Council had set its reserve for 2024/2025 at £58,000. The installation of the play equipment could reduce the reserves to £31,814.

**Alternatives on Option 1**

if the Council wishes to reduce the cost of the equipment it may want to consider the following alternatives:

Action	Saving	Estimated Cost of Project
Replace Varioset Lucy + High Slide with Varioset Oliver + High Slide	£400	£40,500
Remove slide on Varioset Lucy	£1,500	£39,500
Swing Set with 2 Cradle Swings instead of 1 x Cradle and 1 x Accessible	£4k	£37k
Replace Varioset Lucy with Varioset Oliver with no high slide	£3,500	£36,500
Remove accessible swing with 2 x Cradle and remove slide from Varioset Lucy	£5,500	£35,500
Remove accessible swing with 2 x Cradle and replace Varioset Lucy with Varioset Oliver without slide	£7,500	£33,500



Varioset Oliver

## OPTION 2 – VINCI PLAY



### Approximate Costs:

Robinia Multiplay:	£8,200
Robinia Swing Set (2 x Cradle)	£2,000
Balance Beam (rounded timber)	£900
Grass Matting	£4,000
Preliminaries / Set-Up	£4,000
Installation	£6,000
Post Installation Inspection	£500
Delivery & Custom Charge	£3,200
<b>Approximate Total Cost (exc. VAT)</b>	<b>£28,800</b>

Milton Keynes Council has agreed to pay a maximum of £15k towards the project. If the Council agrees with the revised equipment, the cost to the Council would be up to £14,400, within the £15k of agreed spend at the meeting in February 2024.

The Council had set its reserve for 2024/2025 at £58,000. The installation of the play equipment could reduce the reserves to around £43,500

### Alternatives to Option 2

Action	Cost Implication	Estimated Cost of Project
Install 1 x accessibility swing and remove 1 x Cradle Swing from swing set	Add £4,000	£32,800
Change crocodile balance beam to a plain balance beam	Save £450	£28,350



Alternative Balance Beam