

PART I

South Lakeland District Council Delegated Executive Decisions

Date of Proposed Decision: Thursday 11 March 2021

Queens Park Recreational Space

Award of Contract

Portfolio:	Economy, Culture and Leisure Portfolio Holder
Decision Maker:	Director of Customer and Commercial Services
Report Author:	Polly Straker – Locality Team Leader
Wards:	Windermere;
Forward Plan:	Key Decision, included in the Forward Plan published 16 th February 2021

1.0 Expected Outcome

- 1.1 To award a contract for the design supply and installation of the new playground at Queens Park Windermere to create an exciting and inclusive activity space, catering to a wide range of age groups and physical abilities thereby improving the health of the young people through increased activity and time spent outdoors.

2.0 Proposed Decision

- 2.1 It is recommended to award the contract to redesign, supply and install the new playground at Queens Park Windermere to the preferred bidder identified in the **Part II, Appendix 5** to this report following an advertised tender from 7th December 2020 until Wednesday 3rd February 2021.

3.0 Background and Proposals

- 3.1 SLDC has been working with “Windermere Park for All” (WPFA) (constituted Community group) to raise the funds to be able to redevelop the recreation space at Queens Park, Windermere. (WPFA Project proposal **Appendix 1**). The goal has been to raise £220,000 to replace the playground and skate park and install wheeled sport area or pump track. Funds have been secured for the playground and pump track elements. WPFA with support of SLDC officers have made the decision to phase the project to ensure secured funding is not lost. The Skate Park has been put on hold until further funding is available.

- 3.2 The tender for the playground was via the ESPO framework “Outdoor Playground, Fitness and Sports facilities.

Lot 2 - **Playground equipment** – Larger Authority/ Large projects. A fantastic wide range of equipment is available to meet all needs, includes metal, timber and plastic playground equipment and surfacing options, from **ten** supplier’s ranges.

3.3 The tender was advertised for 8 weeks and a site visit was carried out on Friday 18th December for the suppliers to visit the site and get a feel for the environment. The specification was written taking into account the responses from

the consultation activity and to ensure it will meet the needs of the community. WPFA, District Cllrs and Town Cllrs were involved in the evaluation process. Due to current Covid restrictions it was not possible to go into schools for their comments.

3.4 Five responses were received to the tender invitation and were evaluated. Details of the preferred supplier, evaluation and full costs are outlined in the Part II report at **Appendix 5** and supporting documents.

3.5 If approval is given the playground will be installed and weather permitting open for the Summer Holidays 2021. This allows for an 8 week manufacturing period and a 7 week installation following the Contracts been drawn up by SLDC Legal Services.

Please note that in accordance with Section 100B(2) of the Local Government Act 1972, copies of the appendix to this report are excluded from inspection by members of the public as they contain information as described in Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, as follows:-

- Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). (Paragraph 3)

4.0 Consultation

4.1 The initial impetus for the project came from local parents who visit the park. They had noted the tired and inadequate state of the play area and they wanted to help improve the facility for their own children and the wider community.

4.2 A public consultation was held in Windermere so that local residents could find out more about the project and share their views. Sessions were also held in local primary and secondary schools to find out the priorities of the younger members of the community and what elements they would like to see included. A consultation survey was also available on Citizens Space in spring 2018.

4.3 For the older children the Pump Track, Skate Park and Kick-about area were most important as there is currently very little provision for this age group. The primary age children were unanimous that the current play area is “boring” and needs to be more varied and challenging. They were also concerned about instances of anti-social behaviour from teenagers and they liked the idea of more open and inclusive play areas

4.4 All the consultation activities were well supported by the Windermere Ward Councillors and Portfolio Holder. They have also been kept up to date with all aspects of the project as it has progressed.

5.0 Alternative Options

5.1 As there is already tennis, bowling, cricket and football clubs at this location the only option considered was recreational use for the younger members of the community.

6.0 Links to Council Priorities

6.1 The proposal is linked to the objectives by working with local communities to improve, manage and promote accessible public realm and making the best use of our parks and open spaces.

7.0 Implications

Financial, Resources and Procurement

- 7.1 This report relates to grant funding obtained for the refurbishment project which includes funds from the Locally Important Projects fund 2019 of £10,000 and £40,000 from SLDC Parks and Open Spaces play audit budget 2020/21. Other funding has been received from external bodies such as the National Lottery Community Fund, local fundraising, Trusts and businesses. The procurement has taken place with support from the procurement team and the matter has been on the Procurement Schedule approved by Cabinet and Council. Analysis of the tenders received is set out in the Part II **Appendix 5**. The Contract for the National Lottery Fund has already been authorised by Legal Services as part of a larger award. All individual grants are under the £100,000 threshold. Many of these have been paid to WPPFA. Full breakdown can be found in **Appendix 2**.

Human Resources

- 7.2 No additional staffing implications.

Legal

- 7.3 Legal Governance and Democracy Services will advise on the contract documentation for the purchase..

Health, Social, Economic and Environmental

- 7.4 Have you completed a Health, Social, Economic and Environmental Impact Assessment? Yes (attached at Appendix 3)
- 7.5 This proposal will have a positive impact on many health issues by allowing children and young people to play outdoors in a safe and social environment. It will be a free resource to children of all ages and abilities. Although Windermere may be considered to be a relatively affluent area, many residents work in the relatively low paid hospitality industry where there is a large disparity of income and the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic has had a significantly negative impact on this community. There is evidence these recreational activities have a positive social impact especially wheeled sports areas where in other areas anti-social behaviour has been halved by giving youths a combination of good exercise, a community to engage in and a place to focus and develop skills. A great play space can really help to unite a community.

Equality and Diversity

- 7.6 Have you completed an Equality Impact Analysis? Yes (attached at Appendix 4)
- 7.7 Summary of equality and diversity impacts: SLDC is working with WPPFA so this project endeavours to create a park and open space for the whole community. The design will incorporate activities for children with additional needs allowing children of all ages and abilities to play together. The park will be inclusive and accessible. The environmental impact will be taken into account at all stages of the project. The finished scheme will be sustainable and robust.

Risk

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
The current play area is old and in need of constant repair.	Less items available giving very little play value and no opportunities for children with additional needs.	Approve the recommendation to award the contract to replace the playground.

Contact Officers

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Appendices Attached to this Report

Appendix No.	Name of Appendix
1	Windermere Park for All Project Proposal
2	Windermere Park for All Project Costs and Funding progress
3	Health, Social, Economic and Environmental Impact Assessment
4	Equality Impact Analysis
5	Queens Park Play Area Part II Report & Appendices.

Background Documents Available

Name of Background document	Where it is available
Councils Procurement Schedule	https://democracy.southlakeland.gov.uk/documents/s27801/Corporate%20Financial%20Update%20Quarter%20%20201920%20-%20Appendix%205.pdf

Tracking Information

Signed off by	Date sent	Date Signed off
Legal Services	19/02/21	24/02/21
Section 151 Officer	19/02/21	N/A
Monitoring Officer	19/02/21	24/02/21
CMT	17/02/21	17/02/21

Circulated to	Date sent
Lead Specialist	17/02/2021
Human Resources Lead Specialist	N/A
Communications Team	N/A
Leader	N/A
Committee Chairman	N/A
Portfolio Holder	N/A
Ward Councillor(s)	N/A
Committee	N/A
Executive (Cabinet)	N/A
Council	N/A

Note – Report authors must consult the relevant Portfolio Holder, members of the Corporate Management Team, the Monitoring Officer, and any other interested parties before a decision can be taken. If any objections are received, they must be reported at the meeting before the decision is taken.

Signed by:-	Title:-

