

Full Council

Date:	22 January 2019
Title:	Splash Pad Proposal
Contact Officer:	Graham Hunt, Town Clerk

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide further background on the funding proposal for a proposed Splash Pad at Southern Road Recreation Ground.

Background

2. Following a positive meeting with SMS Environmental Ltd on 4 October 2018, attended by Cllrs. Dixon, Jones, Stiles and the Asset Manager, a report was prepared for the Community Leisure & Recreation Committee on 23 October 2018 on a proposed Splash Pad for Southern Road Recreation Ground (SRRG). The report was supported by the full proposal from SMS Environmental Ltd, which is attached again as an appendix.
3. The Committee recommended that “The Council consider supporting the splash pad project proposal subject to funding being sought.” As defined in the report, the funding required from the Town Council is £44,243.21 for installation, with SMS Environmental Ltd contributing £15,000 towards construction and then £5,000 per annum (with an expected 10 year lifetime) for maintenance.
4. A separate need for fencing has been identified, both to keep animals out and to assist with safeguarding. That has since been estimated as around £10,000.
5. The report had identified potential funding sources as “grant applications, sponsorship from local organisations, possible s106 / CIL monies, potential use of the Capital Receipts Reserve and other sources that may be identified”.
6. At the Council meeting on 13 November 2018, it was resolved that “The Splash Pad Project proposal is supported and that further detailed funding proposals would be brought to a future meeting of the Council for consideration”.
7. Councillors are encouraged to read the original report and proposal for the 23 October 2018 meeting – which provides further detail on the proposed project.

Research

8. Some brief research into funding options has been executed, including review of the recent NALC Funding and Grants Bulletin. No current grant funding could be found that provides for additional play provision.
9. It is expected that most s106 monies that have potential for allocation to existing play areas will be used towards re-provisioning of facilities at Elms Park.
10. Around £36,000 of CIL monies have so far been received, none of which relates to property near SRRG. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan Working Group has not yet defined an allocation process.

11. The Town Clerk believes that the swiftest (so as not to miss the opportunity, and to be ready for summer 2019) and simplest route is to use the Town Council's existing resources in the Capital Receipts Reserve. He recommends up to £60,000 being made available from the Capital Receipts Reserve, to include some project contingency.

Resource Appraisal

12. The proposed amount of up to £60,000 exists in the existing Capital Receipt Reserve, which had a last reported balance of £1,905,328 (at the Policy & Resources Committee on 30 October 2018), although since then an approximate further £100,000 has been withdrawn for other projects, and there has been a widely reported market adjustment.
13. The bulk of the maintenance will be executed by SMS Environmental Ltd, as described in the original report, with regular inspections added to the inspection list of the Maintenance Team.

Risk Assessment

14. Any further delay could jeopardise the availability of SMS Environmental Ltd's potential £68,000 contribution, which would then mean the abandonment of the project.
15. The removal of £60,000 from the Capital Receipts Reserve will reduce the fund available to generate income by about 3%

Legal Powers

16. There are specific recreation powers that could be applied, but the project is also covered by the General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011.

Recommendation

The Council is recommended:

- i) To resolve the allocation of up to £60,000 from the Capital Receipts Reserve towards the Splash Pad project at Southern Road Recreation Ground.*