

**Grounds and Environmental Services Committee**

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**Date:** 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**Title:** Parson's Close Recreation Ground – Adventure Playground

**Purpose of the Report:** To request permission to invite restrictive tenders for the design and delivery of an inclusive adventure playground for Parson's Close Recreation Ground.

**Contact Officer:** Ian Haynes – Head of Grounds and Environmental Services

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<b>Corporate Objective/s</b>		To provide great public open spaces with varied opportunities for sport and leisure.
<b>Implications:</b>		
<b>Financial</b>	√	To be funded through the United Kingdom Debt Management Office via a Public Work Loan – With possible repayments embedded within the current budget.
<b>Human Resources</b>		None
<b>Operational/Service delivery</b>		None
<b>Procedural/Legal</b>	√	None
<b>Risk/Health and Safety</b>		None

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**1.1 To note the report.**

**1.2 To endorse that restrictive tenders be invited for the design and build of an inclusive adventure playground for Parson's Close Recreation Ground.**

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The newly endorsed Town Council objectives and projects which are to be included within the Five-Year Plan for the period of 2019-2024, includes the delivery of an adventure playground.

## **3. CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 Parson's Close Recreation Ground is considered to be the best location for this project as the refurbishment of the playground within Parson's Close is currently not included within the Town Council's rolling play area improvement programme, due to the size and limited funds available to make an inventive improvement.
- 3.2 It is believed that an inclusive adventure playground for Parson's Close Recreation Ground will meet the needs of local families and will further enhance Parson's Close as a free to use destination park.
- 3.3 It is considered by Officers that an inclusive play space will help deliver playful opportunities for all abilities. By giving families a rare occasion in spending quality leisure time together in their own community. It would be Officer's intention to work with local community groups and specialist suppliers to design an inclusive play structure that will allow all children to play together at height!

## **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 The key for making this project a fantastic success is engaging and learning about how children with complex additional support needs can still be allowed to appreciate the true value of play.
- 4.2 It is the Town Council's intention that this play space will create something truly special for our local families and will complement the recent additions to Parson's Close.
- 4.3 To ensure that time isn't wasted on engaging with suppliers who haven't the skills or experience in the delivery of a truly inclusive play space, Officers are asking for the tender to be limited to inclusive play companies with the experience of having delivered at least 5 similar styled projects.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 Should Members be minded supporting this project, the tenders and designs could be presented to the December 2020 committee meeting for consideration. Thereafter, a Spring start date is possible subject to the required committee/Council approvals regarding funding being agreed. It is anticipated that planning permission will be required as the intended play structure will be greater than 4m tall.