

Birmingham City Council

Report to Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care

20 March 2024



Subject: Playzones – refurbishment sports programme for outdoor spaces

Report of: Craig Cooper, Strategic Director, City Operations

Relevant Cabinet Member: Councillor Rob Pocock– Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

Relevant O & S Chair(s): Councillor Mick Brown – Health & Social Care
Councillor Jack Deakin – Resources

Report author: Panikos Panayiotou -Sports Development Manager
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Are specific wards affected? Yes No – All wards affected

If yes, name(s) of ward(s):

Handsworth, Stockland Green, Lozells, Alum Rock, Ward End

Is this a key decision? Yes No

If relevant, add Forward Plan Reference: 012727/2024

Is the decision eligible for call-in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential:

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 In line with the Council's commitment to deliver a bold legacy for Birmingham following the Commonwealth Games, and in support of its forthcoming Sports Strategy, the Sport Service along with Football Foundation have analysed existing outdoor sports spaces and provision across the city and have identified the needs and demands for the Council to support new developments.

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- 1.2 BCC's Strategic Sports Team has been working collaboratively with key partners including Football foundation, Sport England, Basketball England and Sport Birmingham on the development of the playzones scheme within the city. A full partner consultation was carried out to understand how all key stakeholders can contribute to the scheme. There is a total of £631,339 of external grant funding from the Football Foundation which will be matched by £227,306 from the Shared Prosperity Fund, being distributed by the Councils High Streets and BIDs Team, which brings the total portfolio cost to £858,645.
- 1.3 Working alongside the East Birmingham Regeneration Team and local partners and other key stakeholders, 4 BCC sites have been identified as priority sites for investment to refurbish existing poor-quality outdoor provision and in one instance a new footprint. The report was formulated from a public consultation in a series of identified wards within the city that were part of a Sport England consultation on areas with a lack of outdoor quality sports provision. The report which is attached in the appendices highlight sites to form part of the Playzones portfolio.

2 Recommendations

That the Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care:

- 2.1 Approves the project and agrees on the identified sites listed within the report for refurbishment.
- 2.2 Approves the acceptance of £631,339 of external grant funding from the Football Foundation and associated spend of this grant.
- 2.3 Notes secure match funding allocated from Shared Prosperity Fund of £227,306 and approves the spend of this grant
- 2.4 Notes the approval of business case 1483 'Playzones development' at s151 Board on 19th October 2023.

3 Background

- 3.1 Over the last 18 months the Council's Strategic Sports Team has been working collaboratively with key partners, Football Foundation, Basketball England, England Netball, Sport England, and Sport Birmingham on the development of multi-sport playzones within the city.
- 3.2 Football and Basketball in which are the selected sports for the playzones portfolio in the proposal, have a very positive image amongst young people (16-24) and across ethnically diverse communities. The Active Lives Survey 2019-20 listed Basketball and Football as the most diverse team sports in the country, with the highest percentage of non-white participants and with more than 60% of those playing the games from the lowest socio-economic groups.
- 3.3 With Birmingham having one of the most diverse and youngest populations in Europe, this evidence suggests that increased access to organised outdoor

sporting provision has a huge potential to grow and increase the number of people engaging in physical activity in the city.

- 3.4 The Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022 provided a unique opportunity to inspire young and diverse communities, through the provision of infrastructure improvements and the activation of identified sites to deliver both informal and formal formats of football, netball and basketball.
- 3.5 The partnerships and investment into the playzones initiative will support the city's ambitions of developing grassroots sports, as part of the Council's Sports Service and upcoming sport strategy and will contribute to the Birmingham Development Plan (BDP), Policy TP11 (Sports Facilities), which outlines through the 'provision and availability of facilities for people to take part in formal and informal activity, contributing to healthier lifestyles...'.
- 3.6 Wider health and social benefits, such as those outlined in the BDP, include:
- Helping to improve health and reduce health inequality.
 - Provide volunteering, employment skills and employment.
 - Provide social interaction and social cohesion.
 - Provide positive activity and help reduce anti-social behaviour and crime.

The Council has the opportunity to use the momentum of the Games and maximise activity by focusing on activation to raise demand, with the outcome of increasing participation and reducing inactivity within key areas of the city, targeting priority groups and communities.

The multi-partner approach to delivering playzones across the city will ensure the

proposed scheme can collectively contribute to the priorities of BCC, Sport England, Sport Birmingham, Football Foundation, and Basketball England, all with a joint ambition of developing grassroot sport across all communities. Through collaboration, a model of best practice activation will ensure a community pathway and sustained access as a legacy of the Games.

- 3.7 A partner led community consultation was undertaken with the East Birmingham Regeneration team and the United Community Activity Network charity based at Alexander Stadium to assess the needs, demand, and community appetite for such facilities. There were both qualitative and quantitative research methods applied which included a series of focus groups, online and in person questionnaire and 2 public consultations with the Community engagement team. There was a total sample size of 800+ from an original call out of 3000 showing a 26.6% return.
- 3.8 Sport England/Football Foundation have mapped the location of established clubs and known community groups that can support with outreach programmes and playzone activation, to ensure there is a sustainable local pathway for

participants. This was also a major part of the public consultation looking into each site having an assigned custodian group.

3.9 Further consideration has been given to provide a good spread of refurbished sites across the city to ensure as many communities as possible have access to an improved outdoor space to play.

3.10 Here is the link to the map of highlighted playzones, clubs and identified community organisations for reference:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?ll=52.51772382848283%2C-1.8650636884890504&z=17&mid=1qNckUfQTvW3Bt-AtZU6qih5FSmq9eD0>

3.11 Identified sites are listed below:

- Concord Youth Centre
- Batchelors Farm Recreation Ground
- Adderley Park
- Action Indoor Sports

3.12 Each site will have individual delivery plans and allocated funds to deliver an official launch event, pilot leagues, and coaching programmes to engage a range of people in different opportunities. Local community groups or clubs will act as the delivery agent to engage young people in the school environment, to the outdoor sports zones, and if appropriate on the pathway to the formal club environment.

3.13 All newly refurbished sites will have a launch event with coaching and playing opportunities open to all the community. This will include a digital launch across Football Foundation, Sport England and the Council's social media platforms linking with local and national social media influencers and publishing of press releases to raise awareness on the FF website and across partner organisations.

3.14 Local people will be empowered to lead sessions and activate programmes through funded education and coaching courses, ensuring programme sustainability and skill development in local communities.

3.15 Key outcomes to be achieved through the refurbishment and activation programme include:

- increased and sustained participation in sport and physical activity
- improved physical and mental health by reducing inactivity
- growth and development of a local workforce with an increased number of volunteers and employment opportunities

- new sports provision created through enhanced infrastructure
- activation and delivery plans created per site with identified local 'leadership'
- partnership agreement in place with FF to demonstrate a long-term commitment to the city and aspirations to increase participation and grow the sport
- Increase inclusive and accessible sport & PA opportunities that connect communities
- FF have a priority to focus on the growth of female and disabled participation

4 Options considered and Recommended Proposal

- 4.1 **To do nothing and decline the investment and grant funding** – This option was discounted as a lack of investment will allow the outdoor spaces to fall into further disrepair, limiting sport and physical activity opportunities and interventions which contribute to improvements in healthier lifestyles and mental wellbeing, and reduce inequalities and physical inactivity across identified areas of the city.
- 4.2 **Recommended proposal – To approve the acceptance of a grant from the Football Foundation and the Shared Prosperity Fund** to deliver the outlined capital programme. This is the recommended option based on the opportunity to invest in failing assets and to provide safe playing opportunities for local communities to increase participation in sport and physical activity.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 A public consultation led by BCC and funded through the Football Foundation, 'Playzones', carried out an extensive community consultation exercise with over 800 responses received to date through in-person focus groups, a stakeholder online engagement session, and online surveys. This programme also incorporates basketball due to the programme focus being on multi-use games areas, therefore feedback from the Playzones consultation has been fed into further outdoor renovation schemes led by BCC namely the Basketball refurbishment scheme and the Lawn tennis Association court refurbishment scheme.
- 5.2 Football Foundation commissioned BCC with an initial £25,000 to undertake a community consultation in the selected 12 wards to identify spaces in need of refurbishment and spaces in need of a better quality of outdoor sporting provision.
- 5.3 The Parks Service have been consulted on the programme and offer full support

- 5.4 Public Health's Place Team have been consulted and offer full support, with the programme creating added value to selected parks through the Naturally Birmingham Future Parks Project.
- 5.5 The Playzones programme, basketball court refurbishment programme and tennis court refurbishment programme will run in parallel and therefore where the three programmes identify the same location, the programme plans, and funding will align to complement each other and achieve economies of scale.

6 Risk Management

- 6.1 The Football Foundation grant contribution will be withdrawn if BCC is unable to approve the receipt of grant of £631,339.
- 6.2 The Shared Prosperity fund grant contribution will be withdrawn if BCC is unable to approve the receipt of grant of £227,306.
- 6.3 This will have further risk to the programme as the number of sites refurbished or constructed would be significantly reduced, along with a reduced scope of works for refurbishments per site, therefore risking the further deterioration of outdoor sports zones quality at those sites taken out of scope.
- 6.4 Fewer playzones refurbished to a lower standard, will impact on the opportunities for participation in sport and grassroots sport across the city by reducing the number of safe, accessible, and inviting spaces.
- 6.5 All of the above will lead to reputational risk to Birmingham City Council as this will go against commitments made during the Commonwealth Games.

7 Compliance Issues:

- 7.1 The scheme will make a direct contribution and is consistent with the Council's Corporate Plan 2022 to 2026 main priorities (as updated in Dec 2022) and outcomes as outlined below:
- 7.1.1 **A Bold Prosperous Birmingham:** The Council is committed to the development of high-quality new sports infrastructure to meet the needs of local residents, and the proposals ensure local spaces are fit for purpose.
- 7.1.2 **A Bold Healthy Birmingham:** By refurbishing the multi-use games areas and outdoor spaces, the Council encourages citizens of all abilities and ages to engage in sport and physical activity to improve their health and wellbeing. The city delivers high-quality sporting facilities for the benefit of our citizens.
- 7.1.3 **A Bold Inclusive Birmingham:** the playzones are accessible to all residents and are spread across the city to provide opportunities to all.
- 7.1.4 **A Bold Safe Birmingham:** The upgrade and refurbishment of existing poor-quality spaces, provides safe places and spaces for local citizens to participate in sport and physical activity in their local community.

7.2 Legal Implications

7.2.1 Under Section 19 of the Local Government Act (Miscellaneous Provisions) 1976 the Council has the power to provide such recreational facilities as it thinks fit in its area and under Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council may do anything which is incidental to the discharge of its functions

7.3 Financial Implications

7.3.1 The business case for spend was approved at s151 Board (reference number 1483) on 19th October 2023 and therefore can now proceed to the executive decision needed to approve the scheme.

7.3.2 The report seeks to approve the acceptance of grant funding and capital spend of £631,339 from Football Foundation.

7.3.3 The report seeks to approve the acceptance of grant funding and capital spend of £227,306 from the Shared Prosperity Fund.

7.3.4 Regular maintenance and upkeep of the existing footprint will be covered by the existing Parks Service maintenance budget. Costs associated with maintenance and repair of additional and new infrastructure will be covered by the associated income of each site.

7.3.5 There will be no revenue implications for BCC as any incurred will be covered by associated income for each site.

7.4 Procurement Implications

7.4.1 There are no procurement implications with the recommendations of this report. Cabinet was advised of the procurement route to use the Football Foundation's framework agreement for works to create Playzones to call off in accordance with its protocol in the Planned Procurement Activity Report dated 12th December 2023.

7.5 Human Resources Implications

7.5.1 There are no Human Resources implications.

7.6 Public Sector Equality Duty

7.6.1 There are not considered to be any adverse impacts associated with the recommendations in this report, as the funding is not expected to have any material impact on the services already delivered.

8 Appendices

- Appendix 1 Risk Register
- Appendix 2 Environment and Sustainability Assessment
- Appendix 3 Equality Impact Assessment

9 Background Documents

Appendix 1 – Risk Assessment

Risk No	Risk description	Risk mitigation	Residual/ current risk			Additional steps to be taken
			Likelihood	Impact	Prioritisation	
1	Original cost estimates insufficient and exceed the allocated budget, linked to rising costs and inflation. The scope of works will be reduced in line with budgets which may include less sites being refurbished.	A clear design brief at the tender stage will inform contractors on required works to ensure current market costs are considered and works accurately costed.	Significant	Medium	Medium	Prioritise sites for refurbishment and those that will have a reduced scope.
2	Funding withdrawal of the external grant from Football Foundation and the Shared Prosperity Fund due to timeframe to spend.	Prioritisation of project within BCC - active engagement with key departments to allocate resource and ensure work is planned. Clarity around processes and requirements - built into project planning to avoid unnecessary delays.	Medium	Significant	Medium	Ongoing communication with key funders and active engagement with other BCC departments including procurement, finance and legal.
3	Delays in construction due to weather / time of year	Realistic programme planning in place to consider delays due to weather disruption over the winter and to meet BCC and funder's expectations. BCC to work closely with contractor on works schedule.	Significant	Medium	Low	Ongoing project management

4	Failure to deliver planned refurbishment programme and the reputational risk to the Council	Tight monitoring processing for the budget, programme timelines and project management of the contractorsto identify any changes to the programme and resolve issues as early as possible.	Medium	Medium	Medium	Ongoing project management
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Measures of likelihood/Impact:

Description	Likelihood Description	Impact Description
High	Almost certain, is expected to occur in most circumstances. Greater than 80% chance.	Critical impact on the achievement of objectives and overall performance. Critical opportunity to innovate/improve performance missed/wasted. Huge impact on costs and/or reputation. Very difficult to recover from and possibly requiring a long term recovery period.
Significant	Likely, will probably occur in most circumstances. 50% - 80% chance.	Major impact on costs and objectives. Substantial opportunity to innovate/improve performance missed/wasted. Serious impact on output and/or quality and reputation. Medium to long term effect and expensive to recover from.
Medium	Possible, might occur at some time. 20% - 50% chance.	Waste of time and resources. Good opportunity to innovate/improve performance missed/wasted. Moderate impact on operational efficiency, output and quality. Medium term effect which may be expensive to recover from.
Low	Unlikely, but could occur at some time. Less than 20% chance.	Minor loss, delay, inconvenience or interruption. Opportunity to innovate/make minor improvements to performance missed/wasted. Short to medium term effect.

Environment and Sustainability Assessment

APPENDIX 2

Project Title: Playzones refurbishment and Redevelopment programme				
Department: Neighbourhoods	Team: Sports Service			Person Responsible for assessment: Panikos Panayiotou
Date of assessment: 14/11/2023		Is it a new or existing proposal?: new		
Brief description of the proposal: To refurbish and construct x4 playzones across 4 selected sites which will include court resurfacing and painting, upgrade to sport equipment, fencing and lighting, and installation of seating and additional bins.				
Potential impacts of the policy/development decision/procedure/ on:	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	No Specific Impact	What will the impact be? If the impact is negative, how can it be mitigated, what action will be taken?
Natural Resources- Impact on natural resources including water, soil, air		X		Construction works may negatively impact surrounding soil and verges. The contractor will need to make good all surrounding surfaces and reinstate to their previous standard prior to construction, which will be included in the works specification.
Energy use and CO ₂ emissions	X			Where existing lighting is in place, to be replaced with LED lighting which will reduce energy and CO ₂ emissions. New lighting will be installed at 1 site, which will conform to Sport England guidance, and will also be LED.
Impact on local green and open spaces and biodiversity			X	The court refurbishments are about upgrading existing infrastructure and therefore there will be no specific impact to green or open space as there will be no loss or gain of either.

Use of sustainable products and equipment	x			<p>Sustainable products and equipment will be explored for each site and new provision, such as backboards, hoops, benches.</p> <p>The tender process will seek to ensure the successful contractor demonstrates ethical procurement which will include ethical sourcing of material and ensuring they are locally and responsibly sourced; the use of green and sustainable methods considered and implemented in delivering the contract; and prioritisation of carbon saving construction and building methods.</p>
Minimising waste	x			<p>Any existing equipment such as backboards and basketball hoops will be re-purposed at other sites where appropriate.</p> <p>The tender process will seek to ensure the successful contractor uses green and sustainable methods in construction waste and implements green plans.</p>
Council plan priority: a city that takes a leading role in tackling climate change	x			<p>The upgrade and refurbishment of playzones will provide services within walking distance for many local residents, therefore reducing the need for vehicles to travel to participate in sport and physical activity.</p>
Overall conclusion on the environmental and sustainability impacts of the proposal	<p>The refurbishment of playzones will have a positive impact due to the upgrade of lighting and sustainable equipment being used. The upgrades to the outdoor sports spaces are on the existing footprint of each site and therefore no additional green or open space is impacted in 2 of the sites in question. Batchelors farm recreation ground will convert some of the concrete pad in the park into a playzone thus not taking anymore green space. In Addition the actual car park of this site will be brought back to grass making more green space in the park for the residents to enjoy. Adderley Park development will also convert a plot on the road side end of the park as part of the wider regeneration and master plan of the re-development of the park.</p> <p>Any negative impacts during the construction phase will be mitigated through the procurement process to award the construction contract, with green and sustainable methods of construction and handling of waste assessed thoroughly.</p>			

If you require assistance in completing this assessment, then please contact: ESAGuidance@birmingham.gov.uk

APPENDIX 3

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Playzones

Reference:

Date:

Submitted by:



 RESET

 RESHAPE

 RESTART

EIA Form – About your EIA

Reference number	
Date Submitted	
Subject of the EIA	
Brief description of the policy, service or function covered by the EIA	
Equality Assessment is in support of...	
How frequently will you review impact and mitigation measures identified in this EIA?	
Due date of the first review	

Directorate, Division & Service Area

Which directorate(s) are responsible for this EIA?	
Division	
Service area	
Budget Saving	

Officers

What is the responsible officer's email address?	
What is the accountable officer's email address?	

Data Sources

Data sources	
Data source details	

Protected Characteristics

Protected Characteristic – Age

Does this proposal impact people due to their age as per the Equality Act 2010?	
What age groups are impacted by your proposal?	
Please describe the impact to the age characteristic	
How will you mitigate against any negative impact to the age characteristic?	



Protected Characteristic – Disability

Does this proposal impact those people with a disability as per the Equality Act 2010?	
Please describe the impact to the disability characteristic	
How will you mitigate against any negative impact to the disability characteristic?	

Protected Characteristic – Sex

Does this proposal impact citizens based on their sex as per the Equality Act 2010?	
What sexes will be impacted by this proposal?	
Please describe the impact to the sex characteristic	
How will you mitigate against any negative impact to the sex characteristic?	

Protected Characteristic - Gender Reassignment

Does this proposal impact people who are proposing to undergo, undergoing or have undergone a process to reassign one's sex as per the Equality Act 2010?	
Please describe the impact to the gender reassignment characteristic	
How will you mitigate against any negative impact to the gender reassignment characteristic?	

Protected Characteristic - Marriage and Civil Partnership

Does this proposal impact people who are married or in a civil partnership as per the Equality Act 2010?	
What legal marital or registered civil partnership	



status will be impacted by this proposal?	
Please describe the impact to the marriage and civil partnership characteristic	
How will you mitigate against any negative impact to the marriage and civil partnership characteristic?	

Protected Characteristic - Pregnancy and Maternity

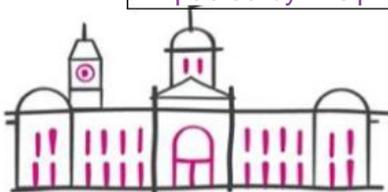
Does this proposal impact people covered by the Equality Act 2010 under the protected characteristic of pregnancy and maternity?	
Please describe the impact to the pregnancy and maternity characteristic	
How will you mitigate against any negative impact to the pregnancy and maternity characteristic?	

Protected Characteristic - Ethnicity and Race

Does this proposal impact people due to their race as per the Equality Act 2010?	
What ethnic groups would be impacted by this proposal?	
Please describe the impact to the ethnicity and race characteristic	
How will you mitigate against any negative impact to the ethnicity and race characteristic?	

Protected Characteristic - Religion or Beliefs

Does this proposal impact people's religion or beliefs as per the Equality Act 2010?	
What religions could be impacted by this proposal?	



Please describe the impact to the religion or beliefs characteristic	
How will you mitigate against any negative impact to the religion or beliefs characteristic?	

Protected Characteristic - Sexual Orientation

Does this proposal impact people's sexual orientation as per the Equality Act 2010?	
What sexual orientations may be impacted by this proposal?	
Please describe the impact to the sexual orientation characteristic	
How will you mitigate against any negative impact to the sexual orientation characteristic?	

Monitoring

How will you ensure any adverse impact and mitigation measures are monitored?	
Please enter the email address for the officer responsible for monitoring impact and mitigation	

