



EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION

REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Environmental Services
LEAD OFFICERS:	Director of Environment and Operations
DATE:	31 st July 2019

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED:	Environmental Services	Public Health and Wellbeing
WARD/S AFFECTED:	Mill Hill and Moorgate	

SUBJECT: Green Lane MUGA Refurbishment

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) on Green Lane, Blackburn, is in a poor state of repair and has been subject to vandalism over the last few years. Health and safety of children and young people using the facility is the primary concern. Local ward councillors are keen to ensure the facility is available for the benefit of local children and young people and consultations with the local community have shown they would like to continue using the facility and would utilise it more if the condition was improved, critically they do not want to see it closed.

The Council has attempted asset transfer of the facility to attract external funding, unfortunately this process was not formally progressed by parties who showed some initial interest and this option may have restricted community access.

An opportunity is available to allocate Section 106 contribution for open space amenities to this project. The Council has sought quotes to complete a sustainable refurbishment that allows the facility to be refurbished in a safe and sustainable way that protects open community access to the facility.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Member:

1. Formally approves refurbishment of Green Lane MUGA using Section 106 open space funding.

3. BACKGROUND

The Green Lane Multi Use Games Area also known as 'MUGA' is used for informal play by children and young people in the local community. Unfortunately, over a number of years the facility has been subject to repeated vandalism and is now in a dangerous state of disrepair. There is no revenue funding allocated to maintain this facility.

Consultations and Feedback

Regular meetings have been held with local ward councillors, consistent feedback is that any type of closure would be considered as a negative outcome for the local community, in particular for children and young people.

Ward councillors and Neighbourhood staff completed a consultation in the local community, the feedback was that local people would not be happy to see it close and would use it more if the condition was improved. Two local groups showed an informal interest in managing the MUGA. Following this interest, a tender exercise was completed in September 2017, unfortunately no formal interest was received and the MUGA remains in a poor state of repair.

Proposed Development

An opportunity has become available to allocate Section 106 contribution for open space amenities to this project. A sustainable refurbishment would allow the facility to be enjoyed by local children and young people in future years. This investment would also protect open community access and remain a valuable local community play facility.

In order to refurbish this facility, three quotes have been obtained, one of which would allow the asset to be improved within the available budget. New durable fencing would be installed (removing the current kickboards) and a new hard surface would be laid (in replacement of the current synthetic carpet) with appropriate line marking. This would ensure that the facility is not easily vandalised and low-maintenance intensive to ensure it would be an asset in the community for the long-term.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

- Future-proof Asset: Funding available would allow a full refurbishment. This refurbishment will be mindful to ensure the materials used during the refurbishment are not easily vandalised and low-maintenance intensive to ensure it would be an asset in the community for the long-term.
- Ongoing maintenance: Once refurbished, this site would be added to the Environment Department's Play Assets Register and would be regularly monitored and maintained, to ensure it remains a safe space for children and young people in the local community.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

NONE

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- Section 106 funds of £44,933 to be allocated to the project to allow refurbishment of Green Lane MUGA.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- Green Lane MUGA located on Green Lane BB2 3SR is a Council Asset in a poor state of repair with potential Health & Safety risks, this refurbishment would improve the asset and reduce the risks presented significantly.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- The refurbishment would be completed through an external contractor with oversight from existing Council staff.

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2 In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA link here)*

Option 3 In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA attachment)*

10. CONSULTATIONS

- Ward Councillors
- Local resident
- Greenfields Community centre
- Mill Hill Junior Football Club
- Green Lane Community Association
- Greenviews Nursery

11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded and published if applicable.

VERSION:	1
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CONTACT OFFICER:	Martin Eden
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BACKGROUND PAPER:	
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