

SAFETY SURFACING WITHIN PLAY AREAS

AGENDA ITEM No. 9

MEETING: RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: 25TH NOVEMBER 2020

REPORT BY: WORKS AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGER

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is for Members to consider the options regarding improving the safety surfacing within the Council's play areas.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 The Town Council manage 12 play areas all of which have varying amounts of safety surfacing which require regular maintenance.

2.2 All the safety surfacing appears in good condition as Works operatives spend a substantial amount of time patching up the wet pour rubber crumb safety surfacing as problems develop. However, apart from the Town Park Junior area and both junior and infant areas at Moore Lane, most of the play areas are beginning to break down resulting in increasing repairs and associated costs.

2.3 A provision was therefore set aside in the medium-term capital budget for a rolling programme of improvements to the surfacing.

2.4 Officers regularly inspect each site to determine the state of each surface, with a view that improvements should only take place when the state of wet pour is starting to deteriorate to the point that significant repairs will be required and before any safety issues arise.

3.0 Current Situation

3.1 During the last survey within each play area to prioritise the need for repair the infant play area at St Oswald's was identified as requiring attention.

3.2 The wet pour safety surface is beginning to contract around the sides of many joints in the design resulting in regular repairs being required.

3.3 Substantial areas with high user numbers were repaired in the Town Park and Moore Lane in 2018 by over laying the existing safety surfacing with rubber crumb wet pour. This is a cost-effective way to ensure a suitable safety surfacing is maintained and has proved a great success in reducing ongoing maintenance in these areas.

3.4 Work in 2018 was completed by RTC to a high standard and there has been no issues with the ongoing maintenance of these large areas.

3.5 On this basis, three suppliers were contacted to supply a quotation for supply and over lay of wet pour safety surface at St Oswald's, the surface will be solid black to minimise the risk of joints separating and causing unnecessary maintenance.

4.0 Impact on Great Aycliffe Town Council

- 4.1 Investing in safety surface will ensure compliance with safety requirements, reduce repair costs, refresh the look of the play area and prolong the use of the surfacing.

5.0 Policy Implications

- 5.1 This meets the Council's aims 2 and 5.
2. To manage the Council's finances and assets in a responsible manner.
5. To contribute to the environmental improvement of Aycliffe by managing and developing parks, play areas and green spaces.

6.0 Staffing implications

- 6.1 Work will result in limited cost and time savings from operatives requiring completing ongoing repairs/ maintenance to the current surfacing.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 Three suppliers were contacted for the surfacing and three quotations obtained, ensuring compliance with the Council's standing orders for Contracts and Procurement.

- 7.2 Below is a breakdown of the quotes from the three companies. All prices are pre-VAT.

Contractor	Price
RTC	£8,308.00
Abacus	£6,743.00
Monstermulch	£8,352.90

- 7.3 A sum of £25,000 is within this year's capital budget for safety surfacing.

- 7.4 Whilst the quotation is significantly cheaper from Abacus, the company submitted the quote without a site visit. They have not yet completed any work for the Council and so their workmanship is yet to be assessed by the Council.

- 7.5 The quotations from the other two suppliers are comparable. However, the previous experience of the work undertaken by RTC at both the Town Park and Moore lane was of a very high standard.

8.0 Crime and Disorder Implications

- 8.1 None

9.0 Equal Opportunities Implications

- 9.1 None

10.0 Environmental Implications

- 10.1 None

11.0 Risk Assessment

11.1 It is not considered that the matter contained in this report poses a risk to health and safety of staff or to financial or public standing of the Council to a degree that a risk assessment should be appended to this report.

12.0 General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

12.1 Is any personal or sensitive data required for this proposal which may have any implications for GDPR? NO

13.0 Recommendation

13.1 It is recommended that:

- i. Members receive the report
- ii. Members consider the quotation from RTC at a cost of £8,308.00 to complete the overlay of the infant play area within St Oswald's Park.

Works and Environment Manager