

BRECKLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of: Executive Member for Place, Paul Claussen

To: Informal Executive Meeting, 4 June 2018
Cabinet, 12 June 2018

Author: Clive Rayner, Grant Officer, Norfolk Community Foundation

Subject: Match Funding (large) application

Purpose: To consider the decision to award funding to Holme Hale Playing Field Trust

Recommendation:

- 1) That the Cabinet approves the following grant award:
 - £7,500 (or 29.5% of the project costs, whichever is the lower amount) to the Holme Hale Playing Field Trust to update play facilities in the village.

BACKGROUND – Holme Hale Playing Field Trust

- 1.1 Holme Hale Playing Field Trust is a registered charity responsible for the provision and maintenance of the village hall and the adjacent playing field in the village.
- 1.2 This grant application was made at the end of 2017 and its presentation to Breckland Council has been delayed while an issue with the charity's governance was resolved. This matter has been addressed to Norfolk Community Foundation's satisfaction and we now have no outstanding issues with this charity.
- 1.3 A match funding grant of £7,500 is sought to contribute to the costs of upgrading equipment on the playing field which is described as having "lapsed into disrepair" and no longer meeting legal requirements. The plan involves installing a play tower aimed at 2 to 5 year olds incorporating a slide, a scramble net and a noughts & crosses play panel, two sets of swings, a play tower aimed at 5 to 13 year olds and spinning mushroom and mushroom seats. In addition safer grass matting will be fitted around each piece of equipment and seating will also be installed to provide a space for parents/carers to interact. The cost of all of these items is £25,516 and has been evidenced by a quote from a Norfolk based company.
- 1.4 The Playing Field Trust has consulted with local residents about this project. Initially this was done by letter and subsequently a well-attended meeting was held. The meeting helped to identify the most appropriate equipment following submissions by three play equipment providers. The consultation identified that there are around 40 families with children of an appropriate age to benefit from this project.
- 1.5 Fundraising is progressing well and to date £11,466 has been raised. This sum includes a grant of £9,946 from the Awards for All scheme, £1,000 from Tesco Bags of Help plus smaller sums from local fundraising. If a Breckland grant is awarded at the requested level the project would have secured around 75% of the necessary funding. The applicant has also recently made an application to the North Pickenham Windfarm Community Fund (managed by Norfolk Community Foundation) which if successful would complete the necessary funding. A decision

on this application should be available in late May/early June.

2) **OPTIONS**

2.1 Fully fund the application set out in the report

2.2 Part fund the application set out in the report

2.3 Do nothing

3) **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)**

3.1 The grant application meets the criteria of the scheme.

4) **EXPECTED BENEFITS**

- 4.1 • Increased provision of outdoor play opportunities for children aged under 13.

5) **IMPLICATIONS**

In preparing this report, the report author has considered the likely implications of the decision - particularly in terms of Carbon Footprint / Environmental Issues; Constitutional & Legal; Contracts; Corporate Priorities; Crime & Disorder; Equality & Diversity/Human Rights; Financial; Health & Wellbeing; Reputation; Risk Management; Safeguarding; Staffing; Stakeholders/Consultation/Timescales; Transformation Programme; Other. Where the report author considers that there may be implications under one or more of these headings, these are identified below.

5.1 **Financial**

5.1.1 The Match Funding reserves held by Norfolk Community Foundation have a current balance of £49,255. In addition to this application there are three small match funding applications totalling £9,995 and a further large match funding application for £19,817 for decision during June 2018. There are therefore sufficient funds to meet the grant expenditure of £7,500 proposed in this report as well as these other potential commitments.

5.2 **Corporate Priorities**

5.2.1 The project aligns with the following Breckland objectives: 'Supporting groups and organisations to provide a range of local facilities which improve learning opportunities, community health and community wellbeing' and 'work together with partners and local communities to make public spaces cleaner, greener and safe.' The project will replace outdated and unsafe equipment with an up to date play facility that encourages children to play outside. Parents/carers will gain opportunities to socialise while supervising younger children's play.

5.3 **Stakeholders / Consultation / Timescales**

5.3.1 Breckland member Nigel Wilkin has confirmed his support for the replacement of the outdated play equipment.

6.0 **WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED**

6.1 Necton Ward/Holme Hale.

7.0 **ACRONYMS**

7.1 NCF – Norfolk Community Foundation

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Key Decision: No

Exempt Decision: No

This report refers to a Discretionary Service

Appendices attached to this report:

Appendix A – Grant Application