



## Cambridge City Council

### **Project Appraisal and Area Committee Recommendation**

**Project Name:** Histon Road Recreation Ground Play Area Improvements - (Area priority project under £75k)

**To:** Area Chair, Vice Chair and Opposition Spokes

**Area committee:** WEST CENTRAL

**Report by:** Alistair Wilson Streets & Open Space – Development Manager

**Wards affected:** Castle

### **Recommendation/s**

#### **Financial recommendations –**

- The West Central Area Committee Chair is asked to approve the commencement of this scheme, which is already included in the Council's Capital & Revenue Project Plan – scheme reference number PRO33F;
- The total cost of the project is £55,000 funded from developer contributions; and
- Revenue costs of the project would be met out of existing play area maintenance budgets.

#### **Procurement recommendations:**

- The West Central Area Committee Chair is asked to approve the carrying out and completion of improvements to Histon Recreation Ground consisting of play equipment, seating and bird boxes.
- Subject to:-
  - The permission of the Director of Business Transformation being sought prior to proceeding if the quotation or tender sum exceeds the estimated contract;

- The permission from the West Central Area Committee Chair being sought before proceeding if the value exceeds the estimated contract by more than 15%.
- And that:-
  - Play Equipment Option E will be installed.

## 1 Summary

### 1.1 The project

Purchase and installation of a climbing play equipment item, bird boxes and seating as improvements to the facilities at Histon Road Recreation Ground.

#### Target Dates:

Start of procurement	January 2014
Award of Contract	February 2015
Start of project delivery	Summer 2015
Completion of project	Summer 2015
Date that project output is expected to become operational (if not same as above)	June/ July 2015

### 1.2 Anticipated Cost

Total Project Cost	£55,000
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### Cost Funded from:

Funding:	Amount:	Details:
Reserves	£0	
Repairs & Renewals	£0	
Developer Contributions	£55,000	£50,000 Play £5,000 Informal Open Space
Climate Change Fund	£0	
Other	£0	

### 1.3 Procurement process

Three competitive quotations have been sought for the Climbing Equipment.

## 2 Project Appraisal & Procurement Report

### 2.1 Project Background

West Central Area Committee on Thursday 14 November 2013 prioritised this project as a local S106 priority project, subject to project appraisal.

Officers have explored and consulted upon the feasibility of specific options for play area provision of climbing equipment at Histon Road Recreation Ground, at the same time as bird boxes and seating.

Five options for the play equipment were proposed and consulted upon:

OPTION A: Square support net platforms at different heights and angles fixed to four masts for a challenging and creative role play suitable for ages 5-12.

OPTION B: Rotating Quad Pod net for ages 6-12 features both rope climbing and metal pole elements with added feature of rotation.

OPTION C: Explorer Dome net for age 5 + with rope platforms rising in four layers with suspended seats and coloured panels, great for games and developing physical skills like balance.

OPTION D: Geodesic Frame Net for 6 – 12 year olds: Built on heavy gauge steel to exercise balance and coordination..

OPTION E: Large 4 sided space-net called the Courtyard with the widest spread containing four masts and a central trampoline suitable for 3 – 8 year olds (see Appendix B).

- b) Officers were also asked to advise on the location of new:
  - I. Blue Tit boxes, Great Tit boxes and a Tawny Owl box.
  - II. Three additional seats consisting of council stock, 1 no. Tusk bench and 2 no. Omos benches – indicative sites shown in Appendix C.

## **2.2 Aims & objectives**

To increase the play value of the park by supplementing the existing provision play provision and to increase biodiversity with bird boxes.

## **2.3 Major issues for stakeholders & other departments**

In scoping this project, Officers' have liaised with other colleagues to make sure that it is consistent with other uses of the park and the improvement to the entrances, which will be taking place alongside this project.

## **2.4 Consultation undertaken:**

The city wide consultation was web based and ran from the 24th of September 2014 until the 28th of November 2014.

There were 47 respondents to the consultation. 14 responded favourably to Option E, the Courtyard - the large 4 sided space net - with general comments that it was unique in the city and had a substantial footprint in terms of play value.

A summary of the comments and frequency is below:

Large footprint so more people can use it.	5
My kids love trampolines/trampolines are fun/like the trampoline	4
Have seen one before and was excellent/fun/popular	3
Good for range of ages	2
Best for my child's age	2
Looks the most fun	2
Love the climbing	1
There are no other trampoline elements in the city	1
Most appealing visually and in terms of options	1
Best for imaginative play	1
Not sure about trampoline re safety	1

The remaining respondents were split across the other 4 options.

Officers consulted the Friends of Group. The Friends of Group have confirmed Option E as the favoured choice.

## **2.4 Summaries key risks associated with the project**

There are no perceived and associated risks with the project.

The installation of the play equipment is dependent on weather conditions, but the project target deadline of Summer 2015 can be met.

## **2.5 Financial implications**

The Developer Contributions Monitoring team has confirmed that there are sufficient devolved developer contributions available and that there are no particular expiry date issues here.

## 2.6 Net revenue implications (costs or savings)

Revenue	£	Comments
Maintenance		
R&R Contribution	0	
Developer Contributions		
Energy savings		See below
Income / Savings		
<b>Net Revenue effect</b>	0	Cost/(Saving)

## 2.7 VAT implications

None identified.

## 2.8 Energy and Fuel Savings

None identified.

## 2.9 Climate Change Impact

Positive Impact			No effect	Negative Impact		
+H	+M	+L	<b>Nil</b>	-L	-M	-H

There are a no factors likely to cause an increase in CO<sub>2</sub> levels due to emissions from fossil fuel combustion. The use of by aerosols (particulate matter in the atmosphere) and the CO<sub>2</sub> released by cement manufacture, and methane from animal agriculture and deforestation is not determined.

## 2.10 Other implications

An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been carried out for this project with no negative impact in the terms of the nature of the service that it is being provided within its reference of play and leisure facilities.

## 2.11 Staff required to deliver the project

Service	Skills	Total Hours
Streets & OS -	<i>Play space design</i>	40
	<i>Bird box purchase and installation</i>	4
	<i>Total</i>	44

## 2.12 Dependency on other work or projects

The schedule of the Arts Project planned for the entrance areas of the park later in the financial year will be taken into account in terms of scheduling and access arrangements. At present no conflict has been determined.

## 2.13 Background Papers

Agenda and minutes: West Area Committee Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2013

## 2.14 Inspection of papers

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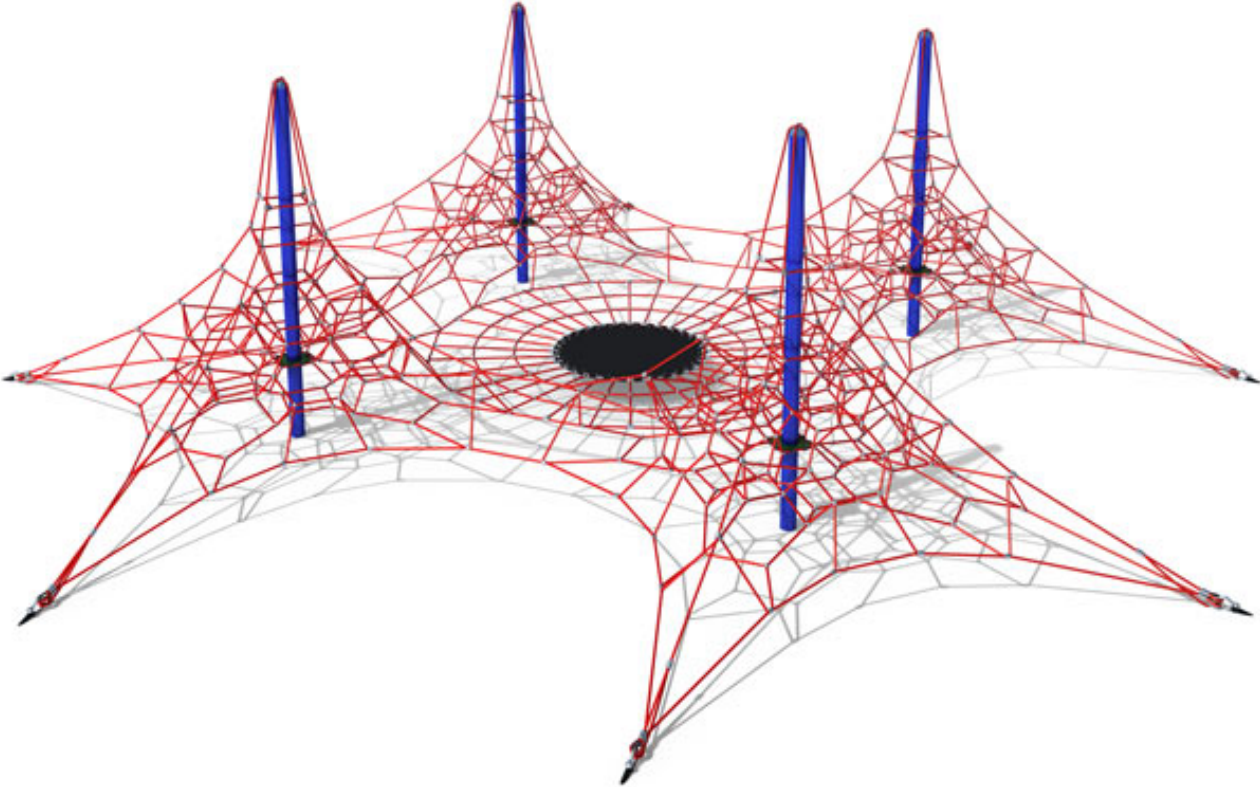




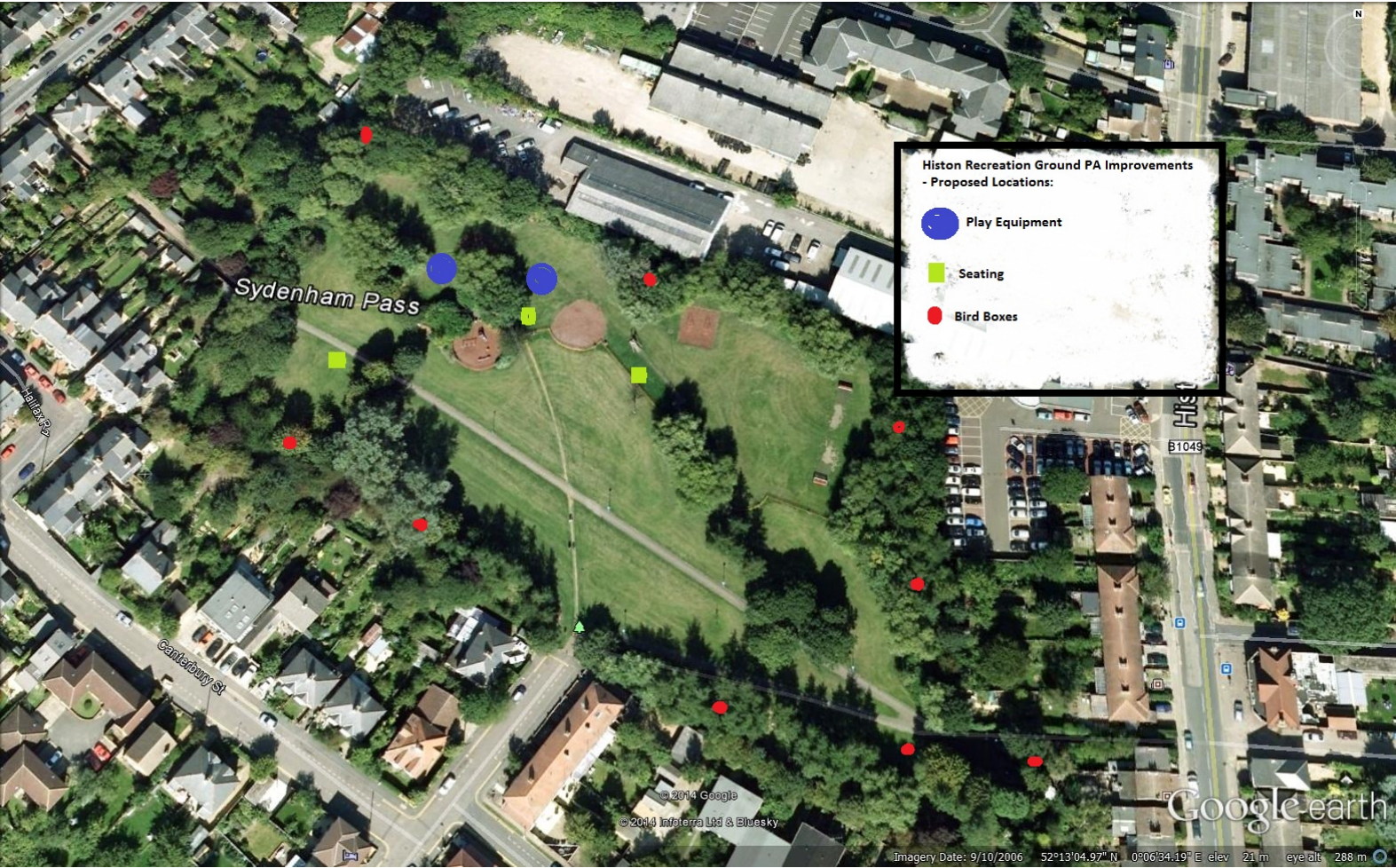
## Appendix A

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	Comments
	£	£	£	£	£	
<b>Capital Costs</b>						
Building contractor / works		5,000				
Purchase of vehicles, plant & equipment		41,000				Play, Seats and Boxes
Professional / Consultants (Officer Recharge) fees						
Other capital expenditure:		9,000				Safey Surfacing
<b>Total Capital cost</b>		<b>55,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Capital Income / Funding</b>						
Government Grant						
Developer Contributions		55,000				
R&R funding						
Earmarked Funds						
Existing capital programme funding						
Revenue contributions						
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>55,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Net Capital Bid</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

**Appendix B: Picture of Courtyard Climbing Equipment**



**Appendix C – Extract from the Consultation - Indicative locations of Play Equipment, Bird & Bat Boxes and Seating**



## Bird & Bat Boxes

*The specified Schwegler boxes are manufactured from Woodcrete, a special mixture of wood, concrete and clay which will not leak, rot or warp. Schwegler boxes are thought to have the highest occupation rates of all nest boxes and are carefully designed to copy natural nest sites and provide a long term stable environment for rearing the young and winter roosting. The product offers full protection from squirrels or predatory woodpeckers, unlike cheaper wooden products.*

No.	Species / Specification	Unit Price (£)	Total (£)
4	Schwegler Bat Box 45-2F	28.96	115.84
4	Schwegler Hole Front Bird Box-1B 32mm Great Tit	24.60	98.40
4	Schwegler Hole Front Bird Box-1B 32mm Blue Tit	24.60	98.40
2	Schwegler Open Front Bird Box-2H	23.38	46.76
1	Schwegler Tawny Owl Box-No.5	62.74	62.74
	Installation by approved tree contractors*	500.00	500.00
	Total		922.14



*Pictures of Proposed Bird & Bat Boxes*