

REPORT AUDIT TRAIL**CONSULTATION**

*This is important as it shows that consultation has been undertaken in the preparation of the report and provides a quick reference point for specific comments, whilst the report will not be publishable if these areas have not been completed by the named persons below. **You must liaise with and receive sign off from the relevant Cabinet Member(s).***

Name/Position	Portfolio/Ward/ Directorate	Date Sent	Date Received	Comments in para:
Councillor Chris Read	Leader			
Councillor Lynda Marshall	Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Green Spaces	28/08/2025	28/08/2025	
<i>Andrew Bramidge</i>	Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment			
<i>Chloe Parker, Finance</i>	Finance and Customer Services	22/08/2025	29/08/2025	6.2
<i>Lesley Tattersall, Legal Services</i>	Legal Services	26/08/2025	26/08/2025	7.1
<i>Helen Rowe, Human Resources</i>	Assistant Chief Executive's Office	26/08/2025	26/08/2025	8.1
<i>Karen Middlebrook, Procurement</i>	Finance and Customer Services	22/08/2025	22/08/2025	6.1
Helen Sweaton, Early Help	Children and Young People's Services	28/08/2025	28/08/2025	9.1

REPORT APPROVAL TRACKING			
Equalities Your report will not be authorised for submission to Cabinet by your Strategic Director if you have not undertaken and included an initial equalities screening. All equalities analysis documents should be included as appendices	Initial Screening completed and included with report	Yes	28/08/2025
	Full Assessment completed and included with report		
Carbon Impact Assessments Carbon Impact Assessments are to be appended to the associated cabinet reports. Carbon Impact Assessments should be sent to climate@rotherham.gov.uk for feedback prior to your report being sent to your Strategic Director for approval.	Carbon Impact Assessment completed and included with report.	Yes	27/08/2025
Background information MANDATORY: Insert headings for a few main public documents you have used or referenced to write this report. This is a legal requirement. For Cabinet reports, insert hyperlinks . Do not list private documents.	Rotherham Cultural Strategy, 2019-2026		
Appendices If appendices are essential to the understanding of the report, list titles here. Equality Analysis documents should be listed as Appendix 1 for all reports. Ensure that appendices have proper titles.	<i>Appendix 1a Equalities Impact Screening Part A</i> <i>Appendix 2 Carbon Impact Assessment</i> <i>Appendix 3 Inventory of Play Parks</i>		
Cabinet Member Approval You should retain an email confirming the Cabinet Member approval for your records. Strategic Directors should not authorise reports unless Cabinet Members have given sign off	Yes	28/08/25	
Report Authorised by Strategic Director	YES/NO (delete as appropriate)	Click here to enter a date.	
Report Authorised for publication by Chief Executive	YES/NO (delete as appropriate)	Click here to enter a date.	

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Delegated Officer Decision – 04 September 2025

Report Title

Consultation for the redevelopment of the Bill Winder Children’s Playground

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Assistant Director Approving Submission of the Report

Polly Hamilton, Assistant Director, Culture, Sport & Tourism

Report Author(s)

Zoe Oxley, Head of Operations & Business Transformation
01709 334283 or zoe.oxley@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Dalton & Thrybergh

Report Summary

This report seeks approval to undertake stakeholder consultation on the proposed redevelopment of the Bill Winder play area.

The consultation will inform the detailed design and delivery of the play area improvements, ensuring the final scheme reflects community needs and aspirations.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

Approval is granted to undertake consultation with stakeholders (including residents, children and young people, and Ward Members) on the detailed designs and plans for the Bill Winder play area.

This utilises the identified budgets:

- £53k S106 (RB2019/1967 Chesterhill Avenue / Oldgate Lane)
- £21k Ward Councillors capital.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1a Equalities Impact Screening Part A
Appendix 2 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Redevelopment of the Bill Winder Children's Playground

1. Background

- 1.1 Green Spaces manages 37 play areas, and four skate parks. Whilst there is a modest budget to inspect and maintain play areas to keep them safe for users, there is no budget for cyclical replacement of play areas.
- 1.2 The Service historically use a mixture of external funding opportunities and section 106 developer contributions to replace play areas which have reached the end of their operational lifespan.
- 1.3 At the Council meeting of 28th February 2024, a £919,000 Capital budget allocation was approved for a three-year period from 2024 to 2027 to improve play provision at 8 sites across the borough.
- 1.4 While the Bill Winder play area is in need of refurbishment, it was not included for consideration of this wider scheme due to the availability of alternative funding specially earmarked for its improvement. Capital funding has been secured through a section 106 agreement linked to the Chesterhill Avenue / Oldgate Lane housing development (planning ref. RB2019/1967), under a section 106 agreement (Town and Country Planning Act). In addition, Ward Members have committed capital funding to ensure the project is fully resourced.
- 1.5 This report seeks approval to consult with stakeholders (including children and young people, residents and Ward Members) on the detailed designs and plans for each of these play areas.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The existing Bill Winder play area has suffered damage, with some of the equipment removed and remaining features showing significant cosmetic wear. The safety surfacing also requires upgrades to meet current British standards.
- 2.2 The play area is owned by the Council and is managed by Culture, Sport and Tourism's Green Spaces team which will continue to be responsible for its inspection and maintenance. It will remain listed under Green Spaces in the Council's asset register.
- 2.3 The proposed redevelopment aligns with the Council's commitment to providing accessible, high-quality play areas close to where children live. The scheme has the full support of the Dalton & Thrybergh Ward Councillors.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 1. Do not support the proposal to consult

Limited Community Engagement: Choosing not to consult would mean missing the opportunity to gather input from children, young people, residents, and Ward Councillors. This could result in a final design that does not reflect local needs or preferences.

Reduced Transparency: Not undertaking consultation may be perceived as a lack of openness in decision-making.

2. Support the proposal to consult (Recommended Proposal)
It is recommended that the Council proceeds with stakeholder consultation on the proposed redevelopment of the Bill Winder play area. Engaging the community will help ensure the final design is inclusive, well-informed, and aligned with local expectations, supporting the Council's commitment to participatory planning and high-quality play provision

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 Consultation is planned with Ward Members of the respective sites selected, residents, and children and young people. This will include children and young people with disabilities.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 It is anticipated that the redevelopment work will start in November and be completed within three weeks of commencement.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications (Chloe Parker, Head of Finance and Karen Middlebrook, Head of Procurement)

- 6.1 There are no direct procurement implications associated with the recommendations detailed in this report. However, it must be noted that the engagement of third-party suppliers to deliver the new park must be procured in compliance with the Procurement Act 2023 or the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (dependent on the route to market selected) as well as the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.
- 6.2 A total funding allocation of £74,000 has been identified to support the project, comprising:
 - £53,000 from Section 106 contributions linked to the Chesterhill Avenue / Oldgate Lane development (Planning Ref: RB2019/1967)
 - £21,000 from Ward Councillors' Capital funding

7. Legal Advice and Implications (Lesley Tattersall, Property Team Manager (acting))

7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations in the report which is in line with the governing legal framework for such decisions.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications (Rebecca Price, HR Business Partner)

8.1 There are no direct Human Resources implications associated with the recommendations detailed in this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 Children having access to safe outdoor space is important for their physical and emotional wellbeing. It is therefore positive that steps are being undertaken to upkeep play areas.

9.2 In Rotherham, the Council has developed Four Cornerstones which are essential for ensuring that good practice in working with children, young people, parents, and carers is achieved. These are Welcome and Care, Value and Include, Work in Partnership and Communicate.

9.3 Consultation with stakeholders (including children and young people, residents and Ward Members) on the detailed designs and plans for each of these play areas supports our ambition to work in partnership.

9.4 Any necessary closure of a play area for redevelopment may impact on children who would usually access the resource. However, it is anticipated that this can be mitigated against with good communication from the outset with the community local to the play area, as well as advanced engagement with the Outreach and Engagement Teams who will be able to consider any alternatives to their resources to support the closure of the play area, ensuring little impact on children.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 A Part A Initial Equality Screening Assessment has been completed and attached as Appendix 1.

10.2 The findings from the consultation will enable the completion of the Part B Equality Analysis and action plan.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 A Carbon Impact Assessment has been completed for this programme and can be found at Appendix 2.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1. This play area falls under Council ownership and therefore there are no direct implications for partners in the delivery of this project.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Delivering a children’s play area refurbishment project involves several key risks:

- Funding Challenges: Securing sufficient budget to cover all costs including materials, labour, permits, and future maintenance.
- Community Engagement: Lack of input from local residents, children, and stakeholders may result in a design that does not meet community needs.
- Project Delays: Without detailed planning, the project may face delays or overlook critical elements.
- Supply Chain Coordination: Ineffective coordination with suppliers and contractors could impact timelines and quality.
- Weather Disruption: Adverse weather conditions may delay construction and affect the quality of installation.

Mitigation Measures:

- Develop a comprehensive and realistic budget to ensure all costs are accounted for.
- Undertake early and inclusive consultation to gather community input and build support.
- Create a detailed project plan with clear milestones.
- Establish robust communication channels with the contractor to manage expectations and timelines.
- Include contingency planning for weather-related delays.
- Ensure the design incorporates inclusive and sustainable practices, aligned with Council standards and community aspirations.

14. Accountable Officers

Zoe Oxley, Head of Business Operations & Transformation
Jon Hinchliffe, Parks & Open Spaces Manager

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	Click here to enter a date.
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Named officer	Click here to enter a date.
Head of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Named officer	Click here to enter a date.

Report Author: Zoe Oxley, Head of Operations & Business Transformation

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