

BOLSOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

Meeting of the Council on 20th May 2026

Play Area Refurbishment Programme

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Health & Wellbeing

Classification	This report is Public
Contact Officer	Matthew Connley Leisure Facilities Planning & Development Manager

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

For Council to consider and approve the programme of refurbishment on Council owned play areas throughout the district and detailed in **Appendix 1**. It is proposed to fund the cost from the NNDR Growth Protection Reserve.

REPORT DETAILS

1. Background

- 1.1 Local Government Reorganisation is likely to mean that the play areas currently owned and maintained by Bolsover District Council are likely to be transferred into the new unitary council. To ensure that the play areas are in a good condition for residents of the district, it is proposed to carry out a programme of refurbishment.
- 1.2 Bolsover District Council currently owns, manages and maintains 23 children's play areas across the district. There are an additional 4 play areas where Bolsover District Council is the landowner, but the equipment is owned and managed by others (mainly parish councils) and 2 play areas that are in the process of adoption (total 29 play areas).
- 1.3 Play areas range in age from less than 5 years old (1 play area) to over 20 years (9 play areas).
- 1.4 There are 4 play areas where there are existing section 106 maintenance budgets, which will be used first for any refurbishment works on those particular play areas.
- 1.5 Play areas are regularly inspected by the Playgrounds and Open Spaces Warden (an RPII Operational Inspector) who also carries out routine maintenance. In addition, annual inspections are carried out by the Play Inspection Company.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.1 The range of play area refurbishment works required includes repainting, repairs to wet pour safer surfacing, replacement roundabout bearings, replacement gates, replacement swings and, in some cases, the replacement of life expired equipment. A summary of works required is included in **Appendix 1**.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 To refurbish the play areas before Bolsover District Council ceases to exist, and the play areas become subsumed into the new unitary council.
- 3.2 Existing annual maintenance budgets are insufficient to tackle the backlog of repair / refurbishment / replacement works that have been identified.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 To not carry out refurbishment works would mean that play areas could fall into disrepair or need to be removed due to safety concerns.
- 4.2 To date, no play areas owned by Bolsover District Council have been closed or removed. By not carrying out refurbishment, it is likely that the number of play areas would be reduced as older play areas with life expired equipment are closed or removed.
- 4.3 Existing annual maintenance budgets would not allow for more than minor refurbishment and section 106 contributions (including commuted maintenance sums) are area specific, so do not cover the whole district.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That Council approve the use of NNDR Growth Protection Reserve to carry out the play area refurbishments shown in Appendix 1.
2. That the capital programme be updated to include the capital elements of this refurbishment programme

Approved by Councillor Mary Dooley, Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Health and Wellbeing

IMPLICATIONS:

<u>Finance and Risk</u> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Details: The programme will be funded from the NNDR Growth Protection Reserve to a maximum of £300k. The final costs are being sought. The expenditure is a mix of revenue where only repairs are required, and capital where new equipment is required where the value is over the £10,000 capital deminimis level. On behalf of the Section 151 Officer	
<u>Legal (including Data Protection)</u> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Details: None arising from this report. There are no Data Protection issues arising directly from this report. On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council	
<u>Staffing</u> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Details: None arising directly from this report. On behalf of the Head of Paid Service	
<u>Equality and Diversity, and Consultation</u> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Details: Not applicable to this report.	
<u>Environment</u> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Please identify (if applicable) how this proposal/report will help the Authority meet its carbon neutral target or enhance the environment. Details: By carrying out timely refurbishments, the lifespan of play equipment can be extended, reducing the need to purchase new equipment or having to dispose of equipment prematurely.	

DECISION INFORMATION:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please indicate which threshold applies:	
Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an Executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more wards in the District or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Revenue (a) Results in the Council making Revenue Savings of £75,000 or more or (b) Results in the Council incurring Revenue Expenditure of £75,000 or more.	(a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<p>Capital (a) Results in the Council making Capital Income of £150,000 or more or (b) Results in the Council incurring Capital Expenditure of £150,000 or more.</p> <p>District Wards Significantly Affected: <i>(to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the District)</i> Please state below which wards are affected or tick All if all wards are affected:</p>	<p>(a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>All <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i></p> <p>If No, is the call-in period to be waived in respect of the decision(s) proposed within this report? <i>(decisions may only be classified as exempt from call-in with the agreement of the Monitoring Officer)</i></p> <p>Consultation carried out: <i>(this is any consultation carried out prior to the report being presented for approval)</i></p> <p>Leader <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deputy Leader <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SLT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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<p>Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy, Environment, Housing</p>

DOCUMENT INFORMATION:

Appendix No	Title
1	Bolsover District Council Owned Children's Play Areas in Bolsover District (2026) - works required

<p>Background Papers</p> <p><i>(These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Executive, you must provide copies of the background papers).</i></p>
<p>None</p>