



# Northumberland County Council

## CABINET

03 AUGUST 2021

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### **Summary of New Capital Proposals considered by Officer Capital Strategy Group**

**Report of:** Neil Bradley, Service Director, Strategic Commissioning and Finance

**Cabinet Member:** Councillor Richard Wearmouth, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services

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#### **1. Purpose of Report**

The following report summarises proposed amendments to the Capital Programme considered by the officer Capital Strategy Group via email on 30 June 2021.

#### **2. Recommendations**

In relation to new projects, Cabinet is recommended to:

- 2.1 **New Play Area – Milburn Park, Newbiggin:** approve a capital contribution of £50,000 towards a new play area in Milburn Park to be met from the Parks Enhancement Budget within the 2021-24 Medium Term Financial Plan.
- 2.2 **Tynedale House Fire Door Replacement:** approve the proposal to replace the Fire Doors at Tynedale House in Blyth at a cost of £373,250 to be funded from Adult Services Community Capacity Grant within the Council's 2021-24 Medium Term Financial Plan.

#### **3. Links to Corporate Plan**

The Council's Capital Programme is consistent with the priorities in the Corporate Plan in particular the 'Living', 'Enjoying' and 'Thriving' priorities.

#### **4. Background**

This paper summarises reports considered by the officer Capital Strategy Group on the allocation of funding within the Medium Term Plan to specific projects.

## **SUMMARY OF NEW CAPITAL PROPOSALS CONSIDERED BY OFFICER CAPITAL STRATEGY GROUP VIA EMAIL ON 30 JUNE 2021**

### **5. NEW PLAY AREA – MILBURN PARK, NEWBIGGIN**

5.1 The Group was asked to consider an allocation towards the creation of a high-quality play area to take forward as part of an ambitious programme of enhancements by Newbiggin by the Sea Town Council. The proposed scheme is in three phases and the Council have been approached to provide a contribution of £50,000 towards Phase 1.

5.2 Newbiggin by the Sea Town Council are working in partnership with Newbiggin Community Ventures and Newbiggin Development Trust on a larger scheme to regenerate Milburn Park and the south of Newbiggin Bay into an attractive gateway to the town. The creation of a new play area at Milburn Park is part of this larger scheme and will be split into three phases:

Phase 1 – creation of play area

Phase 2 – creation of water play area

Phase 3 – installation of adult fitness equipment

5.3 Milburn Park is a strategically important historic park located in the increasingly popular coastal town of Newbiggin by the Sea. Milburn Park is situated at the south of Newbiggin Bay and has views of the entire bay and the port of Blyth to the distance in the south. It has a thriving Bowls Club that was founded in 1933 and is the site of tennis courts and other recreational areas.

5.4 Newbiggin Town Council's proposal is to create a colourful, attractive, accessible, and highly visible 'destination' play area within Milburn Park. These facilities are aimed at attracting families and larger groups for longer visits extending to the southern end of the promenade.

5.5 To deliver phase 1 a budget of £150,000 is required. Newbiggin by the Sea Town Council have allocated £100,000 towards the scheme and are seeking a contribution of £50,000 from the County Council to enable its implementation.

5.6 This contribution represents a good value investment from the annual parks enhancement budget, as it will enable the transformation of an area of grassland between the existing tennis courts and bowling green which currently has limited recreational use, through the creation of a significant new play facility that will provide

our residents and visitors with enhanced opportunities for play and taking exercise outdoors and support the wider regeneration ambitions for the town.

- 5.7 The project will also be the catalyst for further Town Council investments in this area, namely phase 2 and phase 3 as outlined above. The Town Council is actively pursuing funding sources for the delivery of these additional phases of activity and is in dialogue with the Council's Economy and Regeneration team to support this.
- 5.8 Phase 1 will be installed on a grassed area which is currently owned and maintained by the County Council and the Town Council have proposed (subject to agreed capital funding support) that the new play area, will be maintained in future by the Town Council so there will be no future maintenance liability for the County Council.
- 5.9 The Town Council will procure and manage the installation of the equipment, aiming to complete the installation by Autumn 2021.
- 5.10 In March 2021, Newbiggin by the Sea Town Council consulted on the proposals by way of a leaflet delivered to all households and an online survey. The consultation results confirmed that 76% of respondents were supportive of a destination play area in Newbiggin and 61% of respondents were supportive of Milburn Park as the location, demonstrating good public support for the proposal.

### **CSG Recommendation**

- 5.11 The Group supported the proposal and recommends Cabinet to approve a capital contribution of £50,000 towards a new play area in Milburn Park to be met from the Parks Enhancement Budget within the 2021-24 Medium Term Financial Plan.

## **6. TYNEDALE HOUSE FIRE DOOR REPLACEMENT**

- 6.1 The Group received a proposal to replace all internal fire doors (150 in total) within the Tynedale House residential care facility in Blyth at a cost of £373,250.

### **Background**

- 6.2 Tynedale House in Cowpen, Blyth is a residential service funded and run by Northumberland County Council. It has 24 permanent residents who have learning disabilities, some of whom have dementia and physical disabilities and a 6 bedded respite/short stay service for people with learning disabilities with additional needs. For most of the residents this is a 'home for life' and the residents and staff are very much part of each other's extended family.
- 6.3 There are approximately 70 council staff working across the service 24/7 and some residents have a small amount of support hours from external providers. The service

is registered with and inspected by the Care Quality Commission and received an 'Outstanding' rating in 2020 following their inspection. It is a service which is recognised for its care and support of the client group by professionals and families.

- 6.4 The service first opened in 1986 and has a very good community presence. It has throughout COVID promoted its residents and the council with a number of activities and events and has received local and national media coverage for the way they have kept residents and the local community's spirits up during the pandemic.
- 6.5 During a recent assessment of repairs needed in the building it was identified that a number of the fire doors throughout the building were ill-fitting and they would no longer meet safety standards. Effective fire-resisting doors are vital to ensure that the occupants can evacuate to a place of safety. Correctly specified and well-fitted doors will hold back fire and smoke preventing escape routes becoming unusable, as well as preventing the fire spreading from one area to another.
- 6.6 As all the fire doors are reaching end of life, the proposal is to replace all the internal fire rated doors to corridors, bedrooms, kitchens and living areas (150 in total) with new units that are compliant and meet current fire regulations.
- 6.7 This scheme was not separately identified during the Medium Term Planning process, however, Adult Social Care have a continuous programme of developing and improving services to meet the needs of service users. This scheme ensures the service will be compliant and safe in respect of fire precautions and procedures and can be funded from the Adult Social Care Capacity Grant.
- 6.8 Risks of not proceeding:
- High risk of injury or death of residents, staff and visitors if a fire was to occur
  - Non-compliance of a council service and further deterioration of the doors
  - Care Quality Commission non-compliance rating and potential to restrict admissions
  - Reputational damage and legal challenge if an incident were to occur
  - Service unable to admit new residents

**6.9 CSG Recommendation**

The Group supported the proposal and recommends Cabinet to approve the project to replace the Fire Doors at Tynedale House in Blyth at a cost of £373,250 to be funded from Adult Services Community Capacity Grant within the Council's 21-24 Medium Term Financial Plan.

**Implications**

<b>Policy</b>	The capital programme is part of the Medium-Term Financial Plan 2021-24. The plan supports the Corporate Plan.
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<b>Finance and value for money</b>	The report outlines proposed project allocations and amendments to the approved Capital programme. The financial implications of these proposals are outlined in the main body of the report.
<b>Legal</b>	There are no direct legal implications.
<b>Procurement</b>	In line with all other capital expenditure, the additional spend will be subject to the Council's recognised procurement procedures.
<b>Human Resources</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Property</b>	The properties affected by the proposals are identified in the main body of the report.
<b>Equalities</b> (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable.
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	The risks associated with the proposals are regarded as acceptable but these risks will continue to be reviewed up to and during implementation of the proposals.
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>	There are no Crime and Disorder implications.
<b>Customer Consideration</b>	There are no Customer Considerations.
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	Carbon Reduction measures have been considered within each project.
<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing</b>	There are no Health and Wellbeing implications.
<b>Wards</b>	All wards

**Background Papers:**

Medium Term Financial Plan 2021-24

**Report sign off:**

***Authors must ensure that officers and members have agreed the content of the report:***

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