

Completion and Contractor Evaluation Rodbourne Cheney Play Area

Committee: Leisure & Recreation Committee

Meeting Date: 6th November 2025

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1. Purpose of Report

To inform councillors of the successful completion and installation of the Rodbourne Cheney Inclusive Play Area and to present a formal evaluation of the appointed contractor's performance. This report also seeks committee approval to consider the contractor for further play area projects at Barnum Court and Alanbrooke Crescent.

2. Background

Following a competitive procurement process, Central Swindon North Parish Council (CSNPC) awarded a design and build contract for the Rodbourne Cheney Inclusive Play Area. The project formed the initial phase of a term contract, with the potential for additional play area works to be directly awarded subject to the contractor's performance.

The total allocated budget for the Rodbourne Cheney site was up to £90,000, with provision for further play area improvements across the parish (including Barnum Court and Alanbrooke Crescent) over a maximum period of 2 years and 6 months.

[Rodbourne Cheney Play Area - Find a Tender](#)

3. Project Delivery Summary

- **Completion Date:** 13th October 2025
- **Total Contractor Cost:** £86,530.20

Scope Delivered:

- Accessible climbing structure with integrated double width slide
- Wheelchair accessible roundabout
- Seesaw
- Double width floor trampoline
- Relocation of existing basket swing
- Sensory play panels
- Accessible surfacing and perimeter fencing
- Access path and seating provision

The project was delivered on time, within budget, and fully in accordance with BS EN 1176 and BS EN 1177 standards.

4. Contractor Performance Evaluation

Performance Area	Criteria	Evaluation	Rating
Programme Delivery	Completion within agreed timeframe	Delivered within schedule	★★★★★
Budget Compliance	Within £90,000 budget	Delivered within budget	★★★★★
Quality & Standards	Compliance with BS EN 1176 & 1177; workmanship quality	Fully compliant and high standard of installation	★★★★★
Health & Safety	Compliance with RAMS and site safety	No incidents recorded	★★★★★
Resident Feedback	Community satisfaction	Positive feedback received from local residents and users	★★★★★
Defect Rectification	Response to minor post installation issues	Prompt and efficient	★★★★★
Aftercare & Warranty	Documentation and support	Comprehensive and timely	★★★★★

Overall Performance Rating: ★★★★★ (Excellent)

5. Stakeholder Feedback

'I would like to say a personal thank you to North Swindon Central Parish for putting accessibility and inclusivity at the heart of the design process. It was incredible to see our children playing together and having fun.

As a parent carer, this playground holds special significance. I was able to tell my son, Benjamin, that we were going to the park today, something that once felt impossible. We were told Benjamin may never be able to communicate; however, as we left the playground, he said, "Mummy, I loved it (roundabout)." Moments like this remind us that when children are given the opportunity to access society and interact fully, the possibilities are endless.

The power of play cannot be underestimated. Playgrounds not only provide a safe and fun environment for all children, but they also create opportunities for learning, growth, and connection that benefit entire communities.' – Becky Maddern (Pipa Play)

5. Procurement Considerations

The original procurement process for the Rodbourne Cheney Inclusive Play Area was conducted in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR 2015). Within that process, Central Swindon North Parish Council made it clear that the successful supplier could be awarded further play area contracts without the need for a new procurement exercise, subject to satisfactory performance and provided that the total value of those works remained within the limits advertised.

Under Regulation 72(1)(a) of the PCR 2015, a public contract may be modified without a new procurement procedure where:

- The initial procurement documents included clear, precise and unequivocal review clauses or options (including potential extensions);
- The nature and scope of the additional works remain substantially the same as originally advertised; and
- The overall value of modifications remains within the originally advertised value and timeframe.

In this instance, the original procurement documents clearly set out the potential for further play area works with a combined estimated value of up to £200,000 over a period of 2 years and 6 months, subject to contractor performance. The anticipated next two projects at Barnum Court and Alanbrooke Play Areas, are estimated to total < £100,000, meaning that the aggregate total remains below the published £200,000 threshold and within the originally defined scope.

Accordingly, the Council is lawfully permitted to directly award the further works to the existing contractor without initiating a new tender process, provided that councillors are satisfied with the contractor's performance and proposed designs.

If, however, councillors are not satisfied with the proposals or wish to explore alternative design approaches, they may request that officers seek comparable quotations for consideration.

NB: This report does not constitute legal advice. Councillors are advised to seek legal or procurement guidance if further clarification on the application of Regulation 72(1)(a) PCR 2015 is required.

6. Next Steps & Recommendations

Given the contractor's excellent performance on the Rodbourne Cheney project, they have demonstrated their capability to deliver inclusive, high quality, and compliant play area infrastructure. In line with the term contract conditions (Sections 6 & 7 of the Procurement Scope of Works), CSNPC has the option to directly award further play area works without re-tendering.

It is therefore recommended that:

1. Committee notes the successful completion and excellent delivery of the Rodbourne Cheney Play Area project by Wicksteed.
2. Committee approves the contractor's eligibility for direct award of the next phase of works, specifically:
 - Barnum Court Play Area
 - Alanbrooke Play Area
3. Officers proceed to negotiate design proposals, specifications, and pricing for these sites and bring proposals back to a Play Area Working Group and future committee for review.