

Report to Council: Addition of The Play Inspection Company to Preferred Suppliers List

Purpose of Report

To inform Council of the rationale for adding *The Play Inspection Company* to the Council's Preferred Suppliers List for the provision of Annual Playground Inspections.

Background

Council agreed the quotation for new playground equipment from Rhino Play in December 2023 (Minute Reference 23/114). Rhino Play uses the specialist company *The Play Inspection Company* to undertake all post-installation and annual independent playground inspections relating to their equipment.

Following installation, the post-installation inspection of the new equipment was carried out by *The Play Inspection Company* on behalf of Rhino Play. The annual inspections at that time were also subcontracted to *The Play Inspection Company* as the inspecting body.

In subsequent years, the Council has engaged *The Play Inspection Company* directly to carry out the required Annual Playground Inspections.

Rationale for Adding The play Inspection Company to the Preferred Suppliers List

- **Specialist Provider**
The play Inspection Company is a specialist playground inspection company operating in accordance with recognised industry standards for independent annual play area safety inspections.
- **Continuity and Site Knowledge**
The company is already familiar with the Council's play areas and equipment, including the newer installations supplied by Rhino Play. This ensures consistency in inspection quality and reporting, as well as informed monitoring of any developing issues over time.
- **Established Working Relationship**
The play Inspection Company has carried out previous inspections for the Council, both as a subcontractor and through direct appointment, with satisfactory service delivery.
- **Efficiency and Record Keeping**
As The play Inspection Company already holds historical inspection data and site records, continuing to use them avoids duplication of work and supports effective long-term asset management.
- **Value for Money**
A quotation has been provided for the current year's Annual Playground Inspection and is considered reasonable and in line with previous years' costs. Using a known and experienced provider also reduces administrative time associated with onboarding a new contractor.

Recommendation

That Council approves the addition of *The Play Inspection Company* to the Council's Preferred Suppliers List for the provision of Annual Playground Inspections.

Natasha Curwood

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