

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 7 March 2016

Portfolio:	Leisure and Community
Subject:	Play and Recreational Improvement Programme
Report of:	Director of Operations
Strategy/Policy:	Leisure Strategy
Corporate Objective:	Leisure for Health and For Fun

Purpose:

To agree improvement works and a refurbishment programme for the Council's outdoor play and recreational equipment.

Executive summary:

The Council has 63 items of outdoor play and recreational equipment located across the Borough that are provided predominantly for young people aged 13 and over.

A strategic review of all play and recreational equipment has been undertaken to determine what works needed to be completed to help bring all items of equipment up to a good standard and to establish a programme of works required.

Appended to the report is a proposed programme of works which can be funded from the Section 106 Developer Contributions collected for the maintenance of play and recreational facilities.

The review findings and a draft programme were presented to the January meeting of the Leisure and Community Policy Development and Review Panel and members endorsed the programme without any amendment.

Recommendation/Recommended Option:

That the Executive approves:

- (a) the proposed programme of works as detailed in Appendix A; and
- (b) a budget of up to £50,000 to enable the works to be carried out to ensure the items of equipment are brought up to standard, funded from Section 106 contributions for the maintenance of play and recreational facilities.

Reason:

To facilitate the improvement of the Borough's outdoor play and recreational equipment in order to maintain a good standard of play provision and to ensure the equipment remains safe, attractive and accessible to young people.

Cost of proposals:

The total cost to undertake all of the improvements identified is £70,000.

The proposal is to redirect the funds remaining from the previously agreed mini makeover play area programme, which is £20,000 and the remaining amount of £50,000 be funded from the Section 106 maintenance of play and recreational facilities.

Appendix: **A:** Complete schedule of improvement works.

Background papers: Presentation to the Leisure and Community Policy Development and Review Panel – Review of Outdoor Play and Recreational Equipment – January 2016

Report to the Leisure and Community Policy Development and Review Panel – Open Spaces Improvements Programme – September 2014

Reference papers:

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Executive Briefing Paper

Date:	7 March 2016
Subject:	Play and Recreational Improvement Programme
Briefing by:	Director of Operations
Portfolio:	Leisure and Community

INTRODUCTION

1. In September 2014 the responsibility for delivering the programme of play area improvements was transferred to the Leisure team. In 2014/15 a strategic review was undertaken of all 43 play areas and a priority programme of improvements identified. At the time of undertaking that review it was also considered important to carry out a review of the Council's outdoor play and recreational facilities.
2. The Council has 63 items of outdoor play and recreational equipment, predominantly used by children aged 13 and over. This includes skate parks, multi use games areas (MUGA's), teen shelters, football goals, basketball hoops and outdoor fitness equipment. These are managed and maintained by the Council's Streetscene team who undertake weekly inspections to ensure the equipment is safe and to address any repairs required.
3. The purpose of undertaking the play and recreational review was exactly the same as the children's play area review; to determine what works were needed to bring all items of equipment up to a good standard and to establish a programme of works.

STRATEGIC REVIEW

4. In order to determine the current condition and suitability of all the play and recreational equipment in the borough, an evaluation model was developed and a site visit was made to each item of equipment, which was then assessed in accordance with the criteria in the model as follows:
 - a) The current condition of the equipment and surrounding surfacing
 - b) If the equipment was accessible to its visitors
 - c) Where the equipment was located i.e. was it overlooked by houses, how secure was it and was there a better location for the item on the site.

5. In addition to the site assessments, residents and youth groups were encouraged to take part in a consultation exercise to help identify if there was anywhere in the Borough with a shortfall of provision. Some suggestions were made that will be investigated by officers, subject to consultation with residents, Ward Councillors and available funding.
6. Ward Councillors were also invited to identify any sites within their ward that they or residents had a particular concern with so that officers could explore those further whilst undertaking the review.
7. The information was then used to produce a programme of improvement works. The draft version was presented at the January 2016 Leisure and Community Policy Development and Review Panel and members endorsed the programme without any amendments.

IMPROVEMENT PROPOSALS

8. Whilst the review determined which sites that had the greatest need for improvement and they were graded as being 'poor' in the evaluation model, the review also identified other improvements required to maintain the standard of provision.
9. As part of the assessment carried out on each item of equipment, officers not only considered the age and condition of the item, but also its overall appearance and usage.
10. A detailed list containing each item of recreational equipment and the works required is set out in Appendix A. All improvement works will be completed by autumn 2016.

FUTURE CONSIDERATION

11. In order to maintain the current standard of outdoor recreational equipment in the Borough it is estimated the equipment will need to be painted every 3-5 years. The estimated lifespan for new items of equipment and safety surfacing is 8-12 years.
12. The proposed improvement programme for outdoor recreational facilities can be fully funded from available Section 106 maintenance contributions for play and recreation facilities. However, beyond 2017/18 it is likely that there will be insufficient contributions available to fund any new provision.
13. This situation has arisen due to the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which has largely replaced Section 106 Developer Contributions as the mechanism for collecting funds from development for infrastructure improvements. Therefore alternative sources of funding will need to be identified to fund the provision of any new equipment required in the future.

CONCLUSION

14. A comprehensive review of the Council 63 items of outdoor recreational equipment has been undertaken. A programme of works required in order to maintain the standard of provision has been scheduled and where there is demand for new provision.
15. The programme of works as set out in Appendix A can be funded from the Section 106 maintenance of play and recreational facilities.

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Emma Watts, Leisure Events Manager. Ext. 4440