

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

1ST APRIL 2009

CAPITAL PROGRAMME INCREASE – SWANSLength, ALVECHURCH

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Councillor Roger Hollingsworth
Responsible Head of Service	Deputy Head of Street Scene & Community
Non Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report requests members to agree to an increase in the Council's capital programme in relation to the above Recreation Ground improvements and play area refurbishment.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Cabinet is recommended to:

2.1.1 Request Full Council to approve a £50,000 increase to the 2009/2010 Capital Programme to be funded from the Department for Children, Schools & Families (DCSF) grant in respect of the play area refurbishment/enhancement at the above site, as highlighted in section 4.1 of this report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 As elected members will be aware Bromsgrove District Council were instrumental in establishing the Worcestershire Play Partnership along with the County Council and the other five district authorities across Worcestershire. As part of the work of the partnership a County wide Play Strategy was produced along with a district level action plan to govern the development & delivery of the play services to ensure that they meet the partnerships priorities based on local need.
- 3.2 The structure, strategy and work of the group have been used by Play England as an example of best practice when working in a two tier authority setting. One of the benefits of the approach that has been adopted is that the partnership was successful in applying to the Department for Children, Schools & Families (DCSF) for Play Pathfinder status, this has meant an investment in Worcestershire of £2.5 million capital and £500,000 revenue funding linked to key projects including a new adventure play facilities.

- 3.3 The year 2 funding stream will run from April 2009 to March 2010, with the year 3 funding stream commencing in April 2010. The Council has been successful in attracting a £50,000 grant to enhance the play facilities at the Swanslength site in Alvechurch. However in order to qualify for the grant funding the Play Partnership had to demonstrate that the proposed were innovative, challenging, accessible, include community involvement in their design, were sustainable and most importantly deliverable on time and with in budget.
- 3.4 Following a vetting process the play partnership sub group supported the Swanslength, Alvechurch project due to the innovation that it had demonstrated with using natural play aimed at the junior age range and to enhance and support the recent teenage facilities funded by the Council at the site. The bid was also recommended to the partnership to go forward due to BDC's recent good record in delivering this type of project, the agreed concept of creating multi age range facilities at one location and the robust local consultation that is built into the design and build process we follow.
- 3.6 Officers are now in the final stages of processing the funding application in order to commit to the projects timescales and commence the on site preparations and delivery (June 09), subject to member approval.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Total cost of the project will be £50,000, which is a suitable amount based on other play areas installed in the past 12 months.
- 4.2 The cost of the project will be met from a Capital grant from the DCSF for £50,000 to undertake the play area enhancement.
- 4.3 All consultation, design and project management costs for this project will be met from existing resources.
- 4.4 All ongoing maintenance implications will be met from existing resources, with the on site replacement requirements being addressed as part of the Council forward capital plan. The life expectancy of the equipment on site is 10 to 15 years.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no legal implications contained with in this report as the installation will be covered by the Play Framework Contract which has vetted the contractors previously.
- 5.2 The funding agreement has been reviewed and does not give any cause for concern.

6. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 The overall site improvements and the play area refurbishment will contribute to the Sense of Community and Well Being objective by enhancing the current level of provision provided to residents, increasing access to the site and by promoting additional use of the Recreation Ground.
- 6.2 The site improvements will also allow additional activities be undertaken at the venue to promote the Sense of Community priority for example increased sports & arts development delivery on site to bring different generation together. This was again featured in the initial bid and was viewed as a strong area of the bid as there were direct links to the Council's Priorities but also the Play Strategies Outcomes of "Increased opportunity to access and enjoy play" and Increased Inclusive Play Opportunities.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 There are no risks associated with this project over and above the normal process for installing a new play area which are based in Health & Safety Legislation. These implications have been reviewed and scrutinised within the play framework contract and an agreed approach developed in order to protect BDC's interests and to meet the funding criteria.

8. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Increased quality of provision leading to higher customer satisfaction with the Council and its services.
- 8.2 Members should be aware that whilst the works are undertaken the play facilities and the site will be unavailable in order to complete the works. We will of course endeavour to minimise disruption and notify residents well in advance.

9. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 During the consultation period officers will identify the needs of disabled and where possible the site will provide disabled play facilities. In addition the site access arrangements will be enhanced to support such usage.

10. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The installation will be undertaken within the Council's Play Framework contract and as such has already been reviewed and accepted as promoting VFM and the effective use of resources.
- 10.2 The enhanced facilities will also contribute to higher resident satisfaction outcomes as highlighted in section 8.

11. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Procurement Issues – This project is covered by the play provision framework contract.
Personnel Implications - None
Governance/Performance Management - None
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998 - None
Policy - None
Environmental - None

12. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	Yes
Chief Executive	No
Executive Director (Partnerships and Projects)	<u>Yes</u>
Executive Director (Services)	<u>No</u>
Assistant Chief Executive	<u>No</u>
Head of Service	<u>Yes</u>
Head of Financial Services	<u>Yes</u>
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	<u>Yes</u>
Head of Organisational Development & HR	<u>No</u>
Corporate Procurement Team	<u>No</u>

13. WARDS AFFECTED

Alvechurch

14. APPENDICES

None

15. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Worcestershire Play Strategy
Bromsgrove Play Action Plan
Play Builder Documentation - DCFS

CONTACT OFFICER

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