

REPORT TO: Housing Dundee Contract Services and Environmental Services Committee - 14th September, 2009
Leisure, Arts & Communities Committee

REPORT ON: Play Area Improvements 2009/2010

REPORT BY: Director of Contract Services
Director of Leisure & Communities

REPORT NO.: 403-2009

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek approval for the improvement works identified to Play Areas across the city.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that committee:

- note the progress made in undertaking the play area improvements;
- approve the proposed improvement works to play areas; and
- authorise the Director of Contract Services and Director of Leisure and Communities to undertake the relevant identified works.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The Deputy Chief Executive (Finance) advises that the cost of undertaking the proposed improvements can be met from grants of £50,000 from the Fairer Scotland Fund with the remainder from allowances for Play Area Improvements in the Contract Services Department's capital budget 2009/10 together with allowances from within the Leisure and Communities Department Revenue Budget 2009/10.

4. MAIN TEXT

4.1 Reference is made to report number 317-2000 to the Leisure Services Committee of 19 June 2000 which identified a long term programme of refurbishment and removal of Play Areas across the city. This programme of works saw the initial portfolio of 127 sites reduced to 72 sites. Of the remaining 72 sites, 47 of these have since been comprehensively refurbished and upgraded. There were 24 sites where no works were undertaken due to their existing good condition or because they were in areas of future potential development.

4.2 Of the overall 72 play area sites, 51 are managed by the Contract Services department and 21 in Parks are managed by the Leisure and Communities department.

4.3 Whilst there are a number of known pressures and demands from local communities for new and improved play areas across the city it is important that priority is firstly given to ensuring that existing facilities remain safe and serviceable for children using them. An assessment of the condition of play parks in relation to ensuring ongoing serviceability and meeting current Health and Safety requirements has recently been undertaken and a prioritised list of improvements identified.

- 4.4 There is an opportunity to undertake a more comprehensive improvement to the play facilities at Pitairlie Road and Ballindean Road where additional funding has been identified through the Fairer Scotland Fund. It is proposed that these improvements are undertaken jointly along with the safety improvements identified. Consultation has been undertaken with the local communities on the proposed facilities.
- 4.5 Appendix 1 lists the play areas managed by Contract Services which have been identified for refurbishment and improvement. It is proposed that all of these works will be undertaken within the current financial year and will be funded from a combination of £50,000 from the Fairer Scotland Fund, and the remainder from allowances for play area improvements within the Contract Services Department's capital budget 2009/10.
- 4.6 Appendix 2 lists the play areas managed by Leisure and Communities which have been identified for safety improvements.
- The urgent works identified within Appendix 2 will be undertaken within the current financial year and will be funded from within the Leisure and Communities Department's Revenue Budget 2009/10.
- 4.7 In order to ensure that Health and Safety standards within play parks are maintained, health and safety inspections will continue to be undertaken identifying required improvement works on an annual basis. This annual inspection will be taken into account in identifying future improvements for play facilities.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Assessment. There are no policy implications arising from this report.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Finance), the Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and Head of Finance have been consulted on the preparation of this report.
- 6.2 These proposals are consistent with the recommendations contained within the draft Play Strategy which has been subject to extensive consultation with Local Community Planning Partnerships and theme groups of the Dundee Partnership.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None.

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Director of Contract Services

Stewart Murdoch
Director of Leisure & Communities

Date 26th August, 2009

Appendix 1

CONTRACT SERVICES SITES

Play Area Location	Description of Works	COST
Ballindean Road	Replacement and refurbishment of play equipment, relaying of wet pour safety surfacing, replacement of loose fill bark area	£45,600
Dickson Avenue	Replacement of hard landscaped slabbed areas to remove significant tripping hazard along with refurbishment of some play equipment.	£23,000
Foggyley Gardens	Replacement of areas of rubber safety surfacing and resurfacing of access path and other asphalt areas. Remedial repairs are required to the stone wall to the rear of site.	£4,400
Forthill Park, Fintry Place	Replacement of hard landscaped setted areas to remove significant tripping hazard along with refurbishment of some play equipment.	£4,500
Kirkton Central, Ambleside	Resurfacing of asphalt and replacement of the loose fill bark safety area.	£4,300
Longhaugh Road	Replacement of areas of rubber safety surfacing.	£3,500
Pitairlie Road	Replacement and renewal of play equipment, substantial safety surfacing repair or replacement	£62,800
St Leonards	Replacement of rubber safety surfacing and refurbishment or replacement of much of the play equipment.	£21,000
	TOTAL:	£169,100

Appendix 2

LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES SITES

Play Area Location	Description of Works	COST
Dudhope Park	Loose fill bark requires replenishing and edging requires removal. Log cabin slide requires replacement of timber sections.	£2,000
Lochee Park	Removal of swing frame due to corrosion. Removal of rope bridge due support rot. Replace section of safety surface due to wear.	£1,500
Magdalene Green	Roundabout requires removal due tolerance gaps. Spring rockers require safety surfacing. Sections of asphalt require patching due to possible trip point.	£2,200
Victoria Park	Rubber safety surfacing requires application of fungicide and power washing to remove moss etc.	£500
	TOTAL:	£6,200