

## **OUTCOMES FROM THE PLAYSPACE SUB COMMITTEE**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report advises Members of outcomes from the Playspace Sub-Committee of 8 April 2004, and seeks authority to consider extending catering franchises in Open Spaces, and the consideration of putting open spaces into a trust status.

### **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 Following visits to all playspaces over a period of three days in January to March 2004, Members met on 8 April at the Playspace Sub-Committee to discuss the issues and decide on the way forward to working in partnership with Parish Councils on playspaces. Two issues have arisen which fell outside the terms of reference of the Sub-Committee and therefore require approval from this Committee.

### **3 CATERING FRANCHISING**

- 3.1 It was noted by Members that a franchise exists at Hockley Woods car park for an ice cream seller. This provides a small income to the Council. As a result of visiting all the playspaces, Members noted that many of these were situated on Open Spaces containing football pitches and other facilities. It was considered that the opportunity to generate income by the control of franchises in other locations could be considered.
- 3.2 The Sub-Committee has suggested that officers investigate this proposal.

### **4 TRUST STATUS**

- 4.1 Members were also advised that some of the play and other open spaces had in the past been put into trust status with the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA). It was thought to be appropriate that consideration be given to providing long term protection to the Council's open spaces by putting them into Trust Status.

### **5 RISK IMPLICATIONS**

#### **5.1 Strategic Risk**

Trust Status has provided long term protection for open spaces from development opportunity, the opportunity to investigate further would ensure that in the long term the Council's open spaces would be protected.

**5.2 Resource Risk**

The provision of catering franchises could help offset maintenance costs incurred by the Council in maintaining the open spaces.

**6 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Long term protection of the Council's open spaces will ensure that Rochford retains its heritage of open land.

**7 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Investigations of these two issues would need to be carried out from within existing officer resource. Dependent upon timescales agreed, there will need to be a prioritisation of existing work schedules.
- 7.2. Any resource implications will need to be clearly identified in any report in respect of these two issues.

**8 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 Trust status will require the Head of Legal Services to carry out detailed discussion with the NPFA or other potential trust bodies that may exist.

**9 RECOMMENDATION**

- 9.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES** that officers produce reports on:-
- (1) The possibilities for catering franchise arrangements at open spaces where potential exists.
  - (2) The possibilities of obtaining trust status for the Council's open spaces.

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**Background Papers:**

None.

For further information please contact David Timson on:-

Tel:- 01702 318110  
E-Mail:- david.timson@rochford.gov.uk