
REPORT TO THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE 13 JULY 2011

PORTFOLIO: ENVIRONMENT

REPORT FROM HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

SUBJECT: PLAY SPACES REFURBISHMENT PROGRAMME 2011/12

1 DECISION BEING RECOMMENDED

- 1.1 That this year's budget allocation is used to improve the facilities at Sweyne Park, Rayleigh, to ensure that the play equipment meets the current health and safety standards.

2 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 Each year the Capital budget provides £50,000 for the ongoing improvements of the playspaces to ensure that they meet health and safety requirements and the needs of the residents.
- 2.2 Following an assessment of all sites by officers, it is proposed that the programme for 2011/12 should include:-
- The provision of a multi-play unit at Sweyne Park. To the north eastern corner of the park, there is a children's enclosed 'cloverleaf' play space, which has sections for infant, primary and junior school age children. The existing equipment was installed about 14 years ago and is now past its effective service life. The last inspection by an independent safety consultant stated that renovation or renewal is required. It is considered that the best option is renewal with a new multi-play unit. The estimated replacement cost is £35,000.
 - The renewal of the safety surface at the playspace at Sweyne Park. The existing safety surface is old and requires replacing. The estimated cost is £7,000.
 - The replacement of the swing at Sweyne Park which is at the end of its effective service life. The last safety report indicated issues with the main bar, the head casing and chains. The estimated replacement cost is £8,000.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 3.1 The works referred to in this report have been developed in consultation with our Legal, Estates & Member Services Division following a report from the independent Playground Safety Consultant.

4 RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 If the work is not completed then the equipment will require expensive maintenance to ensure that it does not present a health and safety hazard.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report recommends expenditure in the order of £50,000 which is within the annual budget of £50,000. There are no additional revenue implications as these can be met from existing resources.

6 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The renewal of the play equipment will ensure that there is an area which is safe and physically stimulating for young children.

I confirm that the above recommendation does not depart from Council policy and that appropriate consideration has been given to any budgetary and legal implications.

SMT Lead Officer Signature: _____

Head of Environmental Services

Background Papers:

None.

For further information please contact Richard Evans (Head of Environmental Services) on:-

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If you would like this report in large print, Braille or another language please contact 01702 318111.