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## **PLAYSPACE ROLLING PROGRAMME 2005/06**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report seeks Members approval to the list of sites to be included in the rolling programme of play space refurbishment in 2005/06

### **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 An annual programme for refurbishment of playspaces is included in the Council's Capital programme. This programme has been ongoing since 1999, and is ensuring that playspaces are kept safe and up to date in terms of play equipment.
- 2.2 The programme would normally replace two playspaces per year.
- 2.3 The programme in 2004/05 was used to replace six multi-play units at six different sites, due to the need to replace these units which were at the end of their useful life, all having been installed in the late 1980's.

### **3 Proposal for 2005/06**

- 3.1 Following the replacement of the six multi-play units the emphasis has now changed and these sites and others require upgrading of infant/junior equipment to supplement the multi-play units.
- 3.2 The six sites proposed are as follows:

<b>Site No.</b>	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Reason</b>
RDC003	Betts Wood	Hockley	Site adjacent nursery school and equipment requires regular repair due to its age.
RDC 007	Clements Hall	Hawkwell	Site adjacent playing field, so in a prominent position. Large site out of date equipment.
RDC011	Fairview	Rayleigh	Site adjacent playing field, so in prominent position and nursery school. Out of date equipment.
RDC013	Grove Road	Rayleigh	Site close to primary school and adjacent to playing field. Out of date equipment.

<b>Site No.</b>	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Reason</b>
RDC020	Pooles Lane	Hullbridge	Site adjacent playing field. Equipment within area of existing equipment. Partnership with Parish and local community for extension subject to agreement by this committee.
RDC023	St. John Fisher	Rayleigh	Site close to primary schools and adjacent playing field. Equipment out of date

- 3.3 The proposal would provide approximately £8,000 spend at each site and would replace mainly items of infant /junior equipment.

#### **Procurement**

- 3.3 As in previous years it is intended to procure these projects by providing the contractors with a list of requirements to be met, play value, age range, general indication of type of equipment, other technical requirements and budget and seek their proposed design within these constraints.
- 3.4 This has proved very successful and has provided officers the opportunity to consider the various proposals and choose the best value and innovative design.

#### **4 RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Operationally play spaces are a high risk area of service that is managed by a very strict inspection and repair regime. All equipment is inspected twice weekly and minor repairs carried out as required.
- 4.2 Should repairs take longer equipment is closed and taken out of service until totally safe again.
- 4.3 However equipment does reach the end of its useful life, and this programme ensures that equipment is replaced on a regular basis to ensure safety.

#### **5 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The provision of play equipment in playspaces is a positive means of encouraging children to play and through this learn positive society values.

**6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 A sum of £50,000 has been set aside in the Council's Capital budget for 2005/06 and this programme will be managed to keep within this budget.

**7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The Council has a legal obligation to ensure facilities provided are safe. This rolling programme actively supports this obligation. Additional annual inspections are carried out by the National Playing Fields Association to support the inspection regime.

**8 PARISH IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The parishes in which these playspaces are situated are listed in the site table in para. 3.2

**9 RECOMMENDATION**

- 9.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

To agree the programme of playspace refurbishments as set out in Para 3.2.

Roger Crofts

Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)

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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