

RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

Tuesday, 19 February 2013

Decision No: (CAB 12/13 9714)

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET
PORTFOLIO AREA:	HOUSING AND LEISURE SERVICES
SUBJECT:	PLAY SITE DEVELOPMENT
AUTHOR:	Alison Alexander

THE DECISION

- (i) To add, in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules a sum of £263,500 to the Housing & Leisure Capital Programme for play area development.
- (ii) Individual scheme spending will be processed through the Capital Board and authorised by the Executive Director for Children Services or relevant officer.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

1. Section 106 funding is allocated to play areas that are close to housing developments over one bedroom in size. The anticipation being that children will live in these houses and need facilities where they are able to play:
 - The amount allocated through the planning gain is based on the number of bedrooms in each house. The money becomes available to spend once all of the houses within the development are occupied.
 - These funds are specific for the development of play areas. Although the play areas to be developed are identified when planning permission is applied for, it is normally somewhere between three and five years before the money is available for spend.

The Section 106 resource has to be spent within ten years. Given suitable time for sizeable amounts to be accrued so that significant development can take place.
2. Southampton City Council has a responsibility to provide play spaces for children young people and families in dense urban areas, in support of the overarching city objectives of Community Safety, Health and Wellbeing, and School Attendance.
3. Play Areas are a highly visible community resource. Extra funding is sometimes found by residents and local groups. Consequently parents and families lobby hard for their protection and development.

DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

1. Not to undertake these refurbishments could result in some of the play areas becoming a Health and Safety risk and subsequently needing to be closed.
2. Developing more sites, using council resources other than Section 106 money, would be difficult to sustain in the current financial climate.

OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS CONCERNING THE DECISION

None

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE RECORD

We certify that the decision this document records was made in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 and is a true and accurate record of that decision.

Date: 19th February 2013

Decision Maker: The Cabinet

Proper Officer: Judy Cordell

SCRUTINY

Note: This decision will come in to force at the expiry of 5 working days from the date of publication subject to any review under the Council's Scrutiny "Call-In" provisions.

Call-In Period expires on

Date of Call-in *(if applicable) (this suspends implementation)*

Call-in Procedure completed *(if applicable)*

Call-in heard by *(if applicable)*

Results of Call-in *(if applicable)*