

REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE



DATE	29th May 2012
PORTFOLIO	Community Services
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Play Area Improvement Programme

PURPOSE

1. To seek approval to revise the capital programme and increase the budget for Play Area Improvement Programme and to secure the release of the resources identified to fund expenditure scheduled for 2012/2013.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Executive:
 - a. Recommends to Full Council that the 2012/13 Play Area Improvement Programme budget is increased from £70,344 to £107,591.
 - b. Approves the release of the resources identified within Appendix 1 totalling £107,591.
 - c. Authorises the Head of Green Spaces and Amenities to procure the works in accordance with standing orders and accept the most economically advantageous tender(s).

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. To allow the completion of the Play Area Improvement Programme.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

4. Executive on 24th April 2012 approved a budget of £70,344 for the 2010/2011 Play Area Improvement Programme.
5. Approval is now being sought to revise the budget from £70,344 to £107,591 and to release the resources to allow the play area improvement schemes identified for 2012/13 to be implemented (as identified in Appendix 1). The budget increase is a result of securing additional funding of £ Ward Opportunities Funding [WOF], allocation of S106 contributions of £12,810 and carrying forward the balance of unspent resources from the 2011/12 Play Area Improvement Programme.

6. Procurement of Capital Works

Consultation

Will be undertaken with park friends groups, local residents and children in respect of each scheme and careful account will be taken in selecting equipment that is appropriate both to the age of children for which the site is aimed and the location of the site in relation to local residents.

7. Purchase of Equipment

As in previous years, it is proposed that the purchase of play equipment for sites will be collectively tendered to suitable play equipment suppliers based on a quality/price model that ensures that we achieve good play value for money and purchase robust equipment that is capable of meeting a minimum 15-year life. This method of procurement has achieved significant discounts for the Council.

8. Supply of Woodchip Safety Surface

Green Spaces & Amenities has begun to produce woodchip surfacing for play areas from the thinning of woodlands planted by the Forest of Burnley project. Funds that would otherwise be used to purchase woodchip from suppliers in Cumbria will be used to employ local contractors to thin existing woodland on Council land. This ensures the Council's woodlands are well managed and reduces CO2 emissions from long distance haulage.

9. Installation of Play Equipment

Equipment and surfacing will be competitively tendered to suitable contractors from the Council's select list of contractors or undertaken by the Council's own playground maintenance team (where appropriate).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

10. The Council's original capital programme for 2010/11 identified provision of £70,344 for the Play Area Improvement programme. This report requests approval to increase the budget to £107,591 as detailed in Appendix 1.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

11. This report will facilitate the completion of the Play Strategy for Burnley 2007 – 2012.
12. The Play Strategy identifies the importance of good quality play provision and the positive impact that children's play has across many areas of policy including health, education, community safety, housing policy and regeneration.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

13. Mick Cartledge, Director of Community Services
Lindsey Cowburn, Finance

BACKGROUND PAPERS

14. Files held at cemetery Office,

FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT:

**Simon Goff,
Head of Green Spaces and Amenities**

ALSO:

Appendix 1: Play Area Improvement Programme 2012-2013

Site	Budget	FUNDING		
		Section106	Capital receipts	3rd party contributions
Thornber Gardens	9,490	1,747	7,743	
Hordley StOwen St	7,800	7,800		
Brunshaw Estate	9,528		9528	
Ightenhill Park play area and fitness trail	17,576	12,810	4,766	
Clifton Street	1,631	1,631		
Towneley Park	1,222			1,222
Queens Park Play Area	4,504	4,504		
Burnley Wood Play Area	16,800	16,800		
Grey Street	23,146	13,020		10,126
Hapton Park	5,040	5,040		
RACA Park Cliviger	10,854			10,854
	107,591	63,352	5,448	22,202