
| | | | |
|-------------------------|---|--------------------|------------------|
| Report To: | Safe, Sustainable Communities Committee | Date: | 30 August 2011 |
| Report By: | Head of Environmental & Commercial Services | Report No: | SSC/ENV/IM/11.87 |
| Contact Officer: | Willie Rennie | Contact No: | 714761 |
| Subject: | Play Area Investment Update | | |

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the progress of the Council's play area investment programme in respect of works in progress and proposed, and to seek approvals as regards the procurement and implementation of the programme.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Inverclyde Council's play area strategy was approved in March 2010 and a programme of improvement works for 2010/11 was approved in August 2010.

With the exception of three community group projects all the play area upgrades in the 2010/11 programme will be complete by the end of August 2011.

Two of the community group projects, Boglestone and Larkfield, have been carried forward and are included in the 2011/12 programme and the third, Sir Michael St/Ann St, will be progressed following the outcome of a lottery funding bid due to be submitted in January 2012.

- 2.2 A further programme of improvement works to 10 play areas for 2011/12 was approved in May 2011. The value of the planned works including the carried forward Boglestone and Larkfield projects is £600k.

Site investigations and surveys took place in June and July. Outline designs are being undertaken early to mid August followed by a period of public consultation. Thereafter the projects will progress through several stages e.g. detail design, Planning (where appropriate), procurement and finally site works.

It is anticipated that the programme of works will be completed by mid March 2012, weather permitting.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the committee note that the programme of play area improvement works for 2010/11 will be completed by the end of August 2011;
- 3.2 That the committee note the projected completion dates for the programme of play area improvement works for 2011/12 as detailed in paragraph 4.4 of this report;
- 3.3 That the committee approve in principle the granting of a lease to Greenock Central Residents Action Group in respect of the site of the proposed new play area in Sir Michael Street, Greenock; and

- 3.4 The committee remit to the Head of Environmental & Commercial Services to implement the 2011/12 play area improvement works through further detailed design, formulating tender documents, selecting tenderers and appointing the most economically advantageous tenderers.

Ian Moffat
Head of Environmental & Commercial Services

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A programme of play area improvement works for 2010/11 was approved in August 2010. The programme included works to 18 sites across the district, including three sites put forward by community groups to have new play areas installed.
- 4.2 With the exception of the three community group projects all the play area upgrades in the 2010/11 programme will be complete by the end of August 2011.

The undernoted table shows a brief summary of the works carried out.

| Location | Works Carried Out |
|-----------------------|--|
| Auchenleck Lane | New play area installed |
| Clune Brae | Old play area removed and site made safe |
| Bawhirley Road | All old equipment removed and new play area installed |
| Grosvenor Road | All old equipment removed and new play area installed |
| Leven Road | All old equipment removed and new play area installed |
| Dempster Street | Old play area removed and site made safe |
| Murdieston Park | Old play area removed and site made safe |
| Lady Alice Park | Play area expanded. Old play units removed, new play units installed |
| Grieve Road | New play area installed |
| Watt Street | Old play unit removed and new play unit installed |
| Fox Street | New kickabout installed |
| Cove Road | Play area expanded. New play units installed |
| Ailsa Road | All old equipment removed and new play area installed |
| Main Street, Inverkip | Play area fence replaced. |
| Ryan Road | All old equipment removed and new play area installed |

- 4.3 Two of the community group projects, Boglestone and Larkfield, have been carried forward and are included in the 2011/12 programme and the third, Sir Michael St/Ann St, will be progressed following the outcome of a lottery funding bid due to be submitted in January 2012.
- 4.4 The undernoted table shows a brief summary of the works proposed in 2011/12.

| Location | Proposed Works | Projected Completion |
|--------------------------|---|----------------------|
| West Glen Park | Expand play area. Install 2-3 new units. | January 2012 |
| Boglestone | Install new MUGA + play area | March 2012 |
| Coronation Park | Install 3-4 new units. | January 2012 |
| Weir Street | Remove all old equipment and install new play area. | January 2012 |
| Lauriston Park | Remove all but one items of old equipment and install 2-3 new play units. | January 2012 |
| Hay Street | Remove all old equipment and install new play area. | January 2012 |
| Lady Alice Park | Expand play area. Install 2-3 new units. | January 2012 |
| Watt Street | Install 2-3 new units. | January 2012 |
| Larkfield - Burns Square | Install new play area. | March 2012 |
| Wemyss Bay Comm. Centre | Expand play area. Remove 1 old and install 3-5 new units. Install new safety surface around existing equipment. Drainage works. | March 2012 |

5.0 COMMUNITY GROUP PROJECTS

- 5.1 The 3 Wards Community Council in Port Glasgow has been awarded Council funding of £175k from the play area investment fund (earmarked reserves) as a contribution towards the installation of a play area and a separate multi-use games area (MUGA) both to be located on a plot of land adjacent to Boglestone Community Centre.

In addition to the £175k awarded to the group through the play area investment fund a further £7k was awarded, in March 2011, by the grants sub-committee.

The Community Council has also applied for funding from other sources, but as yet has been unsuccessful. It is therefore proposed not to delay this project any further and to proceed using the £182k of available funding. The plan is to fully fund the construction of the MUGA and use any balance of funding to install a play area. The play area will be designed so that it may be expanded in the future should external funding applications be successful.

- 5.2 Larkfield, Braeside & Branchton Community Council (LBBCC) has been awarded Council funding of £100k as a contribution towards the installation of a play area within their area. A site for the proposed play area has been chosen, which is on or nearby the site of the former play area in Burns Square.

Since the last committee report on the subject a further £75k has become available for the project through Planning Gain associated with the Planning Application of River Clyde Homes to build new houses in the Larkfield area.

- 5.3 Greenock Central Residents Action Group (GCRAG) was awarded Council funding of £75k in principle as a contribution towards the installation of a play area on a site located between Ann Street and Sir Michael Street. In addition, Inverclyde Alliance awarded Riverside Inverclyde £25k towards the project and the group have also been awarded a stage 1 lottery grant of £25k to assist in developing the project to a point that will allow a stage 2 lottery bid for £100k.

The stage 2 lottery bid is being currently developed by GCRAG with the assistance of Inverclyde Council's Community Work Team.

The site of the proposed play area is owned by Inverclyde Council and if the stage 2, £100k lottery bid is successful one of the several conditions of an award will be that GCRAG is granted a lease for the site.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial

| Cost Centre | Budget Heading | Budget Year | Proposed Spend this Report £'000 | Virement From | Other Comments |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Carried Forward Earmarked Reserves | Play Area Investment | 2011/2012 | £175 | | Boglestone & Larkfield |
| Earmarked Reserves | Play Area Investment | 2011/2012 | £300 | | Various sites district wide |
| Planning Bond | Play Area Investment | 2011/2012 | £50 | | Specific to Wemyss Bay |
| Planning Gain | Play Area Investment | 2011/2012 | £75 | | Specific to Larkfield |

6.2 Human Resources, Legal and Equalities

None

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 Finance was consulted on the financial Implications section of this report.