

---

REPORT TO:	HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM:	10
DATE OF MEETING:	22 <sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2004	CATEGORY:	DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE		OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	CHRIS MASON 5794	DOC:	
SUBJECT:	PROVISION OF NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT & SAFETY SURFACING	REF:	
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	LINTON & HARTSHORNE & TICKNALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE:	CS10

---

### **1.0 Recommendations**

- 1.1 That Members approve the programme outlined in the report for providing new play equipment at Linton, Hartshorne and Smisby.

### **2.0 Purpose of Report**

- 2.1 To outline the programme for the spending of this year's capital allocation for the updating of the District's play areas.

### **3.0 Executive Summary**

- 3.1 The allocation of capital in this year's capital programme provides an opportunity to work with 3 parish councils on the upgrading of their play areas. The need to undertake this work has been identified in surveys into the quality of built play provision throughout the District. There is still some way to go in fully completing negotiations with the parish councils concerned and approval of the recommendation is subject to these negotiations being satisfactorily completed.

### **4.0 Detail**

- 4.1 £60,000 has been allocated in this year's capital programme for the provision of new play equipment & safety surfacing.
- 4.2 In the Service Development proposal that then led to the allocation of the finance, sites at Winchester Drive Recreation Ground, Linton & Salisbury Drive Recreation Ground, Hartshorne were identified as priorities. This prioritisation has been based on two detailed external reports:
- Wicksteed Leisure Report 1998
  - ROSPA risk assessments 2002

- 4.3 These reports identified specific items of equipment at these and other sites that failed to conform to current standards and should be phased out. Where parish councils have agreed, all equipment identified as high priority for removal have been dismantled and scrapped.
- 4.4 Many of the recommendations in both of the above reports relate to the provision of safety surfacing and providing this is often more expensive than the equipment itself. Our approach, when finance has been available, has therefore been to support the upgrading of total sites rather than providing surfacing under what is often very old equipment.
- 4.5 Based on our recommendations, Linton Parish Council removed all of the equipment from their site pending funding being available to support the provision of new equipment. Smisby Parish Council also fell into this category and again, on our recommendation, arranged for their equipment to be removed. Negotiations have continued, over a number of years, with Hartshorne Parish Council about the upgrading of the Salisbury Drive site and they are currently at the stage of consulting with the community on what type of equipment they would like to see at the site. This consultation should be complete in May 2004.
- 4.6 The allocation of capital this year provides, for the first time for some years, an opportunity to support the upgrading, to current standards, of these 3 sites. Because of the number of large projects being managed by the Grounds and Facilities unit this year it is necessary to use external support to assist in the delivery of this work. This is likely to cost in the region of £4,000 to £4,500.

## **5.0 Financial Implications**

- 5.1 Negotiations with Linton and Hartshorne Parish Councils have been on the basis of joint projects to the value of £30,000 each, with the parish councils being asked to contribute £10,000 to each scheme. As mentioned in sub-clause 4.5, Hartshorne Parish Council are still in the process of consulting locally on their requirements and have not yet fully committed to a joint scheme (including their likely financial contribution). Members' approval is therefore sought under the condition that these negotiations are successfully completed.
- 5.2 The situation at Smisby is slightly different. They are seeking external funding to provide new play equipment to the value of £17,000. They have asked for a contribution of £5,000 towards this scheme. They will manage the procurement and delivery of the work themselves.
- 5.3 Under current arrangements the new sites would be inspected (twice-yearly insurance inspections) and the play equipment maintained by this Council on behalf of the parish councils. At this stage it is not envisaged that this will have any immediate revenue implications, although all 3 sites, for the first time, will have safety surfacing which is expensive to maintain if damage occurs.
- 5.4 Approval of the above programme together with the acquiring of external support will commit approximately £50,000 of the £60,000 capital allocation.

## **6.0 Corporate Implications**

None

## **7.0 Community Implications**

- 7.1 The allocation of the capital monies as identified in the report will meet an important community need in the parishes concerned.

## **8.0 Conclusions**

- 8.1 While there is some way to go in completing negotiations, particularly with Hartshorne Parish Council the work outlined in the report would make a significant contribution to the modernising of play sites in the District.

## **9.0 Background Papers**

Correspondence on TS Files 0012 & 0015 from Hartshorne & Linton Parish Councils

Correspondence from Smisby PC dated 19<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> January 2004

