

REPORT TO:	HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 10
DATE OF MEETING:	12TH OCTOBER 2006	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	CHRIS MASON 5794	DOC:
SUBJECT:	PROGRESS REPORT – PLAY EQUIPMENT PROVISION	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	CASTLE GRESLEY, MIDWAY, SWADLINCOTE, HARTSHORNE & HATTON	TERMS OF REFERENCE:

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That progress in delivering the agreed programme of capital works be noted and the revisions to the ongoing programme, identified in the report, be approved by Members

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To provide background information to support the above recommendation

3.0 Executive Summary

- 3.1 Good progress has been made in delivering this year's approved programme in time for the school summer holidays. Following local concerns it was agreed to amend the provision at Castle Gresley as work was progressing. Progress in the delivery of the provision identified in the Youth Needs Survey has been slightly delayed by key staff leaving but the report sets out a process, which should ensure that better progress would now be made. Since the last report to Members other requests have been received to further update play sites and these are identified in the report

4.0 Detail

Background

- 4.1 At the meeting of 6th June 2006 Members approved the appointment of Wicksteed Leisure as our preferred play equipment supplier and an initial programme of works as follows:

Play and Youth Provision, Arthur Street, Castle Gresley	£45,000
Play and Youth Provision, Chestnut Avenue, Midway.	£50,000
Play Provision, Woodville Road, Overseal	£30,000

- 4.2 This and other work was to be primarily funded from a capital allocation of £100,000 per annum over the next three years and £30,000 per annum for a similar period from the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership specifically for Youth Provision. In addition to this, at the same meeting, Members were also advised about the development of a Play Strategy, which was to be used primarily to prioritise, on a strategic basis, £200,000 that had been allocated to the District to enhance play provision in its widest sense. At this stage, while it is not yet known how this will be spent, it is likely that some will be used to enhance fixed equipment

Programme Delivery

- 4.3 The programme identified in 4.1 above was substantially complete and available to the public by the third week of August 2006. At the pre contract stage at Castle Gresley some key local stakeholders expressed concerns that what was to be delivered varied from that agreed at the consultation stage and an additional £15,000 was allocated towards an additional item of equipment for older children
- 4.4 On completion of both the works at Chestnut Avenue and Overseal, while the new sites were generally well-received, similar feedback on the desire to make greater provision for children in the older age group were also received. To address these concerns authority is sought to allocate an additional £15,000 at Chestnut Avenue, Midway and £10,000 at Overseal. Overseal Parish Council have indicated that they will be prepared to meet a third of this if the money is allocated

Other Schemes – Youth Provision

- 4.5 The current situation with the delivery of the priorities identified in the Youth Needs Survey is outlined in Annexe A. The Annexe also summarises the current situation regarding capital spent and commitments made

New Scheme - Play Provision

- 4.6 Requests have been received from local residents regarding the updating of the play site at Fabis Close, Swadlincote and an initial meeting is scheduled to take place with them regarding options for upgrading. The site at present doesn't conform to current standards for the provision of play equipment. To modernise the site and bring it as close as possible to current standards is likely to cost in the region of £35,000. While there is some way to go in terms of feasibility work, permission is sought from Members to include this site in the programme providing satisfactory conclusions can be reached regarding options for upgrading

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 Annexe A summarises the current situation regarding capital spent and commitments made. To deliver the programme within satisfactory timescales it has been necessary to bring forward some of the capital monies allocated for future years
- 5.2 Because of the desire to undertake as much of this work as possible in this financial year the amount of proposed expenditure brings the work within European Tendering regulations. In order to comply with this, all work still in the process of being delivered will be ordered through Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO), who have a European compliant contract with Wicksteed Leisure Ltd.

6.0 Corporate Implications

6.1 Delivering formal provision for young people is an objective in the Corporate Plan.

7.0 Community Implications

7.1 One of the lessons learnt from delivering the programme to date is that expectations from the community, in terms of the quality and range of provision, is very high and there is a difficulty in satisfying this, particularly in terms of the range of equipment provided

8.0 Conclusions

8.1 Good progress has been made in delivering this year's programme of formal play provision although it is recognised, in some areas, that the pre-agreed level of financial commitment hasn't always been sufficient to satisfy the aspirations and expectations of the community. The working relationship with Wicksteed Leisure is progressing and it is pleasing that they have been able to deliver what has generally been quality work, quickly.

9.0 Background Papers

9.1 None

