

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 17TH JUNE 2009

PLAYPARK INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Cabinet on the roll-out of the Council's Playpark Investment Programme and seek approval for the next round of investment in priority sites.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Community Services Committee approved a programme of prioritised investment in playparks in November 2002. The programme was developed following a detailed review of playpark provision by a Member / Officer Working Group. The Committee approved the establishment of a list of highest priority areas along with a list of programmes improvements still to be prioritised and a series of playparks to be removed (see Appendix 1). The highest priority areas were selected on a one per ward basis which related to the previous single member ward arrangements. This programme was also submitted to Cabinet on 24th January 2008.
- 2.2 The Council has invested in playparks through the Capital Programme and there are now four sites left for completion i.e.:

- Greenhead, New Cumnock
- Waterside (North)
- Dean Park, Kilmarnock
- Beechwood Park, Mauchline

These four sites are all to receive new toddler and junior play equipment. In addition the playpark at Altonhill which was damaged by fire and subsequently removed should be re-installed at a different site.

- 2.3 In addition to playpark improvements the Council has also installed 21 Streetsport Cages across East Ayrshire. (see Appendix 2).

3. INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

- 3.1 In order to address the Council's outstanding commitment to playpark improvements it is considered necessary to give priority to investment in the four remaining playparks on the original high priority list and also address the relocation of the Altonhill playpark. The Spokespersons for Environment and Regeneration and the Corporate Management Team support this approach. The estimated costs of this work is £300,000 and this sum can be met from the accelerated Capital Programme.

- 3.2 The current contract for the installation and supply of new playparks was awarded in August 2006 to Jupiter Play. The contract was for a period of 3 years with the possibility of 2 x 1 year extensions. It is considered to be beneficial to re-tender this contract rather than extend it. If Cabinet agree to the expenditure proposals in the report the work to complete the high priority programme and re-install Altonhill playpark would be awarded to the current contractor, however any future programme of work would be awarded to the contractor who was successful in bidding for a new contract which will be in place from September 2009 onwards. Jupiter Play has carried out over 50 playpark and Streetsport Cage installations for the Council, their performance has been satisfactory and their equipment has proved to be robust and straightforward to maintain, however current market conditions dictate that it would be worthwhile going back to the competitive market to re-tender for the supply and installation of playpark equipment.
- 3.3 In order to assist with the development of a prioritised programme of playpark investment and with the approval of the spokespersons for Environment and Regeneration and the Corporate Management Team an external consultant has been engaged to carry out a condition survey of the Council's playparks to identify any significant health and safety issues relating to playparks. This work is being carried out in addition to the weekly checks on equipment that are carried out by Council staff and provides an objective, external, assessment to assist Cabinet in agreeing priority areas for investment. The findings of this report and recommendation for the future priorities for installation of new playparks and Streetsport cages will be considered by Cabinet later this year. Recommendations for the priorities for new playpark provision will be based on examination of criteria including health and safety, accessibility, distribution of facilities, changing population and current usage. The new priority list will replace the list shown in Appendix 1 which will no longer be valid.
- 3.4 In terms of Streetsport cages the current level of provision is distributed across East Ayrshire and continues to function well. Ongoing inspection and maintenance of the facilities is a significant challenge and will require additional resources as the facilities age and are subject to high levels of use. Enquiries regarding Streetsport Cage facilities have been received from several communities including Mauchline and Gargieston. Strathclyde Police remain fully supportive of the Streetsport Cage initiative and would support additional installations if funding was available. A complete list of existing Streetsport Cage sites is shown in Appendix 2. Funding is available to support the installation of two Streetsport cages in 2009/10, these installations would be carried out by Jupiter.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Capital funds for the playpark investment programme were allocated by Cabinet on 11th February 2009, i.e. £155,000 in 2009/10 and £480,000 for 2010/11 to 2012/13. Acceleration of this programmes expenditure is now possible with £455,000 available in 2009/10, £300,000 of which would be required to complete the remaining sites on the current priority list.
- 4.2 The remaining £155,000 would then be available to fund the highest priority schemes, as approved by Cabinet and would be covered by the new playpark installation contract referred to in 3.2 above. Until the new contract process are agreed, it is not possible to accurately state how many sites could be addressed.

- 4.3 Funding for two new Streetsport cages is available from balances retained for maintenance and Projects and Partnership funding remaining in Neighbourhood Services Department budgets.

5. COMMUNITY PLANNING / POLICY / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Investment in the development and improvement of play facilities supports the delivery of the outcomes of the Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 The highest priority list of playparks has been a public document since November 2002 and some communities are aware that the Council has previously given a commitment to improve their play facilities; there is a risk of considerable public frustration in these areas if the programme is not followed through.
- 6.2 Utilising an independent specialist report to provide Cabinet with information of the current condition of existing playparks will allow any potential health and safety risks to be taken into account when a new prioritised programme for investment is agreed by Cabinet.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 A detailed review of the current situation with regard to playpark and Streetsport Cage provision has been undertaken and the following conclusions have been drawn:
- The remaining playparks on the high priority list, which was agreed by Community Services Committee in November 2002 and considered by Cabinet in January 2008, should be upgraded in accordance with the agreed programme
 - The playpark at Altonhill should be relocated as a priority
 - The four remaining playparks, the relocation of the Altonhill playpark and the installation of two Streetsport Cages should be carried out under the existing playpark contract. This contract will not be extended but will be re-tendered.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:
- (i) Approve the allocation of funds to complete the existing playpark sites i.e. Greenhead (New Cumnock), Waterside (north) Dean Park, Kilmarnock and Beechwood Park, Mauchline along with the relocation of the Altonhill Playpark;
 - (ii) Approve the allocation of funds for new Streetsport cages in Mauchline and Gargieston.

- (iii) Approve the re-tendering of the playpark installation contract after the completion of the existing priority playpark sites and two Streetsport cages;
- (iv) Remit to the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to submit a report on future priorities for investment in playparks and streetsport cages in due course; and
- (v) Otherwise, note the content of this report.

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/JAG
11th June 2009

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Implementation Officer – (john.griffiths@east-ayrshire.gov.uk)

PLAYPARK IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME**APPROVED BY COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE - NOVEMBER 2002**

(T - Toddler; J - Junior; TS - Teenage Sportswall)

Highest Priority Areas

The following playparks have been selected by Elected Members and prioritised by the Member/Officer Working Group:-

-	New Farm Loch, Kilmarnock	T.J
-	Morton Park, Kilmaurs	T.J
1.	Glen Avenue, Logan	T.J.TS
2.	Millmannoch Avenue, Drongan	J.TS
3.	Jamieson Park, Newmilns	T.J
4.	Linfen Avenue, Kilmarnock	T.J
5.	Well Road, Auchinleck	T.J.TS
6.	Doonbank, Patna	T.J
7.	Thorn Terrace, Kilmarnock	T.J
8.	Lainshaw Avenue, Kilmarnock	T.J
9.	King George V, Dalmellington	T.J.TS
10.	Bellevue Road, Kilmarnock	T.J
11.	Knockentiber	T.J
12.	Richardson Park (2), Hurlford	T.J
13.	Riverside Park, Catrine	T.J
14.	Flush Park, Cumnock	T.J
15.	Kay Park, Ochiltree	T.J.TS
16.	Robertland, Stewarton	T.J
17.	Bellfield, Kilmarnock	T.J
18.	Loudoun Avenue/Millrig, Galston	T.J
19.	Dunlop Park, Dunlop	T.J
20.	Sorn Road, Galston	T.J
21.	Hearth Road, Cumnock	T.J
22.	Altonhill Avenue, Kilmarnock	T.J
23.	Annanhill, Kilmarnock	T.J.TS
24.	Fleming Street, Kilmarnock	No Change
25.	Hutchieson Drive, Darvel	T.J
26.	Kay Park, Kilmarnock	T.J.TS
27.	Greenhead, New Cumnock	T.J
28.	Waterside (n)	T.J
29.	Dean Park, Kilmarnock	T.J
30.	Beechwood Park, Mauchline	T.J

Programmed Improvements – to be prioritised

The following playparks should be refurbished in the future and prioritised once the highest priority areas have been addressed:-

Merlin Park, Auchinleck	T.J
Minnoch Road, Bellsbank	T.J
Ness Glen Road, Bellsbank	T.J.TS
Mauchline Road, Catrine	No Change
Crookedholm Park, Crookedholm	T. J. TS
Lindsay Park, Crosshouse	T. J.TS
Cameron Crescent, Cumnock	T.J

Craigens, Cumnock	J.TS
Hearth Road, Cumnock	T
Keir Hardie Hill, Cumnock	J
McTurk Court, Cumnock	J
Netherthird, Cumnock	T.J
Woodroad Park (1), Cumnock	T.J.TS
Woodroad Park (2), Cumnock	No change
Dalleagles, New Cumnock	J
Burnton, Dalmellington	T.J
Dalton Avenue, Dalmellington	J
Loch Doon Road, Dalmellington	T.J
Morton Park, Darvel	T.J.TS
Mill O' Shield Road, Drongan	T.J
Cairnston Avenue, Drongan	T.J
Livingston Terrace, Dunlop	Retain Swings Only
Portland Park, Galston	T.J.TS
Gatehead	No change
Hayhill	No change
Liffnock Park, Hurlford	T.J
Piersland Park, Kilmarnock	T.J
Cessnock Place, Kilmarnock	T.TS
Wardneuk Drive, Kilmarnock	T.J
Peace Avenue, Kilmarnock	T.J
Carron Avenue, Kilmarnock	T.J
Riccarton Park, Kilmarnock	No Change
Glenafton Court, Kilmarnock	T.J
Glen Farrar Way, Kilmarnock	T.J
Glen Shiel Crescent, Kilmarnock	T.J
Howard Park, Kilmarnock	T.J.TS
Rugby Road, Kilmarnock	No Change
Habbieauld Park, Kilmaurs	T.J
Braehead Place, Lugar	T.J
Lugton (2)	No Change
Alexander Terrace, Mauchline	T.J
Fir Park, Moscow	J
Cairn View, Muirkirk	J
Victory Park, Muirkirk	T.J
Farden Avenue, New Cumnock	J
Claremount, Newmilns	T.J
Greenside, Newmilns	T.J
Douglas Brown Avenue, Ochiltree	T.J
Netherhill, Patna	J
Polnessan, Patna	J
Carnshalloch Avenue, Patna	T.J. TS
Station Site, Rankinston	T.J.TS
Sinclairston	No change
Skares	J
Kilwinning Road (1), Stewarton	T.J
Merrygreen Place, Stewarton	T
Strandhead, Stewarton	T.J.TS
Kirkton Road, Fewnick	No Change
School Brae, Waterside (s)	J

STREETSPORT CAGES PROGRAMME

1	Hurlford	Mauchline Road
2	Galston	Milrig Crescent
3	Stewarton	Dalry Road
4	New Cumnock	Mason Avenue
5	Patna	Carnshalloch Road
6	Catrine	Townhead
7	Cumnock	Barshare Road
8	Dalmellington	Ayr Road
9	Kilmaurs	Habbieauld Road
10	Cumnock	Craigens Road
11	Auchenleck	Well Road
12	Logan	Glen Avenue
13	Shortlees	Knockmarloch Drive
14	Onthank	Meiklewood Road
15	Newfarm	Loch Kerr Road
16	Rankinston	Kerse Terrace
17	Ochiltree	Mill Street
18	Crosshouse	Playingfield Road
19	Newmilns	Gilfoot
20	Darvel	Jamieson Road
21	Dalrymple	Barbieston Road