

**Decision Ref No:**

EX.052/06

**Subject Matter:**

**PLAY AREA POLICY**

The Head of Culture and Community Services submitted Report CS.08/06 on a review of the Council's portfolio of 68 outdoor equipped areas for play in order that a Play Area Policy could be developed.

Existing play areas had been categorised as follows:-

A - play areas of primary importance;

B - second tier play areas;

C - play areas serving clearly defined areas of housing;

The categories would help to identify those play areas that were the most used and, therefore, warrant the most attention and renovation.

It was intended that each play area would be assessed against a number of factors which would then be scored, producing a priority list for every play area the Council owns. The outcome would then be used to determine a schedule of works.

With regard to funding, current arrangements relied on the revenue budget for replacement and repair of play areas. The extent of damage incurred each year to the play area stock determined the amount of budget available for renewal of equipment. In addition to the Council budget, when a new play area was provided via a housing development, once the area was handed over to the Council, a commuted sum of £10,000 was payable to cover maintenance in the first 10 years. This sum would be reviewed by the Planning section.

There were also various sources of external funding available for play areas, which the Council would seek out to maximise the value of Council budgets.

Play areas attracting external funding would be renovated as soon as the funding became available and would be given priority irrespective of their rating in the overall scoring system.

The report contained details of a Play Area Policy upon which the views of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee could be sought.

Members stressed that officers should ensure that officers in Planning Services and other Council areas which may have an input, have been consulted on the Policy before it is considered by Overview and Scrutiny and the Executive.

**Decision:**

(1) That the draft Play Area Policy be approved as the basis for consultation with the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 30 March 2006.

(2) That the Head of Culture and Community Services ensure that officers in Planning Services, and other Council services areas which may have an input are consulted on the Play Area Policy.

(3) That after the consultation with Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the report will be considered by the Executive on 24 April 2006 before going to the City Council.

**Key or Non-Key  
Decision:**

Key

**Key Decision Ref:**

KD.012/06

**Portfolio:**

Health and Community Activities

**Who made decision:**

Executive

**Date:**

20-Mar-06

**Reports and Background Papers considered:**

Report CS.08/06 of the Head of Culture and Community Services

**Reasons for Decision:**

The provision of a Play Area Policy will enable Officers to determine the investment programme for play areas providing a timetable allocating a schedule for each play area in the City.

**Summary of Options rejected:**

None

**Interests declared**

None

**Date published**

22-Mar-06

**Urgent decision not subject to call in**

No

**Consent of Chairman/ Deputy Chairman of Council to Urgency:**

Not applicable

**Deadline for call-in:**

29 March 2006 at 1700

**Implementation date if not called-in:**

30 March 2006

**Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee:**

Community

**Call-in notified to and date notified:**

**Approved for implementation on:**

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