

Report to Executive	Agenda Item: A.16
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Meeting Date: 16th December 2013
 Portfolio: Environment and Transport
 Key Decision: Not Applicable:
 Within Policy and Budget Framework YES
 Public / Private Public

Title: CAPITAL RELEASE FOR PLAY AREAS
 Report of: The Director of Local Environment
 Report Number: LE 36/13

Purpose / Summary:

The reports seeks the Executive’s approval of the release of a capital sum for the purpose of replacing an obsolete play area at Dale End Field, London Road, Harraby. The funds were provided under a S106 planning agreement by the developer of the ex-Cavaghan & Gray factory site, London Road. The funds were received by the City Council in 2010 and must be utilised before 2020.

Recommendations:

1. The Executive approves the release of £60,000 from the S106 monies received from Barratt Homes in respect of the Cavaghan & Gray development for the replacement of the children’s play area at Dale End Field, London Road.

Tracking

Executive:	
Overview and Scrutiny:	
Council:	

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1** Dale End Field play area was identified in the 2013 Play Areas Review as being of strategic importance and in poor condition. The play equipment is ageing and the safety surfacing is of variable type and condition. While the play area meets basic safety requirements it has low play value and is therefore underused by local children.

2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1** Having assessed the play area as being of strategic importance, officers then had to consider options for upgrading it. The likely cost (in the region of £75,000) was beyond the scope of regular budgets. However, a Section 106 contribution was made by the developer of the nearby Cavaghan & Gray site in 2010 which is eligible for this purpose. It is proposed that £60,000 from this contribution, already paid to the City Council by the developer, should be used to upgrade the Dale End Field play area. Further contributions have been offered from a number of sources, including the Cumbria Waste Management Environment Fund (Landfill Tax grant).

3. CONSULTATION

- 3.1** Close consultation has been undertaken with the Carlisle South Residents Association, including children and young people, who are closely involved in the design and specification of the play equipment. Procurement of the project will be undertaken by the City Council's project management team under the Council's adopted policies on procurement.

4. CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1** The Section 106 contribution accompanying the Cavaghan & Gray development must be expended by 2020 and this scheme meets the criteria under which S106 contributions are given (it is in the proximity of the development and the play area is part of the Public Open Space requirement. The existing play area is in a strategically important location but the current equipment is old and offers limited play value.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO THE CARLISLE PLAN PRIORITIES

5.1 The proposal contributes directly to the aims of

- i) We will develop vibrant sports, arts and cultural facilities...
- ii) We will support growth by ensuring a high quality environment that is attractive to new businesses and residents.

It also contributes to the Healthy City agenda and to the 'Play for Today, Play for Tomorrow' strategy.

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**Appendices
attached to report:**

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:

- **Carlisle Play Area Review 2013**

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS/RISKS:

Chief Executive's -

Community Engagement –

Economic Development –

Governance – The relevant funds must be spent in accordance with the terms of the s106 Agreement with Cavaghan & Gray. In addition, where the Council has equipment it must be properly maintained and achieve relevant standards in order that user demands are met and, also, suitable safety standards are achieved

Local Environment –

Resources - The balance of funding received through the Section 106 agreement of £77,750 is held separately within the Councils records. This report requests the release of £60,000 S106 monies to allow the scheme to progress. The capital programme for 2014/15 will need to be increased accordingly. The scheme will be monitored as part of

the usual budget monitoring procedures. If funds are not spent in line with the timescales set out in the agreement, the funds will need to be repaid.