

## REPORT TO EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR COMMUNITIES AND HOUSING

### **ALLOCATION OF TRANSITION FUND**

#### Report of the Corporate Director – Place Management and Regeneration

## **1 MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 1.1 The Executive Councillor (Communities and Housing) is asked to support the allocation of £708,000.00 from the 2016-17 Transition Fund to support improvements in the Borough's greenspaces.

## **2 BACKGROUND - PLAY**

- 2.1 In 2015 the Stockport Play Review was completed by an independent consultant. The Play Review was undertaken to assess current provision and to advise on how play areas should be managed in the future.
- 2.2 The Greenspace Team were requested by the then Executive Councillor (Communities and Sustainability) to document an investment proposal to show how the aims of the Play Review could be achieved. That report allocated play areas into one of three priority groups.
- 2.3 Priority Group One: play spaces where substantial investment will be required in the next three years to completely redesign the whole play space. These sites will require a level of funding beyond what is likely to be achieved relying on existing budgets and committed sums alone. The investment required to achieve all Priority One improvements is estimated to be £750,000.
- 2.4 Priority Group Two: play spaces where investment is likely to be required to make part improvements to the play equipment in order to sustain and improve provision within that play space. The investment required to achieve all Priority Two improvements is estimated to be £431,000.
- 2.5 Priority Three: detailed the investment required to modified and create soft landscaped areas of play, at 40 play spaces the majority of these sites are Local Areas of Play (LAPs). The investment required to achieve this is £180,000.

### 3.0 BACKGROUND – ACCESS ROUTES

- 3.1 In 2011 the hard surfaced footpaths and access roads within 21 of the borough's parks were assessed by applying the same criteria as used to assess highways. At this time there were multiple actionable defects identified. The condition of many footpaths and access roads has worsened since that date.
- 3.2 Officers identify opportunities to fund repair and improvement works but demand outstrips the available resources.

### 4.0 PROPOSAL - PLAY

- 4.1 It is proposed that the priority one sites benefit from the Transition Fund as follows:

Alexandra Park	Central	£80,000
Torkington Park	Stepping Hill	£120,000
Cale Green Park	Central	£50,000
Adswood Park	Central	£75,000
Bredbury Park	Werneth	£80,000
Thornfield	Heatons	£50,000
Hallam Gardens	Central	£25,000
Cote Green / Ludworth / Mill Brow	Marple	£50,000
Green Lane	Stepping Hill	£35,000
Manchester Road	Heatons	£50,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>£615,000</b>

- 4.2 Bramhall Park has been removed from the priority one list. This park is currently having its play area re-supplied using previously allocated capital funding.
- 4.3 Blackstone Road Play Area has not been included as the site is subject to development proposals that will require play provision to be provided under standard planning conditions.
- 4.4 Lumb Lane has been removed from this list following the successful application for a WREN grant of £41,825.
- 4.5 Dependant on timescales for delivery, there could be the opportunity to reduce the allocation to any of the above play spaces should the Greenspace Team, with the support of stakeholders, be able to access external match funds. Both Cale Green and Torkington have strong Friends of Park Groups that could support and funding applications.

### 5.0 PROPOSAL – ACCESS ROUTES

- 5.1 £93,000 of transition funding will allow for much needed improvements to shared pedestrian and vehicular access routes at both Bruntwood and North Reddish Parks. Should there be any remaining sums these would be directed to repairs of other shared pedestrian and vehicular routes.

## **6 RECOMMENDATION**

- 6.1 The Executive Councillor Communities and Housing is asked to:

Agree the allocation of £615,000 for the re-supply of play areas at priority one sites as identified following the Play Review.

Agree the allocation of £93,000 for the repair of shared pedestrian and vehicular access routes at destination/neighbourhood parks that have severely deteriorated access routes.