

WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES

10 SEPTEMBER 2009

WASHINGTON WHEELED SPORTS PARK

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the progress on the development of the Washington wheeled sports park.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 In 2008, the Sunderland City Council was awarded £2.5m of Play Pathfinder Funding to invest in the future of play and urban games facilities across the city.

2.2 The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) selected 30 Play Pathfinder authorities throughout the country, to receive capital and revenue funding to invest in their play infrastructure. The Government's aim was to invest in 3,500 play areas as part of £235m Government commitment to children's play.

2.3 In Sunderland, the funding will facilitate the development of 28 new or upgraded play spaces, plus one City Adventure Centre. All the projects must be completed by 31 March 2010, or Central Government have stated that the funding will be "clawed back".

3.0 PREVIOUS POSITION

3.1 Step 5 of the wheeled sports park process involved extensive consultation regarding the preferred site and design for a park. At Area Committee on 2 July 2009 (Step 6), Members were requested to endorse the outcome of the consultation process and support the progression of the wheeled sports park development at Crocodile Pond, Princess Ann Park.

3.2 In addition, Members were also requested to support the project with £15,000 being allocated from SIB to meet increased costs associated with consultation and the project design.

4.0 CURRENT POSITION

4.1 Since the Area Committee meeting on 2 July 2009, officers have updated the wheeled sports park website and have issued press releases to inform the public of the outcome. Direct communication to the young people's steering group has taken place to advise them of the outcome and thank them for their involvement.

4.2 The designs for the area are currently being refined and developed in more detail. These will be circulated to Elected Members and posted on the website as they become available.

4.3 A formal planning application was submitted on 20 August 2009 and the outcome is expected in late September 2009. The formal planning process will ensure that any residents in the vicinity of the proposed development will be formally contacted as described in Step 7 of the consultation process.

4.4 The preferred access route to the site for contractors is adjacent land owned by Prudential. Officers have been in contact with Prudential who have agreed in principle to this. Work will continue to finalise the detailed agreement with

Prudential which would licence the City Council to access the site via Prudential's land.

4.5 The relevant documentation has been completed to support SIB funding application of £15,000, in order that this can be formally approved by the Area Committee.

4.6 It is anticipated that work should be able to commence on the site in October 2009.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Members are requested to note the content of this report for information and support an award of £15,000 SIB funding towards the project costs.

6.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 The following background papers were relied upon to compile this report:

- Play Pathfinder Cabinet Report (30 July 2008)
- Residents' Update 2
- Washington Area Committee report (April 2009)