

Report of: Executive Director, City Services

To: City Executive Board

Date: 18th February 2009

Item No:

Title of Report: Programme for refurbishment of play areas

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To seek approval of the programme for the refurbishment of play areas following consultation with the Area Committees

Key decision: No

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Antonia Bance

Report Approved : Councillor Antonia Bance

**Tim Sadler, Executive Director of City Services
Andy Collett, Finance and Asset Management
Lindsay Cane, Legal and Democratic Services**

Comment [EM1]: Page: 1
Name the officers who have approved the report prior to publication.

Policy Framework: Stronger and more inclusive communities, improve the local environment, economy and quality of life. Corporate Plan and budget. Play Area Refurbishment Framework

Recommendation(s): City Executive Board is recommended to:

- 1. Approve the programme of refurbishment of play areas as set out in Appendix 1.**
- 2. Delegate to the Executive Director for City Services in consultation with the Executive Board Member, authority to implement the programme making amendments as necessary which are in the interests of good progress and value for money**

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council manages 90 equipped play areas in the city and approximately 50% of these are in need of refurbishment and upgrading.**
- 1.2 The City Executive Board in September 2008 plans approved plans to refurbish and upgrade the play areas within the city.**

1.3 A report detailing the proposed play area refurbishment programme was sent to all the Area Committees in November 2008, asking for comments in respects of the proposed programme for their area.

1.4 This report proposes a programme following consultation with the Area Committees and the Board Member.

2. Feedback comments from Area Committees

2.1 Comments received from the Area Committees

2.1. East Area Parliament

2.1.1 Resolved to note the report.

2.2. South East Area Committee

2.2.1 Resolved to note the report.

2.2.2 Pass on to the City Executive Board comments made in the minutes

2.2.3 Noted that East Area Parliament had put in £20,000 into Meadow Lane play area
Response: £10k was funded last year 07/08 for a play equipment and £10k from current year 08/09. The monies will be spent on the refurbishment of the play area on a current scheme with the Friends group.

2.2.4 It would be useful to have some sort of play area provision near to the proposed Iffley Park development.
Response: The contribution of £62.5k S106 money is to be split between Donnington (£31k) and Meadow Lane (£31.5k). Progress on schemes will commence once the money is in the capital programme and will take place in 09/10 financial year.

2.2.5 It was observed that there were 2 play areas in close proximity to each other in Rosehill (by the pavilion and by Spencer Crescent) and it would be helpful if some equipment could be provided here for younger children, There was a need to strike the right balance between the two areas
Response: There is local demand for the second play area on Rose Hill Rec (currently without equipment) to be reinstated at Spencer Crescent. Officers feel that it is more appropriate to install play equipment for the younger children at the pavilion area, rather than putting the new equipment back on the site in Spencer Crescent, which was not, an ideal location due to safety concerns. Installing a new area next to the existing site would mean that both younger and older children would be visible at the same time. However, there are various views locally, so this will be the subject of local consultation.

2.2.6 The Committee was advised that the 'number of children' figure shown on the report related to the number living within a given distance of the play area, rather than the number of children using the facilities.

2.2.7 It was likely that there would be 1 consultation about play areas in Greater Leys as well as several smaller scale consultations- Falcon Close and the Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground were both mentioned as issues to be discussed with parents.
Response: Where there are a high group of play areas in a local area we would carry a group consultation process. The Falcon Close play area has been identified from local

reports as an issue and we are currently working with OCHA on issues in the area. BLAP is not part of this work programme, but any information obtained from the area consultation would be used in working with the other play partners in the area, and BLAP will continue to be funded by the city council through the grants programme.

2.2.8 A question was asked about plans to develop a play area at Faber Close- this seemed to have been discovered very recently, and was both very small and quite overgrown.

Response: The site at Faber Close consists of a grass area fenced on four sides with housing and one access point and is used for informal ball games. It would not be practical to install play equipment at this site. Due to its position the site could possibly be landscaped and improved but the local residents may have concerns about increased usage. I feel consideration should be given to improving the disused allotments close to Faber Close to increase open and play space in the area, but no immediate action is proposed.

2.2.9 Ask City Executive Board to discuss Littlemore play areas with Littlemore Parish Council as a matter of some urgency (whilst being aware that the Parish Council's area has reduced and therefore the precept has also reduced).

Response: The Littlemore Parish play areas are not part of the work programme and we have no funds available for improvements at these sites. Any information from the local consultation will be passed onto the Parish Council, and we will make details of our suppliers available.

2.2.10 Strongly support the proposals as laid out in the report.

2.3. North East Area Committee

2.3.1 Resolved to refer the Committees comments as minuted for inclusion in the report to the CEB.

2.3.2 Bury Knowle Park: S106 money is available for the park. Other possibilities for spending the money in the park were highlighted by a resident. Could this play area refurbishment be linked into the development of a friends of the park group and could there be further consultation on what the S106 is spent on.

Response: Before any play area improvements are undertaken, we would carry out a consultation process working with any existing Friends group. This would be looking at the whole park and play area to improve the play space.

2.3.3 On behalf of Risinghurst Parish Council, Councillor Phipps confirmed the offer to maintain the provision of play equipment at Chillingworth Crescent if the council supplied the equipment. He requested that the issues be discussed with the Parish Council as soon as possible. Chillingworth Crescent should be priority one rather than priority six as listed in the schedule. Risinghurst and Sandhills Parish Council asked for a response on Chillingworth Crescent play area for their next meeting on the 2nd December 2008.

Response: The play equipment at this site was removed approximately three years ago due to safety reasons and the area just maintained a grass area, No funding has been allocated for the site. One possible solution is that the area is given to the parish council who can source funding unavailable to OCC.

2.3.4 What was the situation at Bernwood Road play area, Councillor Bance to report back to Cllr Lygo.

Response: The current situation at Bernwood Road play area is that OCC has been working with the local group and now have a proposal that is going to be displayed at the community centre by the end of January and depending on comments the work is planned for completion by April 2009.

2.3.5 Confirmed the allocation of £63k for Barton Village recreation ground was still in the schedule.

Response: £63k S016 funding is available for the play area improvements.

2.3.6 Where would the new play area at Northway be located, why had Cockspur Drive been reclassified as being in fair condition when it was previously poor.

Response: A possible location for the new play area at Northway would be next to the existing street sport site.

2.3.7 The overall priority score had been wrongly calculated in the table of play areas' not owned by the City Council discuss with partners' by not adding the columns headed 'condition score' and 'children's score' so the overall priority score is half of what it should be.

Response: Comment noted. As these sites are outside the work programme, the details were listed to show the play area locations only for information.

2.3.8 Why was Foxwell Drive in year two as it was previously in year one.

Response: Foxwell Drive now confirmed in year 1.

2.3.9 Why was Milham Ford not in year one as it was S106 money

Response: This site is now in progress and the play area is planned for completion by April 2009.

2.4. North Area Committee

2.4.1 The North Area Committee welcomes the budget being provided to refurbish play areas.

Response: Comment noted.

2.4.2 The Area Committee should be given discretion to allocate/ spend the funding provided, by working with the Friends Groups that have been created in many parks across the City which contain play areas consultation on design.

Response: Consultation will be undertaken with any friends/ residents group and proposals and designs will be made available. However, the budget will continue to be held centrally.

2.4.3 That funding for the Sunnymead Park and Cutteslowe Park is put together as one amount rather than being listed separately.

Response: Meeting held with Friends group and the funding has now been put together.

2.4.4 Aristotle Lane recreation ground was not included in the list of play areas even though this has play equipment, although some of this had since been removed and not replaced.

Response: Aristotle Lane play area is not listed as it has recently been improved and replacement equipment installed.

2.4.5 Further clarification was required on play areas, where are they, what area they, who are they for. For example The Spinney, which is an informal space used for play, with the emphasis on flexible play space and for all ages.

Response: Further details will be provided on the locations and as part of any design improvements the use of the space will be considered and consulted on. The Spinney was listed incorrectly and is now known as Rutherfordway.

2.4.6 Further clarifications on the remit - was it primarily for health and safety or also to improve the fitness of children and young people?

Response: Due to previous funding limits the majority of OCC play areas are in a poor condition and have low play value, which has led to low use. One of the aims of the refurbishment programme is to increase play value at the sites, which will result in improved use and fitness of the users, and more leisure opportunities for children and young people.

2.4.7 Mixing equipment for different age ranges such as at the play area in Elizabeth Jennings Way was not always the best option.

Response: The equipment at the play area at Elizabeth Jennings was installed following consultation with the local residents. Each site will be evaluated and options considered.

2.5. Central, South and West Area Committee

2.5.1 Advise the City Executive Board that Councillors and local people should be consulted and invited to put forward views on what equipment and facilities should be provided at play areas to be refurbished.

Response: As part of the consultation process, local people will be consulted on the play area designs and equipment and given an opportunity to comment.

2.5.2 Point out that Rutherfordway play area was in the North Ward and not in Jericho and Osney ward.

Response: Rutherfordway play area location amended.

2.6. Cowley Area Committee

2.6.1 To note the report.

2.6.2 To request that the schedule of the report be amended to remove Florence Park and Cowley Marsh Park from the South East Area Committee and place them in the Cowley Area Committee as this was the correct location of them.

Response: Now actioned.

2.6.3 That the Play areas in Kersington Crescent, Normandy Crescent and Bartholomew road (Gaisford Road) be treated as a priority as they had the lowest condition scores and the highest priority scores.

Response: Comment noted.

3. Actions made in relation to Area Committee feedback

3.1 Foxwell Drive allocated to year 1 work Programme.

3.2 Milham Ford allocated to year 1 work Programme.

3.3 Rutherfordway, Located at Walton Well road allocated to North Ward.

3.4 Allocate Florence Park and Cowley Marsh Park to Cowley Area committee from the South East Area Committee.

3.5 Littlemore, Risinghurst & Sandhills and Marston Parish councils to be written to, to confirm that Oxford City Council has no funding available for refurbishments at the Parish Council Play Areas. The parish councils will be provided with details of the suppliers on the OCC procurement list that could be used for possible savings if they proceeded with their own schemes.

3.6 Confirmation that consultation will be carried out with any relevant Friends Group etc with regard to any play area refurbishment in those areas. (OCC is currently working with groups at Cutteslowe & Sunnymead Park, Meadow Lane, Quarry Hollow and Alexandra Court.)

3.7 Area Committees will be consulted about designs.

4. Angel and Greyhound Meadow

4.1 In light of the successful completion of lease negotiations with Magdalen College, it is proposed to reinstate a play area on Angel and Greyhound Meadow as part of the first year programme of work.

5. Details of the programme

5.1 Whilst it is proposed to proceed in the order set out in the appendix, in practice, it may prove necessary to amend the order in which schemes progress to ensure that good progress of the overall programme and value for money is made. It is therefore proposed that amendments to the programme are delegated to the Executive Director for City Services in consultation with the Board Member.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 As approved in the Business Case Report to CEB on 03 September 2008

7. Recommendations

7.1 Approve the programme of refurbishment of play areas as set out in Appendix 1.

7.2 Delegate to the Director for City Services in consultation with the Executive Board Member authority to implement the programme making amendments as necessary, which are in the interests of good progress and value for money.

**Name and contact details of author: Ian Sheppard Tel: 01865 467273
isheppard@oxford.gov.uk**

Background papers: None

Site	Ward	Condition	Condition Score	Children count	Children Score	Overall priority	Comments	Cost	Group A Greater Leys Group B Wood Farm Group C Risinghurst Group D Cowley Group E Horspath Group F Hinksey	Current Actions
Year One									Additional Comments	
Gillians Park (Chaffinch Walk)	Northfield Brook	Poor	3	1657	3	6		50	Group A Consultation	
Cuddesdon Way	BBL	Poor	3	1612	3	6	Playbuilder (£30,000)	100	Full Consultation required	
Marigold Close	Northfield Brook	Poor	3	1576	3	6		26	Group A Consultation	
Campion Close	Northfield Brook	Poor	3	1440	3	6		18	Group A Consultation	
Rowan Grove	Northfield Brook	Poor	3	1271	3	6		20	Group A Consultation	
Bartholomew Road (Gaisford Rd)	Cowley	Poor	3	1093	3	6		60	Group D Consultation	
Bernwood Road	Barton and S	Poor	3	1016	3	6	Playbuilder (£47,300), S106 (£22,700)	55	Play Builder Scheme	In Progress
Barton Bradley	Barton and S	Poor	3	1006	3	6		55	Local area consultation	
George Moore Close	Iffley Fields	Poor	3	966	2	5	Lease ends March 2010	42	Local area consultation	
Kersington Crescent	Cowley	Poor	3	813	2	5		60	Group D Consultation	
Normandy Crescent	Lye Valley	Poor	3	794	2	5		55	Group E Consultation	
Nightingale Avenue	BBL	Fair	2	1463	3	5		30	Group A Consultation	
Mistletoe Green	Northfield Brook	Fair	2	1266	3	5		41	Group A Consultation	
Ridgefield Road	Cowley Marsh	Fair	2	1065	3	5		69	Local area consultation	
Ridgeway Road	Quarry and R	Fair	2	1032	3	5		73	Group C Consultation	
Alexandra Courts	Summertown	Poor	3	505	1	4	Friends Group	55	Playlink consultation	In Progress
John Allen Centre	Cowley	Fair	2	994	2	4		67	Group D Consultation	
Cholsey Close	Cowley	Fair	2	956	2	4		37	Group D Consultation	
Botley Road Rec	Jericho and Osney	Poor	3	252	1	4	Poor quality	65	Scheme drawn up	In Progress
Kiln Lane (Sermon Close)	Quarry and R	Poor	3	592	1	4	Poor quality	70	Group C Consultation	

Quarry Hollow	Quarry and R	Fair	2	792	2	4	Friends Group	45	Playlink consultation	In Progress
Meadow Lane	Iffley Fields	Fair	2	545	1	3	Friends Group	74	Playlink consultation	In Progress
Hinksey Park	Hinksey Park	Fair	2	429	1	3	Destination play area	110	Destination park, Full Consultation required	
Cotteslowe & Sunnymead Park	Summertown	Fair	2	412	1	3	Destination play area	150	Playlink consultation	In Progress
Rose Hill Rec (Spencer Crescent)	Rose Hill and Iffley						Ward councillor request - new play area	60	Full Consultation required	
Southfield Park Flats	Cowley Marsh	Fair	2	504	1	3	Ward councillor request	26	Local area consultation	
Northway	HH and Northway						New play area	70	Local area consultation	
Rutherway	Jericho and Osney						New play area	8	Local area consultation	
Titup Hall Drive	Churchill	Poor	3	752	2	5	Keep and renovate	50	Group B Consultation	
Milham Ford	Headington Hill & Northway						New play area already funded (S106 £45,000)	45	Local area consultation	In Progress
Foxwell Drive	HH and Northway	Fair	2	316	1	3		58	Local area consultation	
Angel & Greyhound Meadow	Holywell	Poor	3	228	1	4	Replacement play area to be provided	47	Local area consultation	
Year Two										
Ridley Road	Lye Valley	Fair	2	950	2	4		34	Group E Consultation	
Fettiplace Rec	Barton and S	Fair	2	938	2	4	£8,500 S106 available	48	Possible Pathfinder site, Full Consultation required	
Falcon Close	Northfield Brook	Fair	2	890	2	4		30	Local area consultation	
Hunters Close	Lye Valley	Fair	2	916	2	4		62	Group E Consultation	
Florence Park	Cowley	Fair	2	837	2	4	£25,346 S106 available	103	Main park Full Consultation	
Lockheart Crescent	Cowley	Fair	2	833	2	4		37	Group D Consultation	
Dene Road	Lye Valley	Fair	2	807	2	4	£17,669 S106 available	59	Local area consultation	
St Christophers Place (Temple Rd)	Cowley	Fair	2	694	2	4		39	Local area consultation	
Donnington Rd (Freelands Rd)	Iffley Fields	Fair	2	664	2	4		31	Local area consultation	
Bury Knowle Park	Headington	Fair	2	661	2	4	£14,000 S106 potentially available	85	Main park full consultation	

Court Place Farm	Marston	Fair	2	544	1	3		63	Local area consultation	
South Parks	St Clements	Fair	2	404	1	3		88	Local area consultation	
Barton Village Rec	Barton and S	Fair	2	401	1	3	£63,480 S106 yet to be allocated	51	Local area consultation	
Fox Crescent	Hinksey Park	Fair	2	395	1	3		48	Group F Consultation	
Bertie Place	Hinksey Park	Fair	2	387	1	3		45	Group F Consultation	
Valentia Road	Churchill	Fair	2	377	1	3		59	Group B Consultation	
Frairs Wharf	Hinksey Park	Fair	2	375	1	3		20	Local area consultation	
Preachers Lane	Hinksey Park	Fair	2	368	1	3		10	Local area consultation	
Five Mile Drive	Wolvercote	Fair	2	331	1	3		53	Local area consultation	
Wolvercote Green	Wolvercote	Fair	2	283	1	3		45	Local area consultation	
Wolvercote Lower	Wolvercote	Fair	2	189	1	3		45	Local area consultation	
Girdlestone Grass	Churchill	Good	0	577	1	1	Equipment needs refurb, AC to pay for fence	60	Group B Consultation	
Broad Oak	Churchill	Poor	3	624	2	5		48	Group B Consultation	
Chillingworth Crescent	Churchill	Poor	3	467	1	1	Refurb, discuss management with Parish Council		Group B Consultation	
Not owned by OCC										
Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground	BBL	Poor	3	1642	3	3	BLAP	45		
Littlemore Rec (Oxford Road)	Littlemore	Poor	3	1109	3	3	Littlemore Parish Council	55		
Downside Dip Play Area	Quarry and R	Fair	2	740	2	2	Quarry and Risinghurst Parish Council	48		
Faber Close	Littlemore	Poor	3	517	1	1	Littlemore Parish Council			
Boults Lane (Oxford Road, Mortimer hall)	Marston	Poor	3	417	1	1	Marston Parish Council	52		
Oxford Road Rec, Mortimer Hall	Marston						Marston Parish Council?			
No immediate need for improvements										
Balfour Road	BBL	Poor	3	1246	3	6	Currently being improved	64	Condition now Good	Completed
Kingfisher Green	Northfield Brook	Poor	3	1399	3	6	Currently being improved	58	Condition now Good	Completed

Woodpecker Green	Northfield Brook	Poor	3	1291	3	6	Very small	12	Group A Consultation	
Juniper Drive	BBL	Poor	3	1284	3	6	Very small	22	Group A Consultation	
Masons Rd	Churchill	Poor	3	719	2	5	Closed 3/4 years - ask AC to dispose	63	Group B Consultation	
Greenfinch Close	Northfield Brook	Fair	2	1664	3	5	Very small	7	Group A Consultation	
Columbine Gardens	Northfield Brook	Fair	2	1106	3	5	Very small	24	Group A Consultation	
Pauling Road	Churchill	Fair	2	811	2	4	Recently improved	64	Condition now Good	Completed
Girdlestone Tarmac	Churchill	Fair	2	618	2	4	Recently improved	0		
Gillians Park Rec (Dunnoch Way)	Northfield Brook	Good	0	1976	3	3	Good quality	10	One play item to be replaced	
Pegasus Road	BBL	Good	0	1682	3	3	Good quality	27	Work in with Cuddesdon Way Site	
Frys Hill Park (Pottery Piece)	Northfield Brook	Good	0	1354	3	3	Good quality	0		
Colemans Hill	Quarry and R	Good	0	1143	3	3	Good quality	0		
Rose Hill Recreation Ground	Rose Hill and Iffley	Good	0	1083	3	3	Good quality	0		
Waynflete Road	Barton and S	Good	0	1014	3	3	Good quality	0		
Manzil Way	St Clements	Good	0	984	2	2	Good quality	26	Replacement of Multiplay unit	
Horspath Road / Marshall Rd	Lye Valley	Good	0	951	2	2	Good quality	0		
Margaret Road	Headington	Good	0	823	2	2	Good quality	0		
Hundred Acre Park	Lye Valley	Good	0	811	2	2	Good quality	0		
Barns Road	Cowley	Good	0	766	2	2	Good quality	0		
Wood Farm Road Green	Churchill	Good	0	755	2	2	Good quality	0		
Croft Road	Marston	Good	0	661	2	2	Good quality	0		
Aristotle Lane	North	Good	0	646	2	2	Good quality	0		
Peat Moors	Lye Valley	Good	0	637	2	2	Good quality	6		
Thames View Rd	Rose Hill and Iffley	Good	0	623	2	2	Good quality	0		
Cowley Marsh Park	Cowley Marsh	Good	0	534	1	1	Good quality	0		

Sunnymeade Rec	Summertown	Good	0	507	1	1	Good quality	24	Replacement swings, additional play item	
Redmoor Close (Minchery Farm)	Littlemore	Good	0	484	1	1	Good quality	0		
Sandfield Road	Headington	Good	0	482	1	1	Good quality	57	Local area consultation	
Elizabeth Jennings	St Margarets	Good	0	472	1	1	Good quality	0		
St Barnabus School	Jericho and Osney	Good	0	445	1	1	Good quality	10	Local area consultation	
South Oxford Adventure Playground	Hinksey Park	Good	0	419	1	1	Good quality			
Stone Meadow	St Margarets	Good	0	367	1	1	Good quality	0		
Sandhills	Barton and S	Good	0	305	1	1	Good quality	0		
Oatlands Road	Jericho and Osney	Good	0	298	1	1	Good quality	25	Replacement Multiplay unit	
Not part of the programme										
Daisy Bank	Abingdon	Poor	3	899	2	5	Not in Oxford	0		
Morrell Close	Kidlington	Fair	2	664	2	4	Not in Oxford	0		
Harts Close	Kidlington	Fair	2	585	1	3	Not in Oxford	0		
Bracegirdle Rd x2	Churchill						Grassed areas only			
Possibly no longer required										
Westfield Close	Cowley Marsh	Fair	2	721	2	4	Ward councillor thinks not required - consult residents	38	Local area consultation	
Sundew Close	Blackbird Leys	Poor	3	1169	3	6	Ward councillor thinks not required - consult residents	32	Local area consultation	