



PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

INDIVIDUAL DECISION BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT

TOPIC – PLAY AREA FIVE YEAR PLAN – ADDITIONAL RELEASE OF OPEN SPACE FUNDING – ORAM’S ARBOUR, WINCHESTER

PROCEDURAL INFORMATION

The Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 4, Section 22 of the Council’s Constitution provides for a decision to be made by an individual member of Cabinet.

In accordance with the Procedure Rules, the Corporate Director (Governance), the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance are consulted together with Chairman and Vice Chairman of The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and any other relevant overview and scrutiny committee. In addition, all Members are notified.

If five or more Members from those informed so request, the Leader may require the matter to be referred to Cabinet for determination.

Contact Officers:

Case Officer: Damian Offer, Tel: 01962 848419, Email: doffer@winchester.gov.uk

Committee Administrator: Nancy Graham, Tel: 01962 848 235, Email: ngraham@winchester.gov.uk

SUMMARY

On 9 February 2011, Cabinet approved the five year refurbishment plan for Council-owned play areas. The refurbishment works are funded from the Town allocation of the Open Space Fund and the total cost for the five year plan was agreed at £145,000.

In order to refurbish Oram’s Arbour play area, approval is sought for the release of an additional £10,000 from the Open Space Fund to provide a total budget for this site of £45,000.

DECISION

- 1) That approval is given to the release of additional funding of £10,000 from the Town allocation of the Open Space Fund for the refurbishment of Oram's Arbour play area.
- 2) That this supplementary capital estimate of £10,000 is approved and profiled for financial year 2013/14.

REASON FOR THE DECISION AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The five year plan was initially approved in 2010 (WTF143 refers) but had to be revised in February 2011 when capital play area funding for parish play areas was suspended (CAB2118 refers). Since this time, all the play areas specified in Year 2 of the plan and Monarch Way from Year 3 have been refurbished. Imber Road, which is also in Year 3 of the plan, is currently undergoing refurbishment. A copy of the five year plan is attached at Appendix One.

Oram's Arbour

Oram's Arbour is the only site in Year 4 of the plan. It was decided to review this play area at an early stage, as the recent inspection reports and last year's annual inspection raised concerns about the condition of the equipment. This site features wooden equipment much of which has degraded and is becoming unsafe. One large item of equipment has already had to be removed because it became unsafe.

The scale of refurbishment required at this site is thus larger than originally anticipated. The allocation of an additional £10,000 would enable the Council to completely refurbish the play area to a standard that would maintain a similar range of interest and play features. Remaining within the existing budget of £35,000 would constrain the refurbishment to provision of a smaller play area. As this is a high profile site in the centre of Winchester it is considered preferable to increase the budget, so the refurbishment can maintain the current standard and quality of play provision.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

This Decision Notice relates to the release of an additional £10,000 from the Town section of the Open Space Fund.

As at 31 October 2012, the balance of the play element of the Winchester Town allocation of the Open Space Fund stands at £202,468. Increasing the budget for Oram's Arbour will increase the total draw-down from the Open Space Fund to complete the Five Year Plan refurbishment programme to £90,000. This will leave a total of £112,468 in the play element of the Winchester Town allocation of the Open Space Fund.

Within the play element of the Winchester Town allocation of the Open Space Fund, certain amounts are also already committed to projects associated with specific developments:

Details	Cost
• Winton House (awaiting transfer to WCC)	£70k
Total cost	£70k

After the above commitments are taken into account, there is sufficient funding within the Town element of the fund to provide sufficient funding for the remainder of the play area refurbishment strategy including the proposed increase of £10,000 for Oram's Arbour.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN ON THE DECISION

The Landscape and Open Spaces Team have a policy of consultation on all new play areas and the public will be involved in discussions about the refurbishment. Officers will make the final decision on the actual equipment installed, taking the results of these discussions into account, following an evaluation of tenders for the refurbishment.

Relevant ward members are informed in advance of the commencement of any public consultation.

FURTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

Cllr Hutchison requested that Orams Arbour Residents Association be consulted on the play area refurbishment scheme. It was confirmed that a full consultation exercise will take place once the budget for the scheme has been agreed.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY THE DECISION MAKER OR A MEMBER OR OFFICER CONSULTED

n/a

DISPENSATION GRANTED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

n/a

Approved by: (signature)

Date of Decision: 28.01.13

Councillor Roger Huxstep – Portfolio Holder for Environment