



**DRAFT PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE**

**PROPOSED INDIVIDUAL DECISION BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT**

**TOPIC - FOOTPATH AND DRAINAGE WORKS AT WHITELEY**

**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.

**If you wish to make representation on this proposed Decision please contact the relevant Portfolio Holder and the following Committee Administrator by 5.00pm on Friday 6 July 2012.**

**Contact Officers:**

**Case Officer:** Damian Offer, Tel: 01962 848419, Email: [doffer@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:doffer@winchester.gov.uk)

**Committee Administrator:** Nancy Graham, Tel: 01962 848 235, Email: [ngraham@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:ngraham@winchester.gov.uk)

**SUMMARY**

- The Council is in the process of transferring Meadowside Recreation Ground and six play areas to Whiteley Parish Council (as approved by Cabinet in February 2011 and the Portfolio Holder in June 2011 – CAB2118 and PHD366 refer).
- Within Meadowside Recreation Ground are a number of surfaced footpaths, that are not yet been adopted by Hampshire County Council. The County Council have advised that works costing £17,500 are required before they will adopt these paths.

- Drainage enhancement works costing £11,600 are also required to resolve problems that need to be dealt with before the Parish Council can take ownership of the land at Meadowside Recreation Ground.
- This report seeks Portfolio Holder approval for the release of £29,100 from the Whiteley Fund for the above works, which will resolve drainage problems and allow Hampshire County Council to adopt the footpaths, thus removing obstacles to the completion of the land transfer to the Parish Council.

### **PROPOSED DECISION**

That the Portfolio Holder for Environment approve the release of £29,100 from the Whiteley Fund for necessary footpath works and drainage improvements on Meadowside Recreation Ground at Whiteley.

### **REASON FOR THE PROPOSED DECISION AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

#### **Current Situation**

The Council is in the process of transferring Meadowside Recreation Ground and five play areas at Whiteley to Whiteley Parish Council (CAB 2118 and PHD366 refer). The intention is to complete this transfer by 30 June 2012, after which the Parish Council would own and manage these areas.

As support of the transfer of land to the Parish Council, the City Council has undertaken detailed investigations and held discussions with the Parish Council. Two issues remain outstanding, which require resolution for the transfer to be successfully completed:

1. A number of footpaths across Meadowside Recreation Ground have not been formally adopted by Hampshire County Council. These paths have been inspected by the County Council who have advised that works costing £17,500 are required to bring them to an adoptable standard. The County have agreed to manage the works on behalf of the City Council. Hampshire will provide the specification and supervise the delivery of the works by their area contractor (Amey). Once the works are completed, the County Council will adopt the paths into the network they supervise and maintain at Whiteley, thus releasing the Parish Council from any obligation to manage the paths in future.
2. There are ongoing problems with flooding and faulty drainage at Meadowside Recreation Ground, which affect the footpaths and compromise access to the open space. The Parish Council has requested that the City Council resolve these issues before they take ownership of the ground. The City Council's drainage engineer has inspected the site and drawn up a scheme for drainage enhancements at a cost of £11,600, which will address the problems.

#### **The Proposal**

That works to bring the footpaths to an adoptable standard and resolve drainage problems at Meadowside Recreation Ground be funded through a release of £29,100 from the Whiteley Fund.

**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN ON THE PROPOSED DECISION**

The proposal for a release from the Whiteley Fund for the above works has been approved by Head of Finance.

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

None

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

None

**DISPENSATION GRANTED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

n/a

**Approved by: (signature)**

**Date of Decision:**

**Councillor Huxstep – Portfolio Holder for Environment**