

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

DOWNS COMMITTEE

4TH JULY 2011

Report of: Tracey Morgan, Service Director, Environment and Leisure

Title: Children's Playground

Ward: Clifton

Officer Presenting Report: Parks Youth and Play Officer

Contact Telephone Number: 07710396719

RECOMMENDATION

That the committee engage a children's playground designer to develop a bespoke playground design in consultation with local children, residents, the Downs Committee and Ranger at a cost of £6,000.

Summary

The committee seeks ways to procure its children's playground through the most appropriate means.

The committee funds the cost of a playground designer to enable it to seek funding for a new playground from a variety of sources.

There is no ongoing revenue costs to this Committee

The significant issues in the report are:

Bespoke design costs sought.

Policy

1. The development and management of children play spaces within the Parks and Green Space Strategy.

Consultation

2. Internal

None

3. External

None

Context

4. The existing children's playground is coming to the end of its designed life. It is currently in a safe condition but its decay will accelerate over the coming months.
5. The Downs Committee has been has had correspondence from a local resident asking for the redevelopment of the children's playground. Moreover the Environmental and Leisure Department have received two further enquiries asking for new equipment.
6. The cost of a new playground is likely to be in the range of £110,000 and outside of the gift of a single budget in the current climate. Therefore a project to seek funding from many sources has been conceived. Before funding can be sought for a project the cost and nature of the project must be agreed. To enable this process to happen the committee is being asked to provide the costs for a playground designer.
7. The playground designer will be briefed with a target figure of £110,000 and to create and cost a design that is fitting to the current environment and to meet the needs of local resident's, users and the Committee
8. It is the role of the designer to create a firm proposal that will enable funding to be sought internal and external of the council.

Proposal

9. The creation of a scheme of works consulted on with costs that will enable funding to be sought from varied budgets and funds

Other Options Considered

10. Design and build procurement method. The nature of the location makes this option undesirable.

Risk Assessment

11. As the playground ages it presents more unexpected risk from decay. Some parts of the current site have outlived its designed lifespan and removal will soon be the only option. Not attempting to renew this play site will mean its removal and loss of resource.

Public Sector Equality Duties

- 8a) Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for

persons with the following “protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:

- i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
- ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to --
 - remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
 - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
 - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- iii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
 - tackle prejudice; and
 - promote understanding.

8b) The re-development of a children’s playground is addressing a equality issue as children are considered to be at risk of discrimination. Moreover any development would take into consideration access issues and ensure that disabled children and carers can take part in playground activities and make use of the resource. An equalities impact assessment has not been carried out, as this is an early proposal.

Legal and Resource Implications

Legal

(Legal advice provided by <Insert name and job title>)

Financial

For the bespoke playground design there is an up-front design cost of £6,000. Although there is no revenue provision available this amount

can be met from the Downs Reserve.

(Financial advice provided by Tony Whitlock, Principal Solicitor)

Land

The land is under the control of the Downs Committee

Personnel

Not applicable

Appendices:

None

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

None