

EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Cabinet Member



REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY BY AN INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER

Executive Decision Reference Number –L8 21/22

Decision	
1	Title of decision: Improving Outdoor Play in Plymouth Phase 3
2	Decision maker (Cabinet member name and portfolio title): Councillor Nick Kelly - Leader of the Council
3	Report author and contact details: Zoe Sydenham T: 01752 307849 E: zoe.sydenham@plymouth.gov.uk
4	Decision to be taken: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the Business Case • Approve a £380,014.50 capital virement of corporate borrowing from the Pomphlett to the Ride project to this project within the capital programme. To be substituted by S106 or other External Funding if/as it becomes available • Authorise the procurement process
5	Reasons for decision: <p>The Covid 19 epidemic has resulted in children and young people having to deal with the social and mental disruption of long period of time with no formal schooling as well as reduced opportunities for outdoor play and sport. Research shows that children who play outdoors and in particular have access to nature, regularly become fitter and leaner, develop stronger immune systems, have more active imaginations, lower stress levels, play more creatively and have greater respect for themselves and others.¹ This is recognised in The Joint Local Plan where high quality local play spaces are deemed as 'crucial to delivering the City's health outcomes'.</p> <p>This Phase 3 proposal continues from Phase 1 and 2 to deliver a citywide capital works programme to PCC owned play spaces to significantly improve the quality of outdoor play space provision across the city. As part of the evidence gathering for the Joint Local Plan, the Plymouth Play Assessment 2017 showed that only 26 out of 126 outdoor play spaces were rated as very good to excellent with 29 rated as poor or very poor. By the end of March 2022, completion of Phase 3 will contribute to ensuring Plymouth City Council's maintained play spaces are rated good or excellent quality with a high level of ongoing maintenance and regular assessment built in.</p>

¹ Benefits of Connecting Children with Nature: Why naturalize outdoor learning environments' The Natural Learning Initiative January 2012 www.naturalelearning.org

	If Phase 3 is not done, the number of poor quality play spaces will only increase as they go further into decline with health and safety implications. This could have an additional negative health impact on children and young people - in particular in more deprived areas and lead to a higher cost to the Council in the longer term.			
6	<p>Alternative options considered and rejected:</p> <p>Option 1: Do Nothing. Do Nothing - This would mean no additional investment in our play spaces and a further deterioration in quality of those not improved in Phase 1 and Phase 2. This would lead to increased funding required in the future to address the declining situation of play parks, with potential health and safety implications and closure.</p> <p>Option 2: Deliver capital works only to those play spaces which secure S106 funding. There is very limited S106 currently available for Play. This would lead therefore to the same decline in poor quality play parks as option 1.</p> <p>Option 3: Proceed with Phase 3 delivery of additional capital works programme to PCC owned play spaces which enable us to provide citywide access to good quality play spaces for children and young people.</p> <p>The preferred option is Option 3 This will ensure additional Plymouth City Council managed play areas achieve a good/very good or excellent quality assessment by March 2022.</p>			
7	Financial implications:			
8	Is the decision a Key Decision? (please contact Democratic Support for further advice)	Yes	No	Per the Constitution, a key decision is one which:
			x	in the case of capital projects and contract awards, results in a new commitment to spend and/or save in excess of £3million in total
			x	in the case of revenue projects when the decision involves entering into new commitments and/or making new savings in excess of £1 million
			x	is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the local authority.
	If yes, date of publication of the notice in the Forward Plan of Key Decisions			
9	Please specify how this decision is linked to the Council's corporate plan/Plymouth Plan and/or the policy framework and/or the revenue/capital budget:	Growing: The delivery of the project will directly support the Council's vision for the City, supporting its ability to deliver growth by providing high quality and accessible outdoor play spaces to meet both the current and anticipated future recreational and leisure		

		<p>needs of Plymouth.</p> <p>Caring: The approach to collaborative working to achieve the play enhancements will empower communities to be involved in decision making and the delivery of the improvements. The health benefits of accessing outdoor play and the natural environment are well documented. The project will build on existing work to remove physical and perceptual barriers to accessing play outdoors and will encourage community members to become more actively involved in their local site.</p> <p>Revenue budget: By investing in upgrading poor quality sites, the decision will lessen the pressure on future revenue maintenance costs of the playground maintenance team.</p>
I 0	Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact)	This programme of works aligns with and supports the delivery of the Plymouth Climate Emergency Action Plan by delivering a programme of works that supports high quality local facilities within walking/cycling distance of people's homes.

Urgent decisions

I 1	Is the decision urgent and to be implemented immediately in the interests of the Council or the public?	Yes		(If yes, please contact Democratic Support (democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk) for advice)
		No	x	(If no, go to section I 3a)


I 2a	Reason for urgency:	
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I 2b	Scrutiny Chair Signature:		Date	
	Scrutiny Committee name:			
	Print Name:			

Consultation

I 3a	Are any other Cabinet members' portfolios affected by the decision?	Yes	x	
		No		(If no go to section I 4)
I 3b	Which other Cabinet member's	Cllr Patrick Nicholson – Portfolio holder for Strategic		

	portfolio is affected by the decision?	Planning and Infrastructure Cllr Bridgeman – Cabinet member for Environment and Street Services		
I3c	Date Cabinet member consulted	08/07/2021		
I4	Has any Cabinet member declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision?	Yes		If yes, please discuss with the Monitoring Officer
		No	x	
I5	Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted?	Name	Anthony Payne	
		Job title	Strategic Director Place	
		Date consulted	4.8.21	
Sign-off				
I6	Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:	Democratic Support (mandatory)	DS29 21/22	
		Finance (mandatory)	ba.21.22.78	
		Legal (mandatory)	MS/37109	
		Human Resources (if applicable)	NA	
		Corporate property (if applicable)	NA	
		Procurement (if applicable)	NA	
Appendices				
I7	Ref.	Title of appendix		
	A	Business Case		
	B	Equalities Impact Assessment		
Confidential/exempt information				
I8a	Do you need to include any confidential/exempt information?	Yes		If yes, prepare a second, confidential ('Part II') briefing report and indicate why it is

		No	x	not for publication by virtue of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box in 18b below. (Keep as much information as possible in the briefing report that will be in the public domain)				
		Exemption Paragraph Number						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18b	Confidential/exempt briefing report title:							
Background Papers								
19	Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are <u>unpublished</u> works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based. If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.							
Title of background paper(s)		Exemption Paragraph Number						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cabinet Member Signature								
20	I agree the decision and confirm that it is not contrary to the Council's policy and budget framework, Corporate Plan or Budget. In taking this decision I have given due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not. For further details please see the EIA attached.							
Signature				Date of decision		4 August 2021		
Print Name		Councillor Nick Kelly – Leader of the Council						