

REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE

Report No. 11

Date of Meeting	6th November 2008
Title of Report	Notice of Motion Monkton Park - Chippenham
Portfolio	Leisure & Economy
Link to Corporate Priorities	Culture/Healthy Lifestyle
Key Decision	No
Executive Workplan Ref	B407
Public Report	YES

Summary of Report

To respond to the Notice of Motion to Council and advise the Committee of progress towards the improvement of facilities in Monkton Park

Officer Recommendations

That the Executive note the process and steps being taken regarding the allocation of the Section 106 developer contributions for Monkton Park improvements and formulate a response to the Notice of Motion having regard to the information contained in this report.

Other than those implications agreed with the relevant Officers and referred to below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications	Legal Implications	Community & Environmental Implications	Human Resources Implications	Equality & Diversity Implications
YES	NO	YES	YES	YES

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Introduction

Following the recent improvements to public seating and litter bins within Monkton Park, a quotation has been sought from this Council's contractor for play area maintenance to progress through public consultation with the Town Council, local school(s) and residents. The intention being to provide a scheme for refurbishing/replacing the 4-8 year age range play equipment within the park which will be implemented around Jan/Feb 09.

Options and Options Appraisal

The Executive are asked to note that the remaining Section 106 (Linden Homes) developer contribution towards improvements in Monkton Park totals some £65,000. The condition of existing equipment, surfacing and enclosures to the Monkton Park play areas is poor and the available funding would be sufficient to raise the safety standards and appearance of the existing play areas and equipment in its current location.

In response to the Notice of Motion a). The play area location is about 20 years old. It is close to overhanging mature trees and the slope creates water runoff. To completely refurbish and move the play area will require a more significant total budget.

In response to Notice of Motion b). Improvements to seating, and bins have been carried out. Painting of lamp standards in the park, maps and welcome signs, together with upgrading and restoration of river banks and bridges, entrance improvements and protection of the grass against damage by heavy vehicles is being considered and a consultant is engaged to provide a scheme for this.

In response to the Notice of Motion c). The works to the play area will utilise the Linden Homes available s106 funding of £65,000. Further s106 funding may become available in the future as housing permissions are implemented.

In response to the Notice of Motion d). The unitary council are intending to carry out a leisure review of the County facilities and the options for devolved responsibilities to Town Councils or other delivery organisations will form part of that review.

Option 1 to note the report and approve the recommendation (to note and endorse the projects as stated).

Option 2 to not accept the recommendation and propose additional or amended projects as the Executive so wishes, with the latter would come financial consequences.

General Information

At the 14th October 2008 Council Meeting Councillor Caswill proposed the following Motion which was seconded by Councillor Hall:

This Council welcomes the improvements to the public seating and litter bins in Monkton Park, which have at last made use of the Section 106 monies provided by developments in the Monkton Park area.

Council also notes that there will still be a significant balance available from the Section 106 funds for improvements to local leisure facilities.

It further notes that this administration is on record as saying that significant balances will now be available for transfer to the new unitary authority in Spring 2009.

Given the high profile importance of the park for the residents of Chippenham and visitors from further afield, this Council now resolves:

- a) That the responsible members of the Executive should urgently put in place the complete refurbishment of the children's play areas in the park (and if possible, their move to a more appropriate site)*
- b) That work also be put in hand urgently for good signposting in the park, maps and welcome signs; for the upgrading and restoration of river banks and bridges, for protection of the grass against damage by heavy vehicles*
- c) That the cost of these improvements be met from the Section 106 balance and from the substantial budgets which are otherwise all destined for the new authority*

And lastly

- d) To approach Chippenham Town Council to explore the possibility of a jointly – supported Trust or Non-Profit Company to manage the park in future for the benefit of Chippenham residents and visitors to the town.*

'Everything to Play For', the adopted play strategy for North Wiltshire District Council, includes in the Action Plan: *Expansion of play provision in Monkton Park, Chippenham alongside Olympiad Leisure Centre*, utilising funding from Section 106 contributions.

Financial Implications

£65,000 remains of the Section 106 contribution towards improvements at Monkton Park.

Legal Implications

None

Community and Environmental Implications

Progressing a scheme for a replacement Play Area at Monkton Park will involve consultation with the community.

Human Resources Implications

Overseeing of the works will be progressed by the Landscape Officer on part-time secondment from Swindon Borough Council, and implementation of consultation and construction will be procured through this Council's contractor for play areas maintenance, Swindon Commercial Services.

Equality & Diversity Implications

The proposals will benefit a significant number of people within the Monkton Park area and public visitors to, and users of the town centre. The proposals will assist in bringing play areas up to current standards.

Risk Analysis

Option 1 raises safety standards but does deliver optimum improvements to play provision in Monkton Park.

Option 2 requires additional funding to fully ensure improved provision.

Option 1 is capable of implementation before 31st March 09.

Appendices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None
Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minutes of previous NWDC Committees