

# Report

**Report subject:** Play Areas Management Plans

**Report to:** City Area Committee (Community)

**Date:** Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2008

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## 1. Introduction:

- 1.1. The Committee will be aware that management plans for the future of the main parks and facilities in Salisbury are currently being drawn up.
- 1.2. Approval for this process was given under minute 191 (15/11/05) with a commencement date of April 2006.
- 1.3. The process has been on-going since.

## 2. Background:

- 2.1. The management plans for Victoria Park, Queen Elizabeth Gardens, Hudson's Field, Allotments and Churchill Gardens have been adopted by the Committee during 2007 and 2008. Victoria Park has subsequently been the subject of a successful Heritage Lottery project planning grant application. All these areas also now have fully constituted, operating "Friends" groups who are meeting regularly to discuss the management plan outcomes.
- 2.2. The Play Area draft plan was completed recently and distributed for further comments as follows:
  - 2.2.1 All City Area Committee members - 13<sup>th</sup> November
  - 2.2.2 Salisbury Journal press release - 6<sup>th</sup> November
  - 2.2.3 Publicly available at the Guildhall - 10<sup>th</sup> November
  - 2.2.4 SDC website - 6<sup>th</sup> November
- 2.3. Over 284 consultee forms were received from the public, mainly from school children responding to consultation forms circulated at local schools as well as a considerable amount of further information from a whole range of 3<sup>rd</sup> parties.
- 2.4. As of writing the report, very little further comment has been received and nothing which questions or queries the fundamental content of the draft.

## 3. Overview of the Plan:

- 3.1. The draft plan is a large document running to just over 79 sides.
- 3.2. The work and resource plan on pages 76-79 collates all the various issues arising from the consultations etc and will form the basis for future reports and actions in determining the future shape of the service.
- 3.3. It is intended that the plan will be a constantly evolving document, changing as actions and projects are agreed and implemented. This is even more likely with this service in light of the likelihood that not all of the Play Areas within the plan scope will transfer to the new Salisbury City Council.



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4. External Funding:

- 4.1. The Play Area service does not currently qualify for Lottery Funding though there are occasional Lottery linked funding schemes released to Local Authorities.
- 4.2. It is possible, though not certain, that alternative external funding streams may be identified in due course.

5. Finance:

- 5.1. Virtually all the aspects highlighted in the work and resource plan for those Play Areas transferring to the Salisbury City Council are likely to need funding from the city special expense account in due course. Those Play Areas which will not transfer will be the responsibility of the new Wiltshire Council.
- 5.2. As most of the actions requiring attention are subject to further detailed reports, no finance figures are quoted at this time. These will become known as reports are brought forward for consideration in due course. At this time it is unlikely that any of these reports will be available before the creation of the new City Council on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009.
- 5.3. There is also the issue of what will / will not happen to planning policy R2 funds currently held within the City. Up to now these funds have financed the vast majority of play area improvements within the City in recent years. It is unclear, at the time of writing the report, as to whether these funds will still be made available by Wiltshire Council to the new Salisbury City Council for this purpose.
- 5.4. There may also be a requirement for an increased revenue budget for the Play Area service though again this will be determined by future decisions taken. Any increase is, however, likely to be relatively small and will almost certainly not be required until 2010 at the earliest.

6. Recommendations:

It is recommended that

- 6.1. The draft Play Areas management plan be formally adopted

7. Implications:

- 7.1. Financial: At this stage nil. However the committee should be aware of the potential financial requirements placed upon it in the future.
- 7.2. Legal: None at this stage
- 7.3. Personnel: As outlined in the report
- 7.4. Community Safety: None at this stage
- 7.5. Environmental: None at this stage
- 7.6. Human Rights: None at this stage
- 7.7. Ward(s) Affected: Virtually all within the City