

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES		
SUBJECT:	NEWTOWN ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND : APPROVAL TO SPEND ON RE-BUILDING PROJECT		
DATE OF DECISION:	19 APRIL 2010		
REPORT OF:	HEAD OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPITAL PROJECTS		
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

None

SUMMARY

This report seeks approval to commit expenditure of £422,900 on the rebuilding of the play building at Newtown Adventure Playground (Northumberland Road) to be funded from Extended Schools £180,900 and Modernisation £242,000.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Having had regards to the provisions of the City of Southampton Strategy

- (i) To vire in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules a sum of £422,900 within the Children's Services and Learning Capital programme for the Newtown Adventure Playground, funded from Extended Schools and Modernisation Grant.
- (ii) To approve in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules capital expenditure in the sum of £422,900 including fees from the Children's Services and Learning Capital Programme for the rebuilding of the play building at Newtown Adventure Playground (Northumberland Road)

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Play Strategy seeks to provide facilities for supervised play in each locality.
2. The facility at Newtown Adventure Playground is in accommodation which is at the end of its design life and has been identified as being in urgent need of replacement.
3. The project has been prioritised for funding from the Extended Schools and Modernisation Capital allocations 2008-11.

CONSULTATION

4. The adjoining Maytree Nursery and Infant school has been consulted on possible shared use of the building to deliver community learning.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

5. To combine the funding with Primary Review scheme funding to provide a larger facility to enable dedicated use by the school for a crèche/parents room. This has been rejected due to the unavailability of Primary Review funding for this scheme.
6. To provide a replacement modular building. This has been rejected due to the vulnerability of such a building to vandalism and the marginal cost saving to be achieved.
7. To not replace the building would mean closing down the play facility.

DETAIL

8. The primary function of the replacement building is to support dedicated play work sessions, but it will be designed to also enable use by the adjoining Maytree School and the surrounding community.
9. Proposed Accommodation:
 - Two main activity spaces with a divider which can be withdrawn to create one whole space.
 - A small kitchenette space
 - Office to accommodate 2 – 3 staff
 - Toilet – male, female, disabled
 - Two lockable internal storage spaces
 - One outside storage space for garden equipment
 - Outside fenced garden space for mini allotment
10. Capita Symonds has been commissioned to undertake a feasibility study. Design work is due to start in May / June 2010, a contract formed in early 2011 and work on site completed by August 2011. The contract for the building will be procured in accordance with the Corporate Procurement Regulations using the SCC framework.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital

The costs of the scheme are summarised in the following table:

Scheme costs	Estimated cost £
Building works	312,000
Fees	87,386
Furniture and equipment	23,514
Total	£422,900

11. The Extended Schools and Modernisation allocations for 2008 – 11 were added to the Children’s Services and Learning Capital Programme in April 2008. Funding for this project is shown below:

Funding Source	
Extended Schools	£180,900
Modernisation	<u>£242,000</u>
Total	£422,900

12. The Extended Schools funding must be spent by the end of August 2011.

Revenue

13. Revenue costs will be met as for the existing building from the Play Services budget.
14. The new building will have lower long term maintenance costs (which will mean a reduced cost on the planned maintenance budget) and the new building will benefit from lower running costs than the existing building.

Property

15. The proposed project will remove the repairs and maintenance backlog for this building. The new building will be provided in accordance with Corporate procedures.

Other

16. None.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

17. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 permits the Council to do anything likely to improve the economic, social or environmental well-being of it’s area. The proposals in this report will achieve that aim and are consistent with the provision of the City of Southampton Strategy.
- Capital expenditure within the Council is subject to the provision of the Financial Procedure Rules as set out in the Council’s Constitution.

Other Legal Implications:

18. In designing and constructing the new building, regard will be had to the Human Rights Act 1998, Equalities

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

19. The proposals outlined in this report will meet a key objective of the City Southampton Strategy in terms of promoting health and wellbeing and improving the quality of life of all its people.
20. The proposals are also consistent with the objectives of the Play Strategy and Children and Young People’s Plan.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Non-confidential appendices are in the Members' Rooms and can be accessed on-line

Appendices

1.	None
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Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
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Background Documents

Title of Background Paper(s)

Relevant Paragraph of the
Access to Information
Procedure Rules / Schedule
12A allowing document to be
Exempt/Confidential (if
applicable)

1.	None	
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KEY DECISION YES

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	Bevois
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