

REPORT FROM: CORPORATE DIRECTOR

TO: TRANSFER OF SERVICES AND FACILITIES TO TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEE

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TRANSFER OF PLAY AREAS AND MUGAS

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To present an update on the transfer of play areas and MUGAs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That a further allocation of £1,597 is made in respect of the Lane House Lane play area.
- (2) That at this stage a further allocation of £4,000 is made in respect of the Nelson facilities.
- (3) That the Executive be recommended to transfer the whole of Birley playing fields to Earby Town Council.

1. In summary parish and town Council responses to the offer to transfer play areas and MUGAs are as follows:

- **Barnoldswick.** The Town Council will take ownership of its 6 facilities from 1st April 2016 and initially will pay the Council the annual cost of maintenance.
- **Brierfield.** The Town Council will take ownership of its 5 facilities probably in 2017/18 and in the meantime will pay the Council the annual cost of maintenance.
- **Colne.** The Town Council will take ownership of its 10 facilities from 1st April 2016 and will maintain them itself at its own cost.
- **Earby.** The Town Council will take ownership of its 6 facilities from 1st April 2016 and will pay the Council the annual cost of maintenance for at least the first two years.
- **Foulridge.** The Parish Council will take ownership of its one facility from 1st April 2016 and will maintain it itself at its own cost. It is considering whether to pay the Council to carry out periodic inspections.
- **Kelbrook and Sough.** The Parish Council is willing in principle to take ownership of its one facility from 1st April 2016 and is considering whether to pay the Council the annual cost of maintenance.

- **Laneshaw Bridge.** The Parish Council will take ownership of its one facility from 1st April 2016 and will initially pay the Council the annual cost of maintenance.
 - **Nelson.** The Town Council will take ownership of its 16 facilities from 1st April 2016 and will initially pay the council the annual cost of maintenance.
 - **Trawden.** The Parish Council will take ownership of the facility from 1st April 2016 and will maintain it itself at its own cost.
2. Parish and town councils have also been asked to give their views on what works of repair and refurbishment to the value of £1,000 per facility should be undertaken prior to transfer. At the time of writing Colne, Earby and Trawden have responded and a reminder has been sent to the others pressing for early replies so that the work can be carried out by 31st March.
 3. A request for further funding has been received from Trawden regarding the Lane House Lane play area. This is the oldest play area in the Borough and probably the most in need of refurbishment. As it is the only play area in Trawden there is no possibility of any underspend on another facility being applied to it.
 4. The following work has been identified. Repair safety surfacing - £1,400, repair walls and fences- £225, repaint all equipment - £972. Total £2,597. **The Committee is asked to consider allocating a further £1,597 so that this work can be undertaken.**
 5. Whilst we are still awaiting the full response from Nelson the condition of the junior and senior play areas at Vernon Street in Nelson in particular the safety surfacing has been raised with us. We consider that the whole of the safety surfacing on both requires replacement; the estimated cost for the junior is £4,400 and for the senior £12,110. Linked to this it is felt that some removal of surrounding trees is desirable as these contribute to the surfacing becoming slippery and its deterioration; the estimated cost of this is £1,000. Finally a vandalised piece of equipment requires repair at a cost of £300.
 6. The total cost of this work would be £17,810. Nelson's total initial allocation is £16,000. There may well be underspends on some of the other, newer Nelson facilities but the full picture is not yet known.
 7. **At this stage the Committee is asked to allocate a further £4,000 to Nelson.** A further report would be submitted when the full picture regarding the other Nelson facilities has been assessed and if any additional funding is needed.
 8. The Birley play area is within Birley open playing fields. **Earby have requested that the Council transfer the whole of this to it. The Committee is asked to recommend the Executive to agree to this.**
 9. For Members' information an approach has been made to the Millenium Green Trust regarding the play area on its land to discuss how this can be transferred to Colne. Similarly approaches have been made to Together Housing regarding the transfer to Earby of the Northholme (north) play area and to Pendle Leisure Trust regarding the transfer of the Vivary Way MUGA to Colne.
 10. Lancashire County Council are also to be approached regarding the Emmott Lane, Laneshaw Bridge and Colne Road, Kelbrook play areas and the Waterside, Colne MUGA which are on land owned by it.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy:	The transfers are within the Council's wider policy of transfer of local facilities to town and parish councils.
Financial:	The Committee has made an initial allocation of £1,000 per facility from the Community Projects Fund for work prior to transfer. The current balance of the Fund is £37,873.
Legal:	Most of the facilities are on Council land. It may be necessary in some cases to give formal public notice of transfer as the land is public open space. The positions regarding the small number of facilities not on Council land are explained at paragraphs 9 and 10 above.
Risk Management:	None arising from the report.
Health and Safety:	None arising from the report.
Sustainability:	None arising from the report.
Community Safety:	None arising from the report.
Equality and Diversity:	None arising from the report.