

Bath & North East Somerset Council

DECISION MAKER:	Cllr David Dixon, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods with Cllr Paul Crossley, Leader of the Council	
DECISION DATE:	December 2013	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 2603
TITLE:	Replacement Play Area Equipment Programme	
WARD:	Bathavon West, Chew Valley South, Keynsham East, Kingsmead, Lambridge, Lyncombe, Midsomer Norton Redfield, Odd Down, Radstock,	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Appendix 1 2013/14 Replacement Play Area Equipment Works		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 This report sets out the priority areas where play equipment is proposed to be replaced as part of the 2013/14 capital programme, including arrangements for local consultation as appropriate.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the proposed funding allocations for 2013/14 be approved

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 3.1 The capital sum of £225,000 is approved within the Council's 2013/14 budget and provision to repay this through service supported borrowing is incorporated within the relevant Service revenue budget
- 3.2 Provision to fund the on-going inspection and maintenance of replacement play equipment is incorporated within the relevant Service revenue budget

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

- 4.1 All appropriate statutory considerations will be made through the consultation, design and implementation of the proposed replacement play area equipment programme

5 THE REPORT

5.1 Bath & North East Somerset Council is directly responsible for the management and maintenance of 60 children’s play areas across the district. This figure fluctuates from time to time as play areas are adopted within new housing developments or site uses change

5.2 There are over 400 individual pieces of children’s play equipment within these areas which have a combined replacement value of over £4.5m. Equipment typically has a safe life of 15 years so a planned replacement programme is essential in order to prevent the need to close play areas as equipment becomes unsafe

5.3 The proposed sites and equipment to be replaced as part of the 2013/14 capital programme are set out in Appendix 1 and have been selected on the basis of a safety assessment undertaken by the Council’s own qualified inspectors. Only equipment that has already been removed for safety reasons or that judged to be at the end of its life is proposed to be replaced

6 RATIONALE

6.1 The available funding must be directed towards replacing the equipment that is considered to be at the end of its life in order to limit liability for the Council and to ensure the continuation of existing service levels

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 None

8 CONSULTATION

8.1 Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods; Staff; Other B&NES Services; Section 151 Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer

8.2 Once approved, there will be consultation with Ward Members, service users and local residents on a site by site basis as set out in Appendix 1

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance

Contact person	Andy Chard; Telephone (01225) 396883
Background papers	None
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