

CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 20 th November 2018
Report Subject	Outdoor Children's Play Areas
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Education
Report Author	Chief Executive
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The play areas match-funding scheme is now in its ninth year with over £1.5m having been invested jointly by Flintshire County Council and Town & Community Councils in over 100 play areas over the past eight years.

The Council's commitment to improving outdoor children's play areas is also reflected in its capital programme for 2017/18 to 2019/20 which includes approved allocations for each of the three financial years.

Aura Leisure & Libraries, which manages the inspection and maintenance of the Council's 162 play areas, is responsible for consulting with local communities on the design, layout and mix of facilities for match-funding and capital improvement works.

Aura is making two recommendations to Council, based upon the Council's match-funding revenue budget and capital allocations to meet all expressions of interest received from Town & Community Councils and to sustain the existing network of play areas by improving sites considered to be in the poorest condition (RED rated).

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That all 23 expressions of interest received for the 2018/19 match-funding programme be supported and that the oversubscription of cost of £0.063m is met from the remaining £0.140m year 2 capital allocation.
2	That the remaining £0.077m of the year 2 capital programme, together with the remaining circa £0.040m of Year 3 (£0.200m minus circa £0.080m-£0.100m for Bailey Hill and £0.060m for the replacement of two 3G pitches at Deeside Leisure Centre) is utilised to improve the play area sites identified in Appendix 2.

	High School and replacement of 3G pitches 1 and 2 at Deeside Leisure Centre.
1.07	During 2018/19 the four remaining 3G pitches at Deeside Leisure Centre were replaced with the £0.120m works being met via £0.060m from the Year 2 capital allocation and £0.060m from Year 3. This leaves £0.140m to invest in play areas during 2018/19.
1.08	The Flintshire County Council Cabinet Report of 14 March 2017 said that ‘A priority for Years 2 and 3 would be the play area at Bailey Hill which is a RED rated play area and is being considered as part of a wider Heritage Lottery Fund development scheme, although this scheme is not eligible to fund the play area’.
1.09	Following confirmation of the successful Heritage Lottery Fund bid the improvements to the play area at Bailey Hill (estimated costs circa £0.080m-£0.100m) will commence in 2019/20 and, therefore, be funded via the Year 3 capital allocation.
1.10	The Flintshire County Council Cabinet Report of 14 March 2017 identified 15 RED rated play area sites as remaining priorities for Years 2 and 3 of the capital programme.
1.11	Following recent investment, Aura no longer considers six of the fifteen play areas to be RED rated and have lowered their rating to either Medium or Low AMBER. However, a further four play area sites have been placed into the RED category due to their condition and the need for play items to be replaced (see Appendix 2).

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	All play area upgrade schemes and improvement works will be managed by Aura’s Play Design service.
2.02	The Council has allocated £0.105m from its 2018/19 revenue budget for the match-funding scheme.
2.03	The Council’s three-year capital programme for 2017/18 to 2019/20 includes approved allocations for play areas (see Appendix 3).

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Aura sent out letters to all Town & Community Councils inviting them to submit an expression of interest thereby offering equity of opportunity to all to participate in the programme.
3.02	Upon confirmation that an expression of interest in the match-funding scheme has been successful, Aura’s Play Design service will consult with Town & Community Council representatives to ensure the subsequent play area upgrade works meet their needs and aspirations in terms in content,

	design and layout.
3.03	Aura will adopt the same approach for play areas due to be upgraded and improved via the Council's capital programme.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	Given the number of improvement schemes to be progressed, subject to Cabinet approval, it is unlikely that all of them will be completed in 2018/19. Some will be completed during Quarter 1, 2019/20.

5.00	APPENDICES																																																																											
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5.02

Appendix 2

The 15 play area sites identified as RED rated in the Cabinet Report of 14 March 2017 (six have since moved to AMBER following investment):

No.	PLAY AREA	RAG
1	Salisbury Street, Shotton	Low AMBER
2	Primrose Street, Connah's Quay	RED
3	Leadbrook Drive, Flint	RED
4	High Street, Caergwrle	RED
5	Maes y Dre, Mold	RED
6	Pen Lon, Bagillt	Medium AMBER
7	Holway, Holywell	Low AMBER
8	Broadoak Recreation Ground, Connah's Quay	RED
9	Tan y Felin, Greenfield	RED
10	Maes yr Oden, Holywell	RED
11	Phoenix Street, Sandycroft	Low AMBER
12	Prince of Wales, Buckley	Low AMBER
13	Coed Mor, Penyffordd (near Holywell)	RED
14	Ffordd Pentre, Mold	Medium AMBER
15	Bryn Mawr, Holywell	RED

The four additional play areas that have since slipped into the RED category:

No.	PLAY AREA	RAG
1	York Road, Connah's Quay	RED
2	Groesffordd, Greenfield	RED
3	Pen-y-Maes, Holywell	RED
4	Parkfields, Mold	RED

APPROVED ALLOCATIONS 2017/18 - 2019/20

	2017/18 £m	2018/19 £m	2019/20 £m	Total £m
Statutory / Regulatory Section				
DD Act - Individual pupils	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.750
Private sector renewals & improvements	1.496	1.496	1.496	4.488
School building works	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.300
Corporate property works	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.900
IT - Firewalls, protection from cyber attacks	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.070
Special inspections - Flintshire bridge	0.510	0.000	0.000	0.510
Total Statutory / Regulatory	2.726	2.146	2.146	7.018
Retained Assets Section				
School building works	1.000	1.000	1.000	3.000
Corporate property works	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.900
Highways asset management plan	0.600	0.600	0.600	1.800
Streetlighting Replacement*	2.779	0.000	0.000	2.779
IT - Network replacement	0.300	0.000	0.000	0.300
IT - Server replacement	0.200	0.000	0.000	0.200
IT - Replacement of equip. to 'back up' data	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.050
TC - Telephony / Box office upgrade	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100
Playareas and synthetic sports pitches	0.487	0.200	0.200	0.887
Headroom	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.750
Total Retained Assets Section	6.066	2.350	2.350	10.766
Investment Section				
Community asset transfers	0.250	0.250	0.000	0.500
School extension and remodelling				
Castell Alun High School - Hope	0.000	0.600	4.000	4.600
Glan Aber Primary - Bagillt	0.073	0.683	0.241	0.997
Property works at leisure centres / libraries**	2.418	0.000	0.000	2.418
LD Day services facility	2.045	1.955	0.000	4.000
Extension and remodelling of Arosfa	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100
Household recycling centres	1.000	0.000	0.000	1.000
Total Investment Section	5.886	3.488	4.241	13.615
Total Capital Programme	14.678	7.984	8.737	31.399

* Added to the programme in Month 4 and Month 6 monitoring reports

** £1.964m added to the programme in Month 4 monitoring reports

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS AND CONTACT DETAILS
6.01	<p>Cabinet reports 20 February 2018 and 14 March 2017</p> <p>Contact Officer: Paul Jones, Business Improvement & Performance Manager, Aura Leisure & Libraries Limited</p> <p>Telephone: 01352 702474</p> <p>E-mail: paul.jones@aura.wales</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	None to explain.