



Leicester
City Council

**WARDS AFFECTED:
BRAUNSTONE PARK AND ROWLEY FIELDS**

**FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:
CABINET**

17th September 2007

BRAUNSTONE PARK STREET SPORTS

Report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration & Culture

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report informs Cabinet of the Braunstone Park Street Sports Project and requests approval for a capital sum of £130,000 for the project, from the £150,000 identified in the Council's Capital Programme 2007/08 as Adventure Playground Equipment.

2. Summary

- 2.1 The Braunstone Park Street Sports Project involves a major redevelopment of the south-eastern area of the park, with environmental improvements, new dynamic play equipment and the creation of a new 'Street Sports' area on the site of a disused paddling pool.
- 2.2 The project will be funded through a variety of sources, including funding from the Braunstone Community Association (BCA) and from Landfill Tax Credit Distributors. The overall capital cost of the project is £580,000 and will be managed by City Council officers.
- 2.3 At present there is a shortfall in the identified funding, and members are recommended to approve £130,000 of capital funding under 'Adventure Playground Equipment' to allow the project to progress.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 Cabinet is recommended to approve Adventure Playground Equipment capital expenditure of £130,000 towards the project.

4. Report

- 4.1 The concept for a 'Street Sports' area on Braunstone Park was originally conceived for the Heritage Lottery bid for the park in 2005. Designed to be separate from the main bid, the project was to develop the defunct paddling pool on the park into a "Street Sport" area for activities such as skateboarding and rollerblading. A number of consultation exercises carried out for the HLF project identified the need to improve the

paddling pool area on the park, the need to improve the Braunstone Brook and the need to improve youth provision on the park - all of these needs are met by the Street Sport proposals.

- 4.2 Following on from Cabinet's decision of 4th September 2006 not to progress the Braunstone Park HLF bid, work continued on the Street Sport project. A consultation exercise was carried out in late November 2005 regarding the project, and showed general support for the project proposals.
- 4.3 Negotiations took place with the Braunstone Community Association (BCA) for BCA to fund a substantial percentage of the overall project cost. The scheme had developed from a project centred on the paddling pool to include improvement works to the Braunstone Brook, the original watercourse that once fed the paddling pool.
- 4.4 The project has four main elements:
- Landscaping of the paddling pool area to create a new 'Street Sport' area, with concrete ramps and grind rails for skateboarders / rollerbladers.
 - The inclusion of new dynamic play equipment for older children and teenagers.
 - The inclusion of two youth shelters.
 - The diversion of the brook and the creation of the wetland feature, to increase the ecological value of this area of the park and to provide an educational resource for the local community.
- 4.5 There has long been an identified need for new play provision in the Braunstone Park ward, centred around the Park. Whilst it contains various items of play equipment, they currently provide little play value and target only younger children and toddler age groups. The allocation for Braunstone Park from the 2007/08 play area refurbishment programme will again target these groups of children.
- 4.6 The project meets a number of strategic and corporate objectives; the Leicester Play Strategy (April 2007) identifies a number of outcomes:
- Increase the quality and use of outdoor play area
 - Support children to exercise risk-taking in their play, free from hazards
 - Ensure all children have access to good quality play opportunities
 - Increase support for play in Leicester

The draft Leicester Greenspace Strategy highlights the need for better 'wheel sports' facilities in Leicester's parks, a target, which would be met by the creation of the Street Sport area. The Leicester Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) calls for improvements to Council owned Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and Biodiversity Enhancement Sites (BES's), which would be met by the removal of the concrete channel and the naturalisation of the brook along this section.

The project also meets a number of targets for the BCA such as enhancing Braunstone Park, and to increase the quality of sports and exercise facilities for all sections of the community.

- 4.7 Skateboarding and other urban sports have become a popular activity over the past few years. Leicester already has successful and, well used, skate parks at Humberstone and Victoria Park, and there have been calls to extend these facilities across the City. Indeed it has been proposed that skateboarding be included in the 2012 Olympics, in addition to BMX events that will debut next year in Beijing.
- 4.8 The brook itself is the responsibility of the Environment Agency. Negotiations have taken place with this agency from an early stage, and they have been kept apprised of the project through its development. They are fully supportive of the scheme and are keen to see it progress.

Project Funding

- 4.9 Funding for the project £580,000 comes from a number of sources, as detailed below:

Funding Body	Amount
BCA	£250,000
LCC capital	£130,000
Sita 'Enhancing Communities	£50,000
Sita 'Enriching Nature'	£100,000
Biffaward	£50,000
LCC revenue & reinvestment (over the course of the project – 3 years)	£20,000

The Biffaward grant is funded as part of the Landfill Tax Credit scheme. Although the project will take place on Council property and be managed in-house, this funding will need to be applied for under the umbrella of the BCA as local authorities are precluded from applying directly to these organisations.

- 4.10 An allocation of £150,000 is available, subject to Cabinet approval, for schemes that fit the criteria of 'Adventure Playground Equipment', and it is this capital amount from which it is intended that the £130,000 will be funded from.

5. FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1. Financial Implications

- 5.1.2 There is sufficient capital funding in Regeneration and Culture – Environmental Services – Capital Programme 2007/08 to support this project. The scheme Adventure Playground Equipment, has £150,000 available subject to Cabinet approval. Approval is sought for £130,000 out of this scheme.

- 5.1.3 The revenue contribution of £20,000 will be funded from Regeneration and Culture's existing service budgets.
(Martin Judson, R&C's - Head of Resources, June 2007. Ext.297390)

5.2 Legal Implications

- 5.2.1 Leicester City Council has power to assist in funding and implementing the project under section 2 Local Government Act 2000.
- 5.2.2 The project is to be funded with direct contributions from Leicester City Council and Braunstone Community Association. In addition additional funding is to be obtained

under the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme. The rules governing the scheme prevent the Council from obtaining such funding directly. However I am advised that BCA is an enrolled body for the purposes of the LTCS and is therefore in a position to apply for the funding.

5.2.3 LCC is advised to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with BCA in order to determine how the project shall be implemented and to ensure that the financial interests of both parties are protected
(Carolyn Howard, Solicitor - Legal Services; June 2007. Ext.296498)

6. Other Implications

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph References Within Supporting information
Equal Opportunities		
Policy	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leicester Play Strategy (4.6) Draft Leicester Greenspace Strategy (2007) – Para 4.7
Sustainable and Environmental	Yes	Leicester Biodiversity Plan 2006-09
Crime and Disorder		
Human Rights Act		
Elderly/People on Low Income		

7. Risk Assessment Matrix

Risk	Likelihood L/M/H	Severity Impact L/M/H	Control Actions (if necessary/appropriate)
Failure to secure external funding for the project	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify other funding sources Carry out value engineering exercise Redesign scheme to fit available budget
Failure to meet Grant application deadlines	Medium	Low	Allocate adequate project development resource to the bid. Give enough resources and time to planning adequately

L – Low
M – Medium
H - High

L – Low
M – Medium
H - High

- 8. Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972**
Cabinet report – Braunstone Park / Spinney Hill Park Heritage Lottery Fund Bid – September 2006
- 9. Consultations**
BCA consultation exercise, November 2005
Braunstone Park HLF project – consultation 2003
Martin Judson, R&C's - Head of Resources, - June 2007
Carolyn Howard, Solicitor – Legal Services, - June 2007
- 10. Report Author**
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DECISION STATUS

Key Decision	No
Reason	N/A
Appeared in Forward Plan	N/A
Executive or Council Decision	Executive (Cabinet)