## WOLLATON AND LENTON ABBEY AREA COMMITTEE (AREA 7) - 9<sup>th</sup> July 2009

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Title of paper:		'PATHFINDER' PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME				
		FOR 2009/10		1		
	ector(s)/			Wards affected:		
Corporate Director(s):		Sport, Leisure and Parks		Wollaton West and		
				Wollaton East and Lenton		
0	-44 Off:/-\	Eddie Owen		Abbey		
	ntact Officer(s) and					
con	ntact details:	0115 9152784				
Other officers who Martin Harris – Park Development Officer.				er.		
hav	ve provided input: Geoff Walker – Strategic Finance Manager					
	evant Council Plan t	heme(s):				
Choose Nottingham						
Respect for Nottingham						
Transforming Nottingham's Neighbourhoods			<b>√</b>			
Supporting Nottingham People						
Serving Nottingham Better			✓			
Summary of issues (including benefits to customers/service users):  This report presents the results of initial consultation held on Rushford Drive / Fernwood						
Crescent park on Saturday 2nd May – regarding assessing local need for playground provision						
on the site and potential use of Pathfinder funding for playground improvements.						
The report details a proposed financial plan for the spend of current time limited Pathfinder						
funding and seeks a contribution of Area Capital funding to match the Pathfinder Funding. The						
report will also, after further consultation, highlight future aspirations for other sites within the						
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Rec	commendation(s):					
1	Secure a decision following on from the above consultation to assign the allocation of					
	'Pathfinder' funding (£50,000) to Fernwood / Rushford park.					
2						
	to Fernwood / Rushford park to match fund the 'Pathfinder funding to carry of					
	improvements during 2009/10.			,		
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Undertake further consultation with local residents, officers and members in order to priorities future play area and park improvements for Seaford, Radford Bridge and Sutton Passeys specifically, with wider discussions to cover improvements that could be made to

other small playground / parks sites in Area 7.

#### 1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 £80,000 of funding has been allocated to improve playgrounds within Area 7, as a result of the City being awarded Pathfinder status for the play improvement programme. This funding has come from a bid put forward by both Parks and Open Spaces and Children's Services, from the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).
- 1.2 Lenton Abbey Park was allocated £30,000 'Pathfinder' funding, with a match contribution of £30,000 coming from Parks Section to improve the playground. This site is nearing completion and had a successful launch on the 28<sup>th</sup> May. A further £50,000 has been allocated to improve an additional play area site during 2009/10.
- 1.3 Following previous Committee / sub Committee reports, consultation was held on Rushford Drive park to identify potential need and support in the local area.
  - Responses were received both on the day and through phone and emails from around 30 people including a mix of adults and children.
  - All people asked were in favour of the park and playground being improved. This included the provision of new equipment, bin and benches / picnic tables.
  - The retention of the main grassed area (for informal recreation), small woodland grove and other isolated trees were given a high priority.
  - Support was also forthcoming for the provision a 'community garden' facility and close liaison with the local school to use the site as an educational resource.
  - Potential issues were raised over locking the park / site security, though there was support for residents becoming key holders.

### 2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 Following an informal consultation with local residents to Fernwood / Rushford Park on site on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May and through contact made by residents outside of this, around 30 people expressed an opinion of the site with both adults and children present in equal measure.
- 2.2 All residents responded that they would like to see improvements take place to the site, such as to play equipment and the wider park and provision for older children. There were no residents against undertaking works to the site.
- 2.3 Further works are required to identify options for other playground / park sites in Area 7, including proposals for smaller scale remedial works that can improve sites outside of major capital funding.

#### 3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Non use of Pathfinder funding this would mean that residents and children within Area 7 lose out on an improved play space.
- 3.2 Allocation of funding to another site wider discussions need to be held over potential sites such as Radford Bridge / Seaford Avenue especially due to their location and potential future use.
- 3.3 Use of only 'Pathfinder' funding for the chosen site and allocate Area Capital funding to another site this would have limited impact as separately, there is insufficient funding

to adequately replace existing playgrounds or carry out wider improvements on two sites.

### 4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY)

- 4.1 Once approved, the allocation of funding for the playground / park improvements would be used specifically for that site, with improvements taking place, to be complete by the end of March 2010.
- 4.2 All works will be procured in accordance with contract procedural rules contained within financial regulations to obtain best value for money. The costs are based on reasonable estimates of cost and the design of the project will be governed by the funding available to the project.
- 4.3 The funding for the proposed playground, as outlined below, will be achieved through a contribution of £47,000 from Area Capital funds and an allocation of £50,000 of funding secured from the 'Pathfinder' programme of playground improvements.

	2009/10
	£m
Income	
'Pathfinder' funding	-0.050
Area Capital Funding	-0.047
Expenditure	
Play equipment, landscaping, bins, benches signage etc.	0.097

# 5 <u>RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS AND EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS)</u>

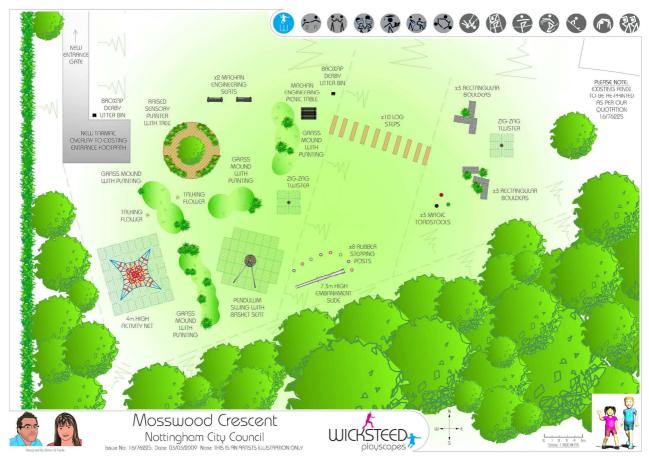
- 5.1 **Funding is not utilised** Area 7 loses out on funding for refurbishment of a park / playground that would be difficult to replace.
- 5.2 **Match funding for playgrounds is not achieved** playground and park improvements cannot take place in totality and leads to a poorer overall scheme, whilst also failing to meet DCSF criteria;
- 5.3 *Time specific funding for the works* the programme falls behind schedule and funding may have to be returned to DCSF;
- 5.4 **The programme is not properly managed** the programme will be directly managed by the Parks Development team;
- 5.5 **Anti Social Behaviour upon completion of works** close working with residents, Police, Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) and Community Protect Officers (CPO's) should help minimise the impact of this along with residents potentially becoming key holders,

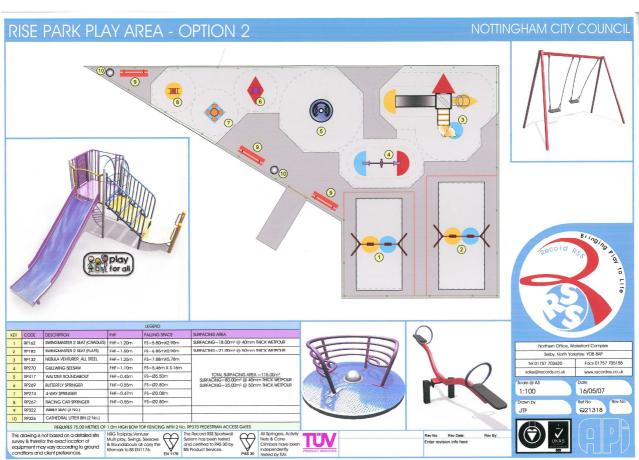
# 6 <u>LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE</u> <u>DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION</u>

## 7 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

- 7.1 Executive Board report Play Pathfinder 20 May 2008.
- 7.2 'PATHFINDER' PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME FOR 2008/09 AND 2009/10 Area 7 Committee Report 8<sup>th</sup> January 2009
- 7.3 'PATHFINDER' PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME ROR 2008/09 AND 2009/10 Area 7 sub Committee Report 12<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

## Example of playgrounds / sites at around £50,000







# Example of playgrounds / sites at around £100,000

