



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Suffolk Community Centre – Interactive Outdoor Play Area
Date:	12 August 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Catherine Taggart, Community Development Manager ext. 35

Relevant Background Information

Suffolk Community Centre is a directly managed facility. It was officially opened on 27 February 1999 and is the hub of community activity in the Suffolk area. The Suffolk Community Centre Committee has actively contributed to successful partnership approaches to provide a broad based programme of activities at the Centre.

The Centre Committee, in seeking to develop and improve services, has been exploring possibilities to develop a vacant site to the rear of the Community Centre. The site is within the perimeter of the Community Centre and is owned by Belfast City Council.

The Community Centre Committee have now been awarded funding under the ALPHA Programme from Groundwork NI. £48,897.50 will finance all capital costs associated with the development of an interactive outdoor play facility.

The facility will be accessed via the Community Centre and will therefore be subject to supervised use at all times.

Key Issues

There will be no capital cost implications to the Council. All capital costs associated with the project will be met by funding from Groundwork NI. However, on completion the project will be owned by the Council and therefore it will be the responsibility of Community Services to manage and maintain the project.

The proposal has asset implications and will therefore need to be considered by the

Asset Management Group and will require the approval of the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee.

BCC Parks and Amenities are the lead co-ordinator for all Groundwork schemes in Belfast. Parks and Amenities have no objection to the proposal. Technical advice has been sought from Parks and Amenities and as a result the plan was subject to some refinement.

The project will have a positive environmental impact enhancing the visual quality of the site.

Resource Implications

Financial

There are no capital cost implications. Community Services will be responsible for the maintenance of the site which will be undertaken by BCC Parks and Amenities at a cost of £4,000 per annum. This will not include replacement of damaged equipment.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

1. Grant permission for the construction of an interactive play area at Suffolk Community Centre. Permission is subject to all statutory approvals being obtained and Council having an acceptable input e.g. practical completion arrangements, handover /defects list.
2. It is further recommended that Committee commend the proposal to the Asset Management Group and the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

Decision Tracking

1. Further to approval and ratification that work commence on the construction of an interactive play area at Suffolk Community Centre

Timeline: January 2010 Reporting Officer: Catherine Taggart

2. Submission of the proposal for construction of an interactive play area at Suffolk Community Centre to the Asset Management Group and the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

Timeline: October 2009 Reporting Officer: Catherine Taggart