



Belfast City Council

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| Report to: | Parks and Leisure Committee |
| Subject: | Zoo Playground Update |
| Date: | 14 March 2013 |
| Reporting Officer: | Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure |
| Contact Officer: | Mark Challis, Zoo Manager |

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| 1. | Relevant Background Information |
| 1.1 | The Tourism Development Scheme (TDS) is the programme devised by Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) to allocate capital funds made available from the Executive Budget to tourism related capital projects. The TDS is a competitive process and requires applicants to make bids for funding from the scheme. |
| 1.2 | Members will recall that at the Parks and Leisure Committee meeting of 9 August 2012, a report informed the Committee that the Zoo's application for £215,000 to the NITB TDS for an enhanced playground facility had received initial approval and a business plan for the project was being prepared with a view to it undergoing full economic appraisal. The Committee gave support to the Zoo's application to the NITB TDS for an enhanced playground facility. |
| 1.3 | Subsequently, the project was referred to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 24 August 2012, which agreed to include the £215,000 match funding in the capital programme. |
| 1.4 | At the time it was envisaged that we would be in a position to start ground work on the project in early 2013 with a view to the new facility opening in summer 2013. |
| 1.5 | However, while the draft economic appraisal has recently been received by NITB from their consultants, further internal review processes are required to be undertaken by NITB and the start of this project has been slightly delayed. |

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| 2. | Key Issues |
| 2.1 | It is currently envisaged that actual ground work associated with this project will not start until September 2013 with a view to the new playground being completed by spring 2014. |
| 3. | Resource Implications |
| 3.1 | The matched funding has already been committed in the capital programme. |
| 4. | Equality and good relations implications |
| 4.1 | The provision of an enhanced playground at the Zoo will provide improved play facilities to a greater number of visitors, of a wider age and ability range than is currently available. |
| 5. | Recommendations |
| 5.1 | Members are asked to note the delay in the start of this project. |
| 6. | Decision Tracking |
| 6.1 | A further report will be presented to the Committee in Autumn 2013 regarding the project. |
| 7. | Key to Abbreviations |
| | TDS – Tourism development Scheme NITB – Northern Ireland Tourist Board |
| 8. | Documents Attached |
| | None |