



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Capital Programme: Blythefield Open Space - Changing Accommodation and Multi Use Games Area
Date:	18 April 2008
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Improvement
Contact Officer:	Michael Stanley, Project Manager

Relevant Background Information

As reported previously, the Council's Capital Programme has yet to be politically prioritised to ensure that the Programme and the City Investment Strategy meet Members' political priorities and are delivered in the context of affordable financial limits set by Members' decisions on the level of the rate.

At the moment there are a large number of schemes in the draft programme which have been put forward by various Committees over a number of years on an ongoing basis.

A series of briefings are being carried out during April for Party Groups to consider a draft Capital Programme and Finance along with City Investment and Asset Strategies.

Key Issues

There are however some projects which Departments wish to move forward for various reasons.

One such proposal is for the construction of the Changing Accommodation and a Multi Use Games Area at Blythefield Open Space, which was initiated in 2005 by the Community and Recreation (Parks and Cemeteries Services) Sub-Committee.

In November 2006 the Community and Recreation (Parks and Cemeteries Services) Sub-Committee granted authority to proceed with the proposal subject to the cost of

the project being 100% funded by the Belfast Regeneration Office.

The design has since been developed and tender documentation has been prepared as part of an application for grant funding which is currently being considered by the Belfast Regeneration Office.

This proposal is "*urgent*" in the sense that the work is programmed to commence in the early summer, subject to a positive outcome on the funding application, and if it does not proceed shortly the funding may be lost.

It is proposed that tenders, when invited, will be evaluated on the basis of quality and cost in order to ascertain that which offers the most economically advantageous bid for the works.

Resource Implications

This capital proposal will only proceed with 100% external financial support.

The draft capital programme for 08/09 includes a gross amount £825,000 (nett £nil) for this proposal.

Recommendations

Members are asked to consider this proposal and determine whether Officers should proceed with the invitation of tenders and award of a contract.

Extract from minutes of Community and Recreation (Parks and Cemeteries Services) Sub-Committee, Tuesday, 28th November, 2006

**Blythefield Open Space –
Tender for the Construction of
Changing Accommodation and a Multi-Use Games Area**

The Sub-Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 7th February, it had granted approval to undertake the design, tendering process and management of the contract on-site through to completion of the above-mentioned project at Blythefield Open Space.

The Head of Parks and Cemeteries reported that, to enable the construction work to be completed in a timely manner, it was necessary to seek delegated authority to approve a select list of contractors from whom tenders would be sought and subsequently approve the most advantageous tender for the construction of changing accommodation and a multi-use games area at the site. He stated that an amount of £655,000 had been included within the Draft Capital Programme for 2007/2008 for this project, for which 100% grant-aid was anticipated from the Belfast Regeneration Office.

Accordingly, he recommended that the Sub-Committee grant the delegated authority sought to the Director of Community and Recreation and the Head of Parks and Cemeteries Services, in consultation with the Chairman of the Community and Recreation Committee.

The Sub-Committee adopted the recommendation, subject to the cost of the project being 100% grant aided by the Belfast Regeneration Office.

