

ANGUS COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 14 NOVEMBER 2017

BRECHIN COMMUNITY CAMPUS PUBLIC PLAY AREA

REPORT BY HEAD OF HOUSING, REGULATORY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES

ABSTRACT

Committee report 601/13 agreed the Standard for Play Area Provision in Angus and a five year strategy for resulting play area improvements and disinvestments. This report updates members on progress made, and brings forward a recommendation in relation to a new playpark for Brechin.

1. RECOMMENDATION

1.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) Notes the updates in relation to Carnoustie and Monifieth,
- (ii) Agrees that the site for the new playpark in Brechin should be the community campus.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT/CORPORATE PLAN

This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016:

- Our communities are developed in a sustainable manner
- Communities that are prosperous and fair
- Communities that are safe and strong

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 In 2013 a council-wide review and extensive consultation were carried out on the provision of equipped public play areas, followed by meetings on a Ward by Ward basis with local Elected Members. Committee report 601/13 agreed the Standard for Play Area Provision in Angus and a five year strategy for resulting play area improvements and disinvestments.

4. CURRENT POSITION

4.1 When applying the Standard three gaps became apparent in the current play provision, one each in Carnoustie, Monifieth and Brechin and the Committee agreed that these gaps were to be filled as part of the five year plan. The new play area in Carnoustie was installed in 2015 at Chapman Drive Park.

4.2 A suitable location for the identified gap in the west of Monifieth is still being investigated. The preferred option of investing in a public play area in the grounds of Grange Primary School, which could also provide specialist equipment to the adjacent additional support needs facility, has been put on hold to allow for a wider school and community campus review in the town.

4.3 The local Elected Members in Brechin had proposed that the gap in the northwest of Brechin should be addressed during the construction of the new Brechin Community Campus. In consultation with the project manager and the head teacher of the school a suitable location has been found in the campus and a design prepared for the new play park.

- 4.4 The location has been selected for its easy accessibility as it is adjacent to a public right of way leading from Duke Street to The Banks and the Brechin Nature Trail. It is also well overlooked by the Campus building and users of the sports pitches and car parks. The play area will be fenced off to prevent the children accessing the surrounding steep embankments and also to provide a clear demarcation of land.
- 4.5 The play area provides equipment for the use of 3 to 8 year olds in the form of a net climbing unit with slide and climbing wall access and a single and double springer. The swing frame will provide cradle seats for toddlers and flat seats for older children and also a basket seat, which can be used by children of all abilities. Another inclusive play unit is the dish roundabout on accessible surfacing. For children over 5 to early teens the stainless steel Cosmo unit provides a variety of climbing, sliding and rotating elements. Seating and a litter bin will also be provided. If agreed, then further details relating to the exact location of the play area and the equipment to be provided will be sent to local elected members in due course but a proposed layout is shown in **Appendix 1**.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The costs of £90,000 for the installation of the play park can be accommodated in the year 5 spend of the Play Area Improvement Programme, which is funded from HRPS's Capital Allocation for 17/18.
- 5.2 The maintenance and inspection of the play area will be carried out by the Parks & Burial Grounds section in HRPS and be accommodated in current revenue budgets. The ground will be transferred from the Children and Learning Directorate to Parks & Burial Grounds. It is also proposed to remove the swing unit in adjacent Mountskip Park when construction works are complete to reduce overall maintenance and inspection costs. This equipment had already been earmarked for removal once it posed a Health and Safety risk.

NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

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List of Appendices: Appendix 1 – Brechin Community Campus Playpark (plan)