

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD**

**18 May 2010**

**Report of the Chief Leisure Officer**

**Part 1- Public**

**Matters for Information**

**1 CAPITAL PLAN PROGRESS REPORT**

**Summary**

**This report advises Members of progress with schemes contained in the Leisure Services section of the Capital Plan.**

**1.1 Introduction**

1.1.1 There are a number of Leisure schemes included in the Council's Capital Plan, and it is important that progress is kept under regular review. An update is attached at **[Annex 1]**. Members will be pleased to note that a significant number of schemes are now completed.

**1.2 Priory Wood – Children's Play**

1.2.1 Members will note from **[Annex 1]** the proposed scheme to provide an informal five-a-side kick-about area, together with general site improvements including signage and fencing at Priory Wood Public Open Space.

1.2.2 Due to the site's prior use as a landfill site, investigations have been undertaken to establish the suitability of the site for the works in liaison with the Director of Health and Housing. Following ground investigations undertaken by an external environmental consultant, Environmental Services Group Ltd, it was concluded that the Council could proceed with the plans to provide play facilities at the site, however, this would be subject to appropriate remedial works.

1.2.3 Whilst Environmental Services Group's investigations verified the site's suitability, it also identified issues that will need to be taken into consideration when creating the proposed new kick-about area. These issues include the prior consolidation of the area, and consideration being given to importing soil to the site to level the undulating ground surface as opposed to any cut and fill exercise. In regard to soil importation this must be subject to appropriate chemical analysis.

1.2.4 Taking the above into consideration and in consultation with the Director of Health and Housing, Environmental Services Group have now been commissioned to develop a Remediation Method Statement and Verification Report in regard to the

project. This information will then provide a precise specification for the works required and allow the Council to price this accordingly. A stock of soil in the Council's ownership has been identified and, subject to chemical analysis, it is proposed that this be used to reduce the overall potential costs of the project. It is the intention to report the details of the scheme to the next meeting of this Board, to enable the works to be completed within the current financial year.

### **1.3 Legal Implications**

1.3.1 None.

### **1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations**

1.4.1 A number of schemes within the Capital Plan represent significant levels of investment. The Council's Financial Procedure and Contract Procedure Rules are adhered to in all cases, and projects are delivered and monitored in close liaison with the Director of Finance and the Central Services Director.

### **1.5 Risk Assessment**

1.5.1 The delivery of projects within the Capital Plan is identified in relevant Operational Risk Registers within the Service. A number of existing controls are in place to help deliver projects in accordance with the design brief, on timescale and within budget. These controls include the preparation of design briefs, use of consultant teams where applicable, compliance with Contract and Financial Procedure Rules, an Officer Study Team approach, and regular reports to Management Team and Members.

### **1.6 Policy Considerations**

1.6.1 Healthy Lifestyles, Asset Management, Young People, Procurement, Community, Crime & Disorder Reduction.

Background papers:

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Nil

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