

# **EASTLEIGH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, 14 September 2021**

## **FINANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT**

**Report of the Local Area Manager**

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### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that:

- (1) **£208,896 is allocated for public art at North Stoneham Park from developers' contributions;**
  - (2) **Up to £14,000 is allocated to Pirelli Park climbing frame upgrade from Pirelli Park developers' contributions set aside for future maintenance; and**
  - (3) **Up to £8,000 is allocated for the refurbishment of the Bandstand from the Town Centre Maintenance revenue budget.**
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### **Summary**

This report contains recommendations for expenditure from the Committee's capital budget and revenue budget.

#### **Statutory Powers**

Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 i.e. the Local Authority's general power of competence, including power to act for the benefit of its area or persons resident or present in its area.

### **Strategic Implications**

2. The recommendations in this report support the Council's approach to localism (Local First) by allocating devolved resources to meet local needs. The recommendations align with Corporate Plan objectives of Tackling Deprivation, Enabling Healthier Lifestyles and Wellbeing, Supporting an Excellent Environment, and Reinvigorating Town and Local Centres.

### **North Stoneham Park Public Art**

3. The North Stoneham Park developer is funding a substantial amount of public art within North Stoneham Park in line with the Council's agreed approach to Public Art. The artwork will create local distinctiveness and add to the sense of place. A Public Art Strategy for the estate sets out the locations for the art

pieces and the key themes to be reflected in the final pieces, which are now being commissioned. £71,421 of developers' contributions were allocated for this project at the 17 November 2020 Committee and since then the Council has received further £208,896. It therefore recommended £208,896 is allocated to the project from developers' contributions from O/15/76023, Highwood Group, Land South of Chestnut Ave/North Stoneham Park, Eastleigh.

4. The final decision on the public art pieces has been delegated to the Stoneham Public Art Project Board and is monitored through the Eastleigh Local Public Open Spaces Programme Board. The design and build team have been appointed and a public consultation will be held on the Sunday 3 October. Final installation will happen in the early part of 2022.

### **Pirelli Park Climbing Frame**

5. The new Pirelli Park Play Area was completed and opened to the public in May this year. It has been very well received; however, it has suffered some notable vandalism, which has rendered the large climbing frame unsafe.
6. The installer has produced similar pieces in other locations, and these have remained unscathed. No play equipment can be made completely vandal-proof in the face of concerted attempts; however, the project team would like to reduce the likelihood of similar vandalism occurring again by removing the more vulnerable elements. Options are currently being developed by the installer, such as removing the overhead netting, designed to keep children within the specified fall height. In this scenario the resulting increase in fall height means a compensating upgrade is required with the impact absorbing surface below. One benefit resulting from this approach is a corresponding increase in the overall play value for the children using it.
7. While the final option has yet to be agreed, it is recommended that up to £14,000 is allocated from the £75,000 commuted sum set aside for future maintenance from F/11/70044, Bellway Homes, Prysmian Cables, Leigh Road Eastleigh.

### **Eastleigh Bandstand redecoration**

8. The Bandstand on Leigh Road Recreation Ground was last repainted in 2012 and is now needing redecoration, together with minor electrical repairs to the overhead lighting and a clean of the upper surface of the roof.
9. A budget estimate of £7,000 has been given by the Building Surveyors, but this is subject to three quotes. Councillors would like the Council to complete the work in time for this year's Remembrance Service, so it is recommended that £8,000 is allocated for the work from the Town Centre Maintenance cost centre within the Revenue Budget. We are exploring other possible funding, for example the Repairs and Renewals budget.

## **Equality and Diversity Implications**

10. An Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out for this report, as the projects are designed to be inclusive, however, separate further consideration of the inclusivity and accessibility aspect will be carried out as part of the project delivery.
11. For example, The Pirelli Park Play Area provides a range of accessible play opportunities with each of the main items and landscaping. The design brief for the Stoneham Public Art also includes accessibility criteria, and this aspect will be reviewed by the project team as part of the design process.

## **Climate Change and Environmental Implications**

12. The Pirelli Play Area is largely constructed using Forest Stewardship Council accredited timber. The paint used for the bandstand will be low in organic volatiles and will therefore be less harmful and less polluting to the atmosphere. Maintaining high quality facilities and providing free music performances every weekend through the summer reduces the need to travel.

## **Conclusion**

13. This report recommends the allocation of developers' contributions for public art and play facilities, together with revenue funding for the redecoration of Eastleigh Bandstand.

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Appendices Attached: None

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - SECTION 100D**

The following is a list of documents which disclose facts or matters on which this report or an important part of it is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. This list does not include any published works or documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information.

None.