

SUBJECT:	Play and Recreation S106 Capital Funded Schemes 2021/22
MEETING:	Individual Cabinet Member Decision
DATE:	22nd December 2021
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	All Wards

1. PURPOSE:

To create capital budgets in 2021/22 to facilitate the upgrading of a number of fixed playgrounds in different parts of the county and to cover additional consultancy costs in relation to the proposed Abergavenny Velo Park project.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS that:

2.1 a capital budget of £20,580 be created in 2021/22 to fund the installation of additional play equipment at the Sudbrook Playpark, and that this is funded by a corresponding contribution from the Section 106 balances held by the council from the S106 Agreement in relation to the Old Shipyard Sudbrook development site (Finance Code N632).

2.2 a capital budget of £28,000 be created in 2021/22 to fund additional consultancy costs incurred for the Abergavenny Velo Park scheme, and that this is funded by a corresponding contribution from the Section 106 balances held by the council from the S106 Agreement in relation to the Westgate Llanfoist development site (Finance Code N560).

2.3 a capital budget of £40,000 be created in 2021/22 to part fund the play area alterations being undertaken in the Rockfield area of Monmouth as part of the Community Nature Spaces project, and that this is funded by a corresponding contribution from the Section 106 Major Maintenance balance held by the council from the Section 106 Agreement in relation to the Rockfield Road development site (Finance Code N499).

3. KEY ISSUES:

3.1 The Section 106 Agreement for the development of dwellings on the former shipyard site in Sudbrook contained a provision for an off-site contribution of £17,500 to provide additional play equipment on the main village playground on land to the rear of Post Office Row in Sudbrook.

3.2 The contribution was index linked with the retail price index, so the amount received is £20,580. The works to install the additional play equipment is planned for December and the contribution now needs to be uploaded into the 2021/22 capital budget to cover the cost of the works.

- 3.3 The planning application for the proposed new velo park on the council's landholding at Racecourse Farm Llanfoist is at an advanced stage, following the pre-application and full public consultation periods. This is an environmentally sensitive site and detailed studies have been undertaken to protect the ecology and biodiversity of the area.
- 3.4 During the consultation period, a need was identified for further studies to be undertaken, in response to the observations submitted by Natural Resources Wales (NRW). There is a need to upload some of the Section 106 funding received from the Westgate development (in the immediate vicinity of the velo park site) to cover the additional studies and further work required to satisfy the planning requirements already identified.
- 3.5 Site works have commenced on developing the Community Nature Spaces project in the Rockfield area of Monmouth, details of which have been reported to members previously. In brief the project involves converting a number of the smaller less well-used play areas into community spaces with elements of wild play, whilst at the same time investing in new play equipment and refurbishing some of the other play spaces in the area.
- 3.6 A large majority of the works are being funded through a combination of grants from the Local Places for Nature programme and the all-Wales play opportunities grant from Welsh Government. However, some aspects of the work involve renewing or removing existing play area safety surfacing and renewing paths and the funding for this is to be met from the developer's S106 commuted sum payments received from housing developments in the Rockfield area of Monmouth.. Commuted sum payments are provided for general play area maintenance and include capital elements for footpath and safety surfacing renewals at five-year and ten-year intervals.
- 3.7 The proposal is for funding of £40,000 from the Rockfield Road commuted major maintenance contribution, to be utilised in the council's capital budget for this financial year. This will leave sufficient funding available in the commuted sums balances for ongoing and routine maintenance and future capital costs when required.

4. EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING)

The EQIA is attached to this report at Appendix 1. This highlights the positive impacts of play and outdoor recreation on children/young people, families and communities.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Option	Benefits	Risks
Don't approve the report recommendation	None	The main risk is that the capital budget will be overspent at the year end. A lesser risk is that work will be delayed, and this will affect the ability of one or more of the projects to proceed
Approve the report recommendation	The funding will be available to cover the expenditure already committed or incurred. The play area works will be completed and the velo park project will be further advanced.	

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Progress will be monitored in June 2022 to ensure that the play area works are completed and the velo park planning application has been approved.

7. REASON

This is a continuation of the council's continued investment in recreation and play to achieve significant community benefits, but there needs to be an approved budget in place to cover the costs incurred.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no additional resource implications, as the expenditure involved will be covered by Section 106 balances.

9. CONSULTEES

Chief Operating Officer MonLife Cabinet SLT

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

11. AUTHOR & CONTACT DETAILS:

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