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Date: *17 September 2014*

NOTIFICATION OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION

On 16 September 2014, Cllr Vickers, the Planning and Transportation Portfolio Holder, made the following decision. Any member of the Council, who is not a Portfolio Holder, who considers that this decision should be reviewed should give notice to the Monitoring Officer (Grainne O'Rourke) (in writing or by e-mail) to be received **ON OR BY 5.15 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 2014.**

Details of the documents the Portfolio Holder considered are attached.

DECISION:

To agree the allocation of £70,000 from open space developers' contributions for a replacement skate park at the War Memorial Recreation Ground, New Milton

REASON(S):

As set out in the report considered by the Portfolio Holder.

ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED:

As set out in the report considered by the Portfolio Holder.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED:

None

For Further Information Please Contact:

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Or

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**ALLOCATION OF OPEN SPACE DEVELOPERS' CONTRIBUTIONS:
Replacement Skate Park, War Memorial Recreation Ground, New Milton**

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 New Forest District Council, through its planning development control powers, collects contributions (through a Section 106 agreement) to mitigate the impacts of new developments on existing communities in the areas where it is responsible for town planning.
- 1.2 In May 2012 the Council approved a new process for the allocation and spending of developers' contributions for inclusion in the Council's capital programme, beginning in 2013/14. In February 2014 Cabinet approved a number of projects for which developer contributions could be used. The agreed projects were set out in two lists as follows:
- (a) Fully developed projects for inclusion in 13/14 programme;
 - (b) Category B contained two types of projects:
 - Projects that need to be developed further to determine costs/scope.
 - Projects where insufficient funding currently exists but should be ready if a additional funding is made available;
- 1.3 The February 2014 Cabinet report authorised the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation to make such amendments as he deems appropriate to the approved project lists included within the 2014/15 budget.
- 1.4 This report seeks to approve additional funding for an existing approved project to provide a replacement skate park at the War Memorial Recreation Ground, New Milton. This will enable its immediate implementation.

2 POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 2.1 This project will benefit a wide sector of the community and responds positively to Core Strategy policies, in particular:
- CS2 Design Quality (high quality environmental design that respects the local context);
 - CS3 Safe and Healthy Communities (safe and well structured open space);
 - CS7 Open Space Sport and Recreation (creating and enhancing high quality public spaces that are fit for purpose).

3 PROJECT PROPOSAL

- 3.1 An initial allocation of £100,000 was made in January 2013 for the provision of a replacement skate park on the Recreation Ground. The project has been developed through a project Steering Group, comprising officers and members of town and district council. Cllr Christine Ward is the NFDC Member on this Steering Group. A successful grant application was made to Sport England who will provide £50,000 subject to meeting

required completion deadlines. Following further local consultation, additional design and project development work has been undertaken, and it is now proposed to include ancillary drainage works, tree and shrub planting in the adjacent areas, new footpath links, and restoration of the existing skate park area which will become redundant when the new facility is built. The cost of these additional elements inclusive of fees and contingencies is £70,000. New Milton Town Council approved the expenditure of this additional sum at its Amenities Committee meeting of 15 July 2014 (Minute #32) and its full Council meeting on 17 July 2014 (Minute #39) and has formally requested the release of this sum to enable the project to be implemented.

- 3.2 The scheme was considered by NFDC Planning Development Control Committee on 10 September 2014 (Application 14/11042) and was unanimously approved.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 £100,000 was approved by Cabinet in January 2013. It had been anticipated that additional funding might be required, but a conscious decision was taken not to seek this too early, in order not to compromise the chance of securing external grants, and because it was felt better to wait until the a final comprehensive scheme estimate was available. Sport England have offered a grant of £50,000 subject to meeting required completion deadlines. An additional £70,000 is required to complete the project, and this sum is available from the open space funds held for New Milton.

4.2 By approving these additional funds now it will enable the monies to be spent in the financial year 2014/15 and assist in delivering the implementation programme and spend the currently held developer contribution monies on a suitable and already approved project.

5 CONSULTATION INPUT

5.1 The project was initiated at the request of New Milton Town Council and has been developed through the same project Steering Group that also developed the Pavilion project. Extensive consultation with the local community has been undertaken initially on the Vision Plan for the Recreation Ground, subsequently on the Pavilion, and most recently on the Skate Park project. The existing skate park users have been closely involved, as have other sectors of the local community. It is noteworthy that when the scheme was taken to Planning Committee for approval, there were no objections whatsoever, and thirteen letters of support.

5.2 The project was also discussed at a series of informal member meetings in both October 2012 and October 2013, so local members have already indicated their support for this project.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Delivery of this scheme is considered to be environmentally beneficial. The new skate park is a more imaginative and attractive design than the old outworn one it replaces.

7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Continued provision of facilities of this nature for young people in the town centre is considered beneficial in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, and is supported by the Community Safety officer.

8 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The Vision Plan for the Recreation Ground specifically seeks to promote the provision of amenity for the whole community, and whilst the skate park will of course be of particular interest to those directly using it, the needs of other actual and potential users of the recreation ground have also been taken into account.

9 ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

9.1 The existing skate park has reached the end of its useful life and is in need of replacement. Not approving this allocation at this time would slow down the implementation of the open space programme and the expenditure of funds held for the specific purpose of delivering much-needed provision and renewal of local recreational facilities.

10 RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 It is **RECOMMENDED** that an allocation of £70,000 from open space developers' contributions is made as detailed in the report.

11 PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION

I have agreed to the recommendations of this report.

Signed: **CLLR F P VICKERS**

Date: 16.09.10

<p>For further information contact:</p> <p>Neil Williamson Environmental Design Manager Tel: 023 8028 5345 E mail: neil.williamson@nfdc.gov.uk</p> <p>or</p> <p>Dean Brunton Planning Policy Officer Policy and Plans Team Tel: 023 8028 5345 E mail: dean.brunton@nfdc.gov.uk</p>	<p>Background Papers:</p> <p>16 January 2013 Cabinet Paper "Allocation of developer contributions" http://forestnet2/committeedocs/cab/CDR08046.pdf</p> <p>5 February 2014 Cabinet paper "Allocation of developer contributions" http://www.newforest.gov.uk/committeedocs/cab/CDR08830.pdf</p>
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Date on which notice given of this Decision - 17 September 2014

Last date for call-in - 24 September 2014