

Leisure, Culture & Green Spaces Policy Development Advisory Group
17 JANUARY 2024

Present: Councillors: Jon Olson (Chairman), Sam Bateman, Emma Beard, James Brookes, Jon Campbell, Nigel Emery, Anthony Frankland, Roger Noel, Josh Potts and Jonathan Taylor

21 **NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The notes of the meeting held on 14 November 2024 were received.

22 **PLAY SPACES- REFURBISHMENT AND RENEWAL**

Members received a presentation on the programme and approach to refurbishing play areas within the Horsham District. They heard that HDC was responsible for 52 play areas within the District. The Parks and Countryside Development Manager explained the strategy focused on improvements to provide better play value to a wider age range, utilising areas with open spaces. An emphasis across all parks was to use natural materials, increase play spaces, remove fences where possible, and provide cohesion throughout the play space.

The Parks and Countryside Development Manager provided detail on the frequency of inspections of play equipment. She further detailed the criteria for prioritisation of replacement play equipment. The reasons for replacement being age, safety, likely usage, public interest, proximity to other play spaces and inclusivity.

A breakdown of funding for play spaces was provided explaining how S106 contributions are utilised as well as external grants and big lottery funding. Members were briefed on future plans such as improvement projects in Holbrook East, Billingshurst, Southwater and Pulborough as well as a focus on youth activity areas to ensure that the play spaces provided are inclusive and innovating.

23 **INVESTMENT IN THE CAPITOL THEATRE: DECARBONISATION AND REFURBISHMENT**

The Head of Leisure and Culture updated Members that the Cabinet report would be considered at Cabinet on 25 January.

Members noted the cost of the works were £10.7m. Which included £2.9m of contingency sum that would be used to address any unexpected issues.

24 **ANNUAL PLAN 2024/2025**

The Director of Communities provided a presentation setting out the annual plan initiatives that related to the Leisure, Culture and Greenspaces portfolio. These included new play spaces, scoping development of cultural strategy for the Horsham District, creating a Denne Road Cemetery heritage trail, investments in improvements at the Southwater Country Park toilet facilities and installation of an outdoor gym at Bennetts Field.

Members discussed how the task and finish group can collaborate with this policy advisory group to achieve positive outcomes.

25 **FORWARD PLAN EXTRACT FOR THE LEISURE, CULTURE & GREEN SPACES PORTFOLIO**

The forward plan extract was noted.

The meeting closed at 6.15 pm having commenced at 5.30 pm

CHAIRMAN