

Porritt Park Playground Renewal Request

TO Thames Community Board
FROM Derek Thompson - Parks Contracts Manager
DATE 19 October 2015
SUBJECT **Porritt Park Playground Renewal Request**

1 Purpose of Report

To request funding that is allocated in Thames Parks and Reserves Renewals in relation to Porritt Park for Year 2 of the LTP (16/17), be brought forward to the current financial year (Year 1 - 15/16) to allow for better synergy with the works currently being undertaken on the playground.

2 Background

In preparation for the proposed Skate Park new toilets have been constructed in Porritt Park with the current ones scheduled for demolition. The relocation of the public toilet means that the configuration of the playground will have to change.

Work has been undertaken in consultation with local schools to explain the reasons for the change and also to seek input on new equipment choices to replace what needs to be taken out of the playground.

Additional work is being undertaken on landscaping surrounding the new toilet to enhance the park, contain the play area and separate it from other activities while providing direct access to the toilets from within the play area.

Budget was allocated in the current financial year as part of the 2015-2025 Long Term Plan (LTP) process for play equipment replacement/relocation and for play area expansion in line with the toilet relocation.

A funding application is to be submitted to the Potters Masonic Trust to fund the difference between the Council budgeted amount and what would be required to complete the project to a higher specification.

3 Issue

As part of its management of parks assets, Council maintains a database that values and depreciates assets on a lifecycle basis that informs the renewals budgets.

As part of the planning process for Year 2 of the LTP, staff have identified that \$31,444 of the Parks & Reserves Renewal budget is identified for the renewal of the Porritt Park soft fall.

With all the works in the playground planned to take place in 2015/2016 it would be reasonable to consider bringing forward the budget to allow all the works to take place in the same financial year.

4 Discussion

If the budget is left in the 2016/2017 year it will mean closing all or parts of the playground down at another time causing disruption in the future rather than undertaking all the works over the same period.

The additional spend in this financial year will also add weight to the application to the Potters Masonic Trust for approximately \$200,000 to fund the additional works over and above what the Council budget can provide.

5 Suggested Resolution(s)

That the Thames Community Board:

1. Receives the Porritt Park Playground Renewal Request report dated 19 October 2015.
2. Recommends that Council approves to bring forward \$31,444 from Year 2 of the LTP Parks & Reserves Renewals budget (Project PKS171069) to year 1 of the LTP Parks & Reserves Renewals budget (Project PKS161069).

References-Tabled/Agenda Attachments

Attachment A *Project Information Document for Year 2 of the LTP*

[Attachment A - Project Information Document for Year Two of LTP](#)