



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Belfast Zoo Playground – match funding
Date:	24 August 2012
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects, Ext 6217

1.0	<u>Relevant Background Information</u>
1.1	The Parks and Leisure Committee in 2010 authorised their Landscape Reviewing team to design a new scheme for the zoo playground as an enhanced facility was deemed a priority given the increasing visitor numbers.
1.2	The Committee also sought that the scheme be included in the capital programme and supported a bid to the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) Tourist Development Scheme.

2.0	<u>Key Issues</u>
2.1	The original application for TDS funding was unsuccessful and the Council was notified of this in January 2012. The scheme was never included in the capital programme as the processes now agreed by the SP&R Committee had not taken full effect and no business case had been produced for consideration.
2.2	In June 2012 the NITB contacted the Council to state that the project had been placed on a reserve list and in July advised that the zoo playground project would proceed to a full economic appraisal.
2.3	The economic appraisal included the production of a full business case with confirmation of matched funding as the TDS provide 50% grants funding.
2.4	The above has been reported to the Parks and Leisure Committee who now seek SP&R approval to include an allowance of £215,000 matched funding in the capital programme for this project.
2.5	Although this project has taken an irregular route to the capital programme the Director of Finance & Resources has confirmed that the £215,000 is affordable in this instance if Members wish to support this project. However he has stressed the importance of following the agreed process to taking projects to the capital programme in terms of financial planning and borrowing requirements.

3.0	Equality Consideration
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The process of an enhanced playground at the zoo will provide improved play facilities to a greater range of visitors in terms of age and ability.	
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5.0	Recommendations
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It is recommended that Committee agree to include the £215,000 match funding in the capital programme and also emphasise the importance of complying with the agreed committee process in terms of capital projects.	
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6.0	Appendices
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| 1. Parks and Leisure Committee report dated 9 August 2012. | |
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