

Agenda Item	20(c)
Report No	CIA/33/18

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: City of Inverness Area Committee

Date: 31 May 2018

Report Title: Whin Park Improvement Works

Report By: Director of Community Services

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report identifies improvement works recently completed by Community Services and further added value works which are required at Whin Park over the next two years to improve visitors' experience.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:-

- i. Note the details of work already completed and the proposed programme of improvement works proposed for Whin Park;
- ii. Approve the funding to complete the added value works over the next two years.

3. Whin Park Improvements

3.1 Whin Park play area is one of 4 strategic principal play facilities within the City of Inverness. The other 3 are:-

- Bellfield;
- Inshes; and
- Walker Park

Whin Park is a destination play attraction for children from across the City and beyond.

3.2 The significance of the Park has increased since the opening of the Westlink at the end of 2017, and the associated improvements to the surrounding infrastructure and Core Paths.

3.3 In 2006 the facilities in the park benefitted from £50,000 investment from the Common Good Fund to improve play provision and provide additional equipment and surfacing. During the annual independent safety inspection of play facilities in 2017, the equipment received a score of 9.6 out of a possible 10.

3.4 There has been no further investment in the Park since 2006. A recent site visit conducted by members and officers identified a number of improvements that would enhance the visitor experience in the Park.

3.5 There are 3 franchises within the Park, and the income is received by HighLife Highland. The income from these goes towards offsetting the Service Level Agreement work carried out by Community Services for HighLife Highland on the site.

4. Works Completed by Community Services

4.1 Work carried out by Community Services through our routine inspection, maintenance and repair programme over the last 6 months includes:-

- Play area surfacing repairs;
- Fencing repairs at the climbing net;
- Repair of the zip wire; and
- The repair of 6 benches

4.2 Community Services will continue to maintain the site with regard to play equipment inspection and repairs, grass cutting and emptying bins.

5. Proposed Added Value Investment

5.1 In addition to the works carried out by Community Services identified in paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2, proposals have been developed for a two year added value investment programme. This would include the redistribution of play equipment which is being made available through the rationalisation of play facilities within Inverness.

5.2 The added value works which are being proposed are:-

- Supply and fit 102m of 1.2m green fencing; and remove and dispose of existing fencing £5,600;
- Replace all bins with seagull proof bins (purchase and install 30 bins, 15 per year for the next two years) £11,510;

- Various path repairs £14,640;
- Paint and stain all wooden play equipment £12,600;
- Path edging at side of slide repaired £650; and
- Re-distribution of play equipment from the rationalisation of other play facilities in Inverness; installation and surfacing costs £20,000 (£10,000 per year over the next two years)

5.3 The aim of this work is to improve the facilities offered to families visiting the park, and to increase its attractiveness as a family destination.

5.4 Timescale for completion of the works is by end of October 2019.

6. Implications

6.1 Resource – funding required to complete the added value improvement works of £65,000 (£32,500 per year for the next two years).

6.2 Legal – no implications.

6.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) – no implications.

6.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever – no implications.

6.5 Risk – no implications.

6.6 Gaelic - this report has no impact on Equality or Gaelic.

Designation: Director of Community Services

Date: 17 April 2018

Author: Debbie Sutton, Amenities Manager (South)