

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

**North East Area Council Meeting:
3rd April 2014**

Agenda Item: NEAC 3.4.14/5e

**Report of North East Area Council
Manager**

Parks Service Play Areas Service Level Agreement

1. Background

1.1 Playground Inspection and Repair Process

Local Authorities do not have a statutory duty to provide Children's Play Areas, but where Play Areas are provided, under the Health and Safety Act 1974, they have a statutory duty to inspect and maintain them in accordance with current guidelines and British Standard recommendations. Park Services currently maintain and inspect 135 play sites across the Borough. These sites are maintained in accordance with British Standards BSEN 1176 and 1177.

2. Key Considerations

2.1 In 2014 – 2015 the Playgrounds Fitters will continue to carry out inspections on a bi-monthly schedule and they will also be required as part of their operational inspection, to carry out minor repairs. These minor repairs will include replacing swing seats and chains, nuts and bolts, replacement panels and bearings, small welding repairs such as gates and fences and minor repairs to surfacing.

2.2 The majority of these repairs will be sustained within the playground maintenance budget. However, if the equipment or surfacing is damaged or vandalised beyond economical repair Parks Services may not be able to reinstate the equipment to meet the required Health and Safety standards. Consequently if equipment or surfacing is damaged or vandalised, dependant on the Health & Safety risk and the severity of the damage, the options will be to:

- Remove the equipment from site
- Make the equipment as safe as possible and put out of action. Then seek other funding opportunities for replacement or repair.

2.3 The cost of repairs in the North East area, which includes 31 play sites, due to damage or vandalism since 2011 is recorded as follows:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|--|
| • April 2011 – March 2012 | £4,702.22 | |
| • April 2012 – March 2013 - | £5,862.50 | |
| • April 2013 – March 2014 | £7,495.00 | this equates to 16% of the play budget of which the majority of spend was on repairs caused through vandalism. |

It is therefore proposed that the North East Area Council agree a contingency sum of £10,000 be ring fenced to be used for a Service Level Agreement with Parks Service to replace equipment and safety surfacing, if required, across the 31 play sites of the North East Area Council.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 That a contingency sum of £10,000 be ring fenced to be used for a Service Level Agreement with Parks Services, to replace equipment and safety surfacing, if required, across the 31 play sites of the North East Area Council.**

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Date:

April 3rd 2014.