

14. NEW BRIGHTON MALL PLAYGROUND - FUNDING REQUEST

General Manager responsible:	General Manager City Environment
Officer responsible:	Transport and City Streets Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to request that the Board make a funding contribution towards the New Brighton Mall playground structure which doubles as an artwork.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The New Brighton Mall Upgrade is currently underway and works relating to the slow road are due to be complete early December 2005. During the design of the road it was decided that old equipment was not suitable and therefore new play equipment would be installed and targeted at pre-school and primary school age children.
3. A suitable location for the new play equipment is a site on the east side of the slow road between the pedestrian Mall and Beresford Street, as approved by the Board on 7 September 2005.
4. A seminar held for Board Members in October 2005 included the presentation of options for the play area equipment. The option which included a unique one-off integrated artwork that would provide an alternative play experience for pre-school and primary school children with some traditional, marine-themed equipment was favoured by those present.
5. Council officers are now progressing the project as an artwork project which will be driven by an Advisory Group.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

6. The estimated total costs for this project are \$25,000. There are currently no programmed budgets for this project so funding is being sought from other sources. The Council's integrated art fund has made \$10,000 available for the art component of the project.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Board:

- (a) Receive the funding application and make a \$10,000 contribution towards the play area.
- (b) Nominate a representative to join the Advisory Group.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board:

1. Allocate \$5,000 from its 2005/06 Discretionary Fund towards the play area.
2. Agree to consider allocating \$5,000 from its 2006/07 Project Funding towards the play area.
3. Appoint the Board chairperson to the Advisory Group.

BACKGROUND ON NEW BRIGHTON MALL PLAY AREA

7. The New Brighton Mall Upgrade is currently underway and works relating to the slow road are due to be complete early December 2005.
8. A children's playground existed in what was previously the pedestrian mall, as part of the construction of the slow road through the mall that playground was removed. The original intention was re-install the playground equipment in another part of the mall if there was enough space. During the design of the road it was decided that old equipment was too big and therefore new play equipment would be installed and targeted at pre-school and primary school age children.
9. A suitable location for the new play equipment was investigated by Council officers in conjunction with the Artworks in Burwood/Pegasus Working Party who recommended a site on the east side of the slow road between the pedestrian Mall and Beresford Street. This location was approved by the Board on 7 September 2005.
10. A seminar held for Board Members in October 2005 included the presentation of options for the play area equipment. The option which included a unique one-off integrated artwork that would provide an alternative play experience for pre-school and primary school children with some traditional, marine themed equipment was favoured by those present.
11. Council officers are now progressing the project and the process is explained below.

ARTWORKS PROCESS

12. An Advisory Group will be established to overview the project and provide input on designs. This will consist of Council staff and representatives from the Artworks in Burwood/Pegasus Working Party, the Board and a local pre-school facility. The Council's Arts Adviser is providing guidance throughout the process.
13. A brief will be issued to three or four artists considered appropriate for this type of artwork with a request for initial concepts to be submitted by February 2006. The Advisory Group will select the concept to be taken to the next stage of design and inform the Board of the outcome.
14. The concept will be fully designed within a two month period and reviewed by the Advisory Group at regular stages.
15. The sculpture will be installed in May or June.
16. A sun shade arrangement may be required for the play area but this will be assessed upon completion of the area and can be retrofitted if necessary.

CONSULTATION

17. Community consultation will take the form of updates on the project. Public input and decisions on concepts is not appropriate because individuals have a range of opinions and tastes. The role of the Advisory Group is to represent the community and make a choice they consider appropriate.

FUNDING

18. There is no specific budget programmed for the play area, the budget for the slow road will not have any available surplus.
19. An application to the integrated art fund was successful and \$10,000 has been made available for the project. However, this fund is intended to top up existing budgets and therefore cannot be the only source of funding. Other sources of funding are therefore being explored.
20. Sponsorship from local businesses/interest groups could be an option but due to the low response to the surfboard seat sponsorship offer there is a low expectation of success.
21. Funding from the Board's Discretionary fund would greatly help progress this project and allow the sculpture to be installed this financial year.

22. An earlier report to the Board (7 September) indicated a cost of \$60,000 for the playground area, this was very conservative and we now believe that the sculpture, standard play equipment pieces and soft fall area can be achieved with around \$25,000-\$30,000. The report stated that the funding would be available from Greenspace and Transport and City Streets budgets. This is not programmed and therefore not available this financial year. The work would need to be prioritised against other projects in future years. However, Greenspace are able to fund the supply and installation of the soft area (approximately \$5,000) in this financial year.

OPTIONS

23. The Board may wish to consider the options and implications of providing funding for this project.

Option 1

The Board provide \$10,000 towards the project which enables the project to be progressed this financial year and the upgrade of the Mall would be complete.

Option 2

The Board provides a lesser amount towards the project and the remainder is 13.586. Tal y t-6.4(e)-d t
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