

## 9. BEXLEY RESERVE PLAYGROUND DEVELOPMENT

<b>General Manager responsible:</b>	General Manager City Environment, DDI 941-8656
<b>Officer responsible:</b>	Transport and Greenspace Manager
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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to confirm Board support for the plan of Bexley Reserve Playground following community consultation.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Bexley Reserve is an important site being rehabilitated to create a high value Greenspace asset for the local community. Each year another capital project is completed as a step towards implementing the Master Plan concept developed in 1992. So far projects have all concentrated on tidying up the reserve front area. The next step (2007/08 financial year) will be tidying and landscaping the Knights Pond area.
3. Whilst there is a proposal on the Master Plan to install a theme playground there is currently no play equipment on site. The area designated for a theme playground is yet to have the ground prepared and is not programmed for another 10 years. However, the recent availability of the disestablished New Brighton play equipment has created the opportunity to upgrade and repaint this equipment and offer the use of it at Bexley Reserve.
4. Council staff initially met with the Bexley Residents' Association and Board members to gain an understanding of whether it would be considered appropriate, or not, to relocate this equipment to Bexley Reserve. The concept received unanimous support so a location was sought for maximum safety and consultation undertaken.
5. A preliminary development plan was circulated to key stakeholders in August 2006 to obtain feedback on its design. The final plan, which is **attached** to this report, aims to reflect the views of the community and has been refined in response to community feedback.

### FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

6. There is \$20,000 available in the Greenspace 2006/07 financial year to implement the playground. Whilst this is not a significant amount, obtaining the play equipment recently removed from New Brighton has made the provision of Bexley playground achievable. The play equipment will be re-painted and renovated before installation.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board approve option (b) to accept the Bexley Reserve Playground Development Plan.

## **BACKGROUND**

7. A public information leaflet seeking responses on the preliminary plan was distributed to residents and key stakeholder groups in August 2006. Residents were asked to indicate their acceptance/non-acceptance of the plan and were given the option to comment. In total, 63 response forms have been received from the 400 consultation packages delivered.
  - 94% Accept the proposed plan (59)
  - 3% Do not accept the proposed plan (2)
  - 3% Did not indicate a preference (2)
8. A number of suggestions and comments were made that have been considered and where appropriate integrated into the design.
9. A copy of the final plan will be circulated to residents and key stakeholder groups prior to the construction date.

## **OPTIONS**

10. There are two possible options:
  - (a) Do nothing or status quo. This option is not practical as Transport and Greenspace Unit sees merit in offering a playground facility. Especially when there is equipment available and no other playground provision would be available for many years.
  - (b) Accept the Bexley Playground Development Plan with its minor changes to the original plan in recognition of residents' feedback.

## **PREFERRED OPTION**

11. To adopt option (b) and accept the Bexley Playground Development Plan. Thus providing community with a valuable asset that would otherwise be unavailable for many years.