

## 8. NORTH BURWOOD PARK PLAYGROUND UPGRADE

<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 seek the Board's approval for the concept plan of North Burwood Park Playground Upgrade and to proceed with detailed design and construction.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Burwood Park is a large neighbourhood park divided in two by New Brighton Road. Both north and south regions of Burwood Park serve as an important facility that caters for many sports codes. The southern region of Burwood Park has provision of play equipment for young children whilst the northern park provides play equipment for predominantly older children.
3. The current fort structure and flying fox equipment on north Burwood Park is degenerating and has reached the end of its useful lifespan. The fort structure no longer complies with New Zealand playground standards. Funding is available in the 2007/08 financial year to upgrade this play equipment. Additionally, the playground will be relocated further east to make it safer in accordance with 'Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design' (CPTED) principles. The proposed location will greatly improve visibility and open surveillance of the play area. Plus the existing trees surrounding the old playground site can be retained a few years longer with diminished risk of limbs potentially falling on the old playground site.
4. The CPTED safety audit was carried out for the North Burwood Park Playground Upgrade in late February 2007, and is based on the National Guidelines for CPTED; as provided by the Ministry of Justice. The audit was carried out by staff trained in CPTED and the result was very positive. One more change to the area as a result of the CPTED recommendations is to install new paths, including steps and ramps as required, leading into the park to improve connections with the footpath and car park.
5. A preliminary development plan was circulated to key stakeholders in May 2007 to obtain feedback on its design. The proposal is for: a new flying fox and accompanying fort style platform, existing modular play equipment to be enhanced and relocated, plus, provision of a new VIP swing and space ball which repeats the soccer ball theme tying in with the sports field image. 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 IMPLICATIONS

6. There is \$8,000 available in the City Environment Group 2006/07 financial year for design and consultation. Funding of \$80,000 will be available in the 2007/08 financial year to implement the approved design plan.
7. The playground will continue to be maintained by a Council maintenance contractor (City Care), therefore the playground and park can be expected to receive regular maintenance and management. Ongoing maintenance costs will be absorbed by the maintenance budget.

### Do the recommendations of this report align with 2006-16 LTCCP budgets?

8. Implementation of North Burwood Park Playground Upgrade is a project listed on the 2006-16 LTCCP budget. Recommendations of this report are in alignment with 2006-16 Long Term Council Community Plan Budget.

### LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

9. Design and playground equipment utilised is in accordance with New Zealand playground safety standards and CPTED standards.

### Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

10. All legal requirements pertaining to playgrounds have been met so there is no adverse impact for community. A CPTED audit has been completed to ensure the highest possible safety and crime prevention standards are provided for.

## **ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS**

11. Provision of the North Burwood Park Playground Upgrade is consistent with the:
- LTCCP 2006-16.
  - Parks and Open Spaces Activity Management Plan.
  - Parks and Waterways Access Policy.

### **Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2006-16 LTCCP?**

12. The recommendation of this report is to proceed with the upgrade, construction, and relocation of North Burwood Park Playground which is identified in the 2006-16 LTCCP.

## **ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES**

13. Provision of the North Burwood Park Playground Upgrade has primary alignment with the following Council strategies:
- Recreation and Sport Strategy.
  - Children's Strategy.
  - Pedestrian Strategy for Christchurch City.
  - Security Strategy.
  - Urban Renewal Programme.
  - Equity and Access for People with Disabilities Policy.
  - Children's Play Equipment on Parks Policy.
  - Environmental Design Policy.

### **Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?**

14. Recommendations made in this report are consistent with the Council strategies listed above.

## **CONSULTATION FULFILMENT**

15. A seminar was held with Board seeking permission to consult during May 2007. A public information leaflet seeking responses on the preliminary plan was distributed to residents and key stakeholder groups in May 2007. Residents were asked to indicate their acceptance/non-acceptance of the plan and were given the option to comment. In total 78 response forms have been received from the 300 consultation packages delivered.

93.6% Accept the proposed plan (73)  
02.6% Did not indicate but wrote positive comments (2)  
03.8% Do not accept the proposed plan (3)

16. A number of suggestions and comments were made that have been considered and where appropriate integrated into the design. Provision of more seating and a picnic table has now been incorporated into the plan.
17. A copy of the final plan will be circulated to residents and stakeholder groups prior to the construction date.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board approve the proposed North Burwood Park Playground Upgrade and the City Environment Group commence implementation.

## BACKGROUND

18. Recommendations from the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Audit are as follows:
  - (a) Remove trees as required for health and safety reasons and on the advice of Council arborist and lift tree canopies to improve sightlines into the park and open up access points.
  - (b) Install new paths, including steps and ramps as required, leading into the park to improve connections and remove blind spot. Clearly indicate exit and entry points with signs, paths and vegetation.
  - (c) Move playground to more open area to improve sightlines across the park and passive surveillance from neighbouring houses, and to remove hazard of large trees overhead.
  - (d) Install new see through style of playground and remove old timber play equipment to improve visibility of new playground.
  - (e) Seek public consultation about design and location of new playground to encourage sense of ownership and surveillance of the park area.
  - (f) Ensure a high level of maintenance is maintained to show that the area is well cared for.
19. Concluding that the North Burwood Park Playground Upgrade offers a high degree of personal safety for its users; a result of careful planning and liaison with CPTED audit staff.