

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Mike Hill, Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services

DECISION NO:

21/00125

For publication: YES

Key decision: YES

Subject Matter / Title of Decision

Country Parks Play Areas Improvement Programme

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services, I agree to procure and delegate authority to the Director for Growth and Communities to award and enter into appropriate contractual arrangements to install new playpark equipment and/ or enhance existing playpark equipment across the Kent County Council portfolio of Kent Country Parks.

Reason(s) for decision:

Kent County Council has secured funding to enlarge or install new playpark equipment and outdoor seating/picnic areas. The equipment would be funded via the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) to provide further outdoor provision to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. The funding to districts would have a particular focus on improving the park facilities in areas of higher deprivation.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

COMF funding was awarded to the department on 15 November 2021. Clarity of the funding restrictions were detailed early December 2021. There is a risk that should the work not be completed by the 31st of March 2022, the funding cannot be rolled over in financial year 22/23.

Due to the lead times to order, manufacture and deliver the playpark equipment required in early January at the latest, this will not have the required time to be presented at the appropriate Cabinet Committee.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Not to proceed with the Improvement Programme – this would mean foregoing the opportunity to use grant funding to significantly enhance play facilities at eight of Kent's Country Parks and provide further outdoor provision to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

None



7 January 2022

signed

date

Michael Hill