

This report will be made
Public on 19 November 2021

Hythe Town Council

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Report number F&GP 19/21

To Hythe Town Council
Date 12 November 2021
Status **Non Exempt**
Responsible officer Responsible Financial Officer

Subject **PLAY AREA STRATEGY 2020-2030 REPORT F&GP 19/21**

SUMMARY: This report is an update on the adoption from Folkestone and Hythe District Council on a number of smaller playgrounds in the Hythe district.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee is asked to agree the recommendations set out below because:-

- a) The Council is committed to provide key strategic recommendations when acquiring land to reflect local need.
- b) The Council is committed to protect, enhance and provide open spaces.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. To receive and note the report F&GP/19/21**
- 2. To authorise the Council's solicitors, Hallett and Co to commence with the hard searches at a cost of £505.28 per lease.**

INTRODUCTION

Following on from Report F&GP/09/20 that detailed how Folkestone and Hythe District Council (FHDC) have been considering how high-quality play areas will be provided and maintained throughout the District over the next ten years. The four main areas that FHDC wanted to hand over to Hythe Town Council (HTC) on a lease are four small ones - Peregrine Close, Turnpike Hill and St George's Place and Reachfields.

The legal costs for the transfer of play areas, have now been paid, at a reduced rate of £250.00 per lease.

In addition, there is a proposed fee of £60.00 plus VAT to advertise within the local paper for 2 weeks which is required when disposing of public open space. The advertisement fee is for all rather than individual locations

At the last meeting only three of the four play areas were being processed, with Turnpike requiring more details from FHDC and the landowner.

FHDC have now responded that whilst FHDC does not hold title to this site, it does have a responsibility to maintain the area. It is the maintenance responsibility that FHDC intends transferring to HTC by way of a proposed service agreement. They do not consider there is an issue in passing on this responsibility to HTC, which is better

placed to manage this area. Effectively this would form a contract between the two parties and HTC will be the service provider to FHDC.

Before the initial three leases are presented to full Council, the solicitors acting on behalf of HTC would like to know if hard searches on each site at a cost of £505.28 per site will be required.

SUMMARY

The committee is asked to recommend to council the completion of the three leases and authorise the associated hard search fees and to discuss the possibility on taking over the service agreement for the Turnpike play area on the basis described by FHDC.

RISK MANAGEMENT

A summary of the perceived risk follows;

Perceived Risk	Seriousness	Likelihood		Preventative Action
FHDC do not transfer the smaller play areas to the Town Council and play equipment is removed.	High	Low		Hythe Town Council take over the play areas and open spaces and maintain them.

CONTACT OFFICER

If you have any queries about this report please contact The Responsible Financial Officer of the Council

Tel: 01303 266152 or email RFO@hythe-tc.gov.uk prior to the meeting.