

# NAPTON ON THE HILL PARISH COUNCIL

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**Subject:** Recommendation to purchase a new older ages multi-play unit using CIL funds and reserves.

**Date:** Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024

**Prepared By:** Courtney Adam (clerk)

## Introduction:

This report outlines the proposal to purchase a new older ages multi-play unit for Granton Playing Field, leveraging Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds and available reserves. The document details the rationale, funding sources, potential benefits, and estimated associated costs to aid decision-making by the council.

## Background:

The playground at Granton Playing Field is a vital community resource used by children and families in the area. However, the current older ages multi-play unit is unsafe and has reached its end of life, which makes it unusable and a safety risk. This project allows for the enhancing of recreational facilities and supports broader goals of promoting health, well-being, and social cohesion.

## Proposal:

To purchase and install a new older ages multi-play unit that will:

- Enhance the recreational offerings for children aged 5 and up.
- Ensure compliance with modern safety standards.
- Meet the needs of the growing local population.

## Cost Breakdown (Estimate):

- **Equipment:**
  - Unit (Wooden with Metal In-Ground Post Foot) - £8,800 + VAT
  - Unit (Metal) - £13,000 + VAT
  - Grassguard Tiles - £2,000 + VAT
- **Removals of Old Unit:**
  - Old Unit - £1,200 + VAT
  - Spoil/Waste Material - £400 + VAT
- **Miscellaneous:**
  - Heras Fencing - £600 + VAT
  - Secure Storage - £1,200 + VAT
  - Site Water - £130 + VAT

- **Total Estimated Cost:**
  - £14,500 for wooden unit
  - £20,000 for metal unit

\*The cost estimates are based off quotes received in February 2024. If approved new quotes will be obtained using our procurement procedures.

#### **Funding Sources:**

- **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Funds:**
  - Available CIL funds for the parish: £6,281.40
  - CIL funding guidelines permit the use of funds for community projects such as:
    - The provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure
    - Anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area
  - It should be noted that CIL funds must be spent within 5 years of receiving the funds or the funds must be returned to the District Council.
- **Reserves:**
  - Current reserves allocated for the Playground and Skate Park: £14,000.00
  - Using reserves ensures timely project delivery without impacting other operational budgets.
  - It should be noted that councils should only retain 25% of their annual running costs in their reserves as a contingency and all other reserves should be used in a timely manner to benefit the community.

#### **Benefits:**

- **Community Impact:**
  - Improved facilities encouraging physical and outdoor play, supporting children's physical and mental well-being.
  - Creates an inclusive space for families to gather, fostering community engagement and cohesion.
- **Compliance and Safety:**
  - Upgraded equipment meets current safety standards, reducing liability risks.

#### **Recommendations:**

1. Approve the use of £6,281.40 from CIL funds and £14,000.00 from reserves to finance the project.
2. Authorise the clerk to proceed with obtaining supplier quotes to bring to a future PC meeting for selection.

**Conclusion:**

Investing in new playground equipment using CIL funds and reserves will provide long-lasting benefits to the community by creating a safer, more engaging, and inclusive recreational space. This project represents a responsible and impactful use of available funds, aligning with both statutory requirements and community priorities.