

Decision Maker: Environment Portfolio Holder

For Pre-Decision Scrutiny by the Environment PDS Committee on:

Date: 29th September 2016

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Non-Key

Title: INSTALLATION OF A PLAY AREA IN QUEENS GARDENS

Contact Officer: Robert Schembri, Neighbourhood Manager
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Chief Officer: Nigel Davies, Executive Director of Environment & Community Services

Ward: Bromley Town

1. Reason for report

This report details proposals to provide a new play area to replace the former maze within Queens Gardens following the construction of the new restaurant terrace.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

That the Portfolio Holder agrees:

That a new play area is installed in place of the former maze in Queen's Gardens, funded from the £60k donation from Intu.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy:
 2. BBB Priority: Excellent Council Quality Environment Safer Bromley:
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: £60k
 2. Ongoing costs: Future maintenance costs will be contained within existing budgets
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Parks and Green Space
 4. Total current budget for this head: £60k
 5. Source of funding: Donation from Intu
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional):
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: 60 hours
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Non-Statutory - Government Guidance:
 2. Call-in: Applicable:
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): Residents and visitors to the Borough's Parks and Open spaces
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Yes
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: Ward Members were consulted on options for the landscaped space left after the development, previously a maze. They carried out their own further consultation with users and stakeholders and concluded that the site was best served as a rustic/naturalistic playground

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 As part of the Intu development, a new restaurant terrace now sits alongside the Queen's Garden, creating an al fresco dining experience. This has created a new sense of place and also attracted new tenants and prolonged trading hours. As part of this development, the former maze; a formal feature made out of low hedges with flag pole in centre was removed to allow the new terrace construction to be completed. Accordingly, this has allowed a new green space to be developed for this existing area of the Queens Gardens.
- 3.2 Intu has provided the Council with £60k as a contribution towards the reinstatement of the maze area. This contribution will be used for the installation of a new children's play area in Queens Gardens.
- 3.3 After consultations carried out with Intu Bromley and Ward Members, it is proposed that a new rustic/naturalistic play space should be created to produce an imaginative and functional play space.
- 3.4 Design and Build tenders have been sought to develop the project site into a children's play area in keeping with its current environment within Queens Gardens.
- 3.5 The aims of the tendered project is/was to:-
- provide an imaginative, natural and coordinated play experience for children and young people within an existing public open space;
 - create a play space that will please, excite, challenge and stimulate children's imagination and senses; utilising the play space as well as the surrounding environment;
 - promote positive attitudes to children and young people in the community through play opportunities and providing a safe environment for play.
- 3.6 The scheme costs will include the design as well as the purchase and installation of play equipment, fencing and landscaping.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The acquisition and upkeep of Queens Gardens accords with the Council's policy of landscape management for public access, health, education and leisure pursuits and chimes with the BBB priority – A quality Environment. It is estimated that the new play area will attract 36,000 additional visitors.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Intu has provided a sum of £60k for the Council to use to provide a children's play area to replace the former maze. Approval is sought to implement the proposed scheme.
- 5.2 Future maintenance costs will be absorbed within the existing budgets, as the maintenance of the area will replace the annual costs associated with the care of the former maze area.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 This report seeks the approval of the Portfolio Holder for a new play area to be installed in place of the former maze in Queen's Gardens, funded from the £60k donation from Intu. The estimated/total value of the development and installation will be £60k. The project cost and

installation will comply with the Council’s Contract Procedure Rules and Health & Safety Regulations.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Personnel Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Contract Documentation between the Authority and Intu