



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

A Borough to be proud of

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND DECISION MAKING

EXECUTIVE

21 DECEMBER 2016

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL WARDS

SMOKE FREE PLAY AREA INITIATIVE

Report of the Chief Officer (Corporate Governance & Housing Repairs)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Members' approval to introduce a voluntary no smoking scheme in children's play areas.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 Executive members support the introduction of a voluntary no smoking scheme in children's play areas owned and maintained by HBBC.
- 2.2 That Members consider the options for implementing this initiative in public playgrounds maintained by parish and town councils throughout the borough outside Hinckley.

3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

- 3.1 As part of the council's corporate priority to improve health and wellbeing, Members are asked to consider the introduction of a voluntary no smoking scheme for all playground areas owned and maintained by HBBC. The adoption of smoke free playgrounds would be voluntary and not legally enforceable. Signs advising members of the public of the smoke free scheme would be installed at each playground entrance point.
- 3.2 There is currently no legislation stopping people from smoking in public open spaces, however other local authorities have adopted a voluntary policy of encouraging no smoking in its play areas, including Leicester City Council, Halton BC, Pendle BC, Blackpool, Newcastle CC, Reigate and Banstead CC, Surrey CC, Boston BC and Nottingham CC.
- 3.3 HBBC is responsible for 10 playgrounds in Hinckley. A full list of those playgrounds is attached as appendix one. Public playgrounds outside of Hinckley are the

responsibility of the relevant town/parish council and, as such, are outside of the jurisdiction of this council.

Councillors are asked to consider how best to encourage and enable parish and town councils to adopt smoke free playgrounds if they choose to do so, in order to make this a borough wide initiative.

3.4 Why smoke free playgrounds?

Children are influenced by what they see and research shows that young people are most at risk of becoming smokers if they grow up in communities where smoking is the norm. The most effective way to prevent young people from becoming smokers is to encourage adult smokers to quit and to remove young people's exposure to smoking. Making our play areas smoke free is one of the ways in which we can change that social norm and hopefully prevent young people from taking up smoking.

Since 2012, Ash Wales have been campaigning for all local authorities in Wales to introduce smoke free policies in their children's playgrounds to protect young people from the harm of second-hand smoke. In March 2016, all local authorities across Wales had implemented voluntary bans in their local playgrounds.

A further benefit of a voluntary smoke free playground initiative is that it will increase awareness of the need to eliminate smoking in the presence of children. This aligns with the work of the NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland Stop Smoking Service which promotes smoke free homes, and builds on the culture change created by the recent legislative change around smoking in cars where young people are travelling. The Public Health team has been consulted on this initiative and has endorsed it, adding that "it is a good smokefree environments and prevention initiative."

There is also a strong environmental case for reducing smoking related litter in and around play areas. Of note is that cigarette butts are not only unsightly, but are difficult for cleansing crews to pick up, especially in bark and sand play safety surface, and can take up to 12 years to bio-degrade due to presence of cellulose acetate polymer which is used to make the cigarette filters. In addition research has shown that many toxic compounds have been found in measurable concentrations in cigarette butts including nicotine, arsenic, lead, copper, chromium, cadmium, and a variety of polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).

3.5 Implementation of smoke free playgrounds

It is proposed that the final design for the sign will be selected by means of a competition open to all local school children who will be invited to submit their own design. The competition will be advertised in the spring edition of the Borough Bulletin and supported by publicity in the media and on social media to be distributed in early March 2017. Engaging children in this way will help to raise the issue of smoking with their parents and siblings and so engage adult smokers and non-smokers in the project, raising awareness of the issue of smoking around children.

The cost of supplying and installing a 300mm diameter circular sign at each of the 20 entrance points, either on existing gates/railings or where this is not practical, by installing a new post, is approximately £600.

Members may wish to consider supplying signs for participating parish/town councils to install at a cost of £16.80 each on a supply only basis.

If approved, the aim is to install the signs to coincide with the start of the May bank holiday with a photo call arranged late April at a Hinckley playground including councillors and the child who designed the sign.

4. EXEMPTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROCEDURE RULES

4.1 None.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (IB)]

5.1 Costs will be met from existing resources.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [AR]

6.1 None.

7. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

7.1 This initiative supports the following aims:

Creating a vibrant place to work and live

- Clean neighbourhoods
- Reduce our impact on the environment
- Protect and improve our parks and open spaces

Empowering communities

- Improve health and wellbeing

Supporting individuals

- Give children and young people the best start in life

8. CONSULTATION

8.1 The Public Health team at Leicestershire County Council will be responsible for providing a smoking cessation service in Leicestershire from 1 January 2017. The Public Health team has been consulted on this initiative and has endorsed it, adding that "it is a good smokefree environments and prevention initiative."

Key officers in the Environmental Health, Public Spaces and Cultural Services teams at this council have also been consulted on this initiative and have contributed to this report.

9. RISK IMPLICATIONS

9.1 It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

9.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

9.3 The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

None.

| Management of significant (Net Red) Risks | | |
|---|--------------------|-------|
| Risk Description | Mitigating actions | Owner |
| | | |

10. KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 It is anticipated that a voluntary smoke free playground initiative will increase awareness of the need to eliminate smoking in the presence of children. This aligns with the work of the NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland Stop Smoking Service which promotes smoke free homes, and builds on the culture change created by the recent legislative change around smoking in cars where young people are travelling.

11. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

11.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community Safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset Management implications
- Procurement implications
- Human Resources implications
- Planning implications
- Data Protection implications
- Voluntary Sector

Background papers: Appendix one – map showing location of council play areas in the Hinckley area

Contact Officer: Jacqueline Puffett, Communications and Promotions Officer, ext 5630
Executive Member: Councillor A Wright.