# RECORD OF DECISION MADE UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

**PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

**WORKS TO PROVIDE WATER SPLASH PARKS AT BANCROFT RECREATION GROUND, HITCHIN & PRIORY MEMORIAL GARDENS, ROYSTON**

| **NON EXECUTIVE DECISION** | |
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**1. Decision Taken:**

1.1 To enter into a contract with Sun Safe Play Systems for the provision of water splash parks at Bancroft Recreation Ground, Hitchin and Priory Memorial Gardens, Royston with a value of £309,120.80.

**2. Decision Taker:**

2.1 Vaughan Watson, Head of Leisure & Environmental Services

**3. Date Decision Taken:**

3.1 24th August 2015

**4. Summary of Background:**

4.1 On the 27th January 2015 Cabinet approved a capital allowance of £320K for the provision of two water splash parks. Cabinet also approved a £27K revenue growth bid for ongoing maintenance.

4.2 Tenders were sought for this work and four tenders were received. These were evaluated on a 40% price and 60% quality ratio. Sun Safe Play Systems received the highest combined price and quality score.

**5. Directorate:**

5.1 Customer Services

**6 Notification Date:**

6.1 28th August 2015

**7. Reason for Decision:**

7.1 To provide water splash parks at Bancroft Recreation Ground, Hitchin and Priory Memorial Gardens, Royston for the benefit of the local community.

**8. Other Options Considered:**

8.1 None contained within this report.

## 9. Consultations:

9.1 The proposed design of the water splash parks were developed through public consultation which generated 208 responses.

9.2 The relevant Portfolio Holders and Ward Members have been kept updated on progress.

## 10. Legal Implications:

10.1 Under the Council's constitution at 5.6.1 Cabinet can approve any strategy which is not reserved to Council. The Green Space Management Strategy and associated action plans falls within Cabinet's remit.

10.2 Vaughan Watson, Head of Leisure & Environmental Services has the appropriate financial limits to authorise an order of this value.

## 11. Financial Implications:

11.1 In January 2015 Cabinet approved a capital investment of £320K for the provision of water splash parks at Bancroft Recreation Ground, Hitchin and Priory Memorial gardens, Royston. Cabinet also approved a £27K revenue growth bid for ongoing maintenance of these facilities.

## 12. Risk Implications:

12.1 Not to invest in green space would be in direct conflict with the expressed needs of the local community. The 2012 District Wide survey identified that nine out of ten adults identify parks, playgrounds and green spaces as important in making somewhere a good place to live or work. More than three quarters want to see investment in them maintained by their local council.

12.2 The splash parks were identified as key projects for 2015/16 to support the Priorities for the District. Taking this decision is an important step to delivering the projects and enables the Council to achieve its agreed objectives.

## 13. Equalities Implications:

13.1 The Equality Act 2010 came into force on the 1st October 2010, a major piece of legislation. The Act also created a new Public Sector Equality Duty, which came into force on the 5th April 2011. There is a General duty that public bodies must meet, underpinned by more specific duties which are designed to help meet them.

13.2 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of its functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

13.3 Improvements to green space make them more accessible to a wider range of the community. The proposed design of both water splash parks allow for easy access for all children of varying degrees of physical ability.

13.4 Central Government and national groups have expressed the continued importance of public Green Space in the health and well-being of communities. From April 2013

local authorities at county level are required to take on the statutory duty to improve the health of their communities as required by the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and with it, to acquire many of the public health services currently the responsibility of the NHS. The use of open spaces, parks, playgrounds and relevant leisure facilities are promoted in terms of reducing the impact of obesity on long term health, the importance in the management of wellbeing and in aiding relaxation, as well as 'sensory' enjoyment.

**14. Social Value Implications:**

14.1 In order to deliver the improvements proposed it will be necessary to enter into, or continue existing, public service contracts which will then be subject to the measurement of relevant Social Value implications/benefits, as required by the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 as part of that procurement process, and reported further as appropriate.

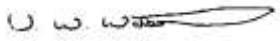
**15. Human Resource Implications:**

15.1 The project is contained within Leisure & Environmental Services existing work programme.

**16. Background Papers:**

16.1 Green Space Management Strategy 2014 – 19.

**Signature of Decision Taker**



Vaughan Watson
**Head of Leisure & Environmental Services**

**Please Note: that *unless urgency provisions apply* EXECUTIVE decisions cannot be implemented until 5 clear working days have elapsed after the decision has been taken to allow for scrutiny call-in.**

**Call-in does not apply to NON-EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**