

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE – 21ST JANUARY 2004**

**SUBJECT: WEEKEND CLEANSING OF PARKS**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND LEISURE**

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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 Community Council representatives recently requested an update on the position regarding weekend cleansing of park areas.
- 1.2 This follows reports represented to the Sub-Committee on the 17th of September 2003 and the 27th March 2003.

**2. THE REPORT**

- 2.1 The previous report of the 17th September 2003 outlined what is taking place in relation to frequency of cleansing in parks together with the implications for the cleansing of new youth and play areas. These new areas include skateboard areas, multi use games areas, youth shelters, kick walls and new playground sites, all have been externally funded via the Welsh Assembly Government and located throughout the Borough especially in the Community First Wards, during the previous two years.
- 2.2 Since the Sub-Committee met in September Officers from Leisure Services and Environmental Services have met and agreed which of these new sites would fall to each service for the purposes of weekly cleansing.
- 2.3 The sites, approximately 45 in number have varying levels of new equipment at each location, Cleansing and Parks Officers have agreed to accommodate the additional cleansing of these areas from existing revenue budgets.
- 2.4 As outlined in the report of the 17th September 2003, Parks Officers have been seeking to establish savings from the Leisure, Parks revenue budget in order to fund the additional cleansing of park areas during weekend periods.
- 2.5 Unfortunately due to need to commence and accommodate a comprehensive safety inspection and maintenance programme on the same new facilities throughout the Borough, outlined above, any further savings from the revenue budget appear extremely unlikely this year.
- 2.6 It is estimated the Parks playground budget will enter an overspend for this year due to the need to manage the new areas in line with existing council play equipment areas and in compliance with ROSPA guidelines.
- 2.7 In light of this Parks Officers are undertaking further evaluation works with a view to establishing the most cost efficient approach to any annual weekend cleansing programme covering parks areas before the drafting of growth submissions for the council's consideration.

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