

ANGUS COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL AND LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE – 28 AUGUST 2003

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEISURE SERVICES

VANDALISM DAMAGE TO PLAY EQUIPMENT – KNOWEHEAD PLAY AREA,
KIRRIEMUIR

ABSTRACT

To advise the Committee on an incidence of vandalism at Knowehead Play Area, Kirriemuir and the financial implications that have arisen.

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report and instruct the Director to remove the damaged equipment and make the area safe and to allow for its reinstatement when funding becomes available.

2. BACKGROUND AND PROPOSALS

Malicious damage by fire happened on 29 July 2003 to the SMP, playground equipment manufacturer, supplied Boston Multi Unit at Knowehead, Kirriemuir. Damage to the unit and under laid rubber tiles is extensive resulting in the equipment being unfit for use.

This play area was refurbished in May 2001 at a cost of £23,400. The equipment damaged was the main feature.

The damage caused was severe in that it melted the play tunnel and some platform panels and severely weakened the rope bridge. The play equipment remaining can no longer be used safely by the local children and temporary safety fencing has been erected. The cost of this act of vandalism is estimated at £11,400. This does not include making the site safe.

Leisure Services play equipment and safety-surfacing budgets are fully committed for the current financial year 2003/04. The earliest that this play area could be reinstated would be financial year 2004/05 but this would have a detrimental knock on effect on our programme of risk management in children's play areas.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

An estimated cost of £11,400 has been calculated as the cost of replacing the damaged sections of the equipment and rubber tiles.

Under the terms and conditions of the Councils property insurance cover, items of play equipment are not insured. Specific All Risks insurance has been uneconomical to purchase due to the combination of high premiums and large policy excesses.

Leisure Services budget for play area repairs and refurbishment has already been fully committed for this financial year. The £11,400 cost for Knowehead Play Area will need to be considered as part of future programmed refurbishment work.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Rights Implications associated with this report.

5. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, the Director of Law and Administration and the Director of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

JOHN R ZIMNY
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) , were relied on to any material extent in preparing this report.