

**Response from Northumberland County Council, Head of Cultural Services**

Fri 18/10/2019 11:02

Hello Sarah

Thank you for confirming the outcome of last weeks Town Council meeting. The Council has agreed in principle to increase the amount of capital available for the play area to a maximum of £100,000, however this allocation is conditional based on the following:

(a) that, in line with widely accepted policy, the play area is asset transferred to Prudhoe Town Council on a permanent basis

(b) that Prudhoe Town Council take on sole responsibility for the management and maintenance of the play area

(c) NCC are provided with a description of exactly what provision an additional £35,000 investment would support as the initial allocation was to bring the play area back into a usable condition.

Please let me know how the Town Council would like to proceed with this matter so appropriate capital budget considerations can be put in place.

**Nigel Walsh**

**Head of Cultural Services**

Northumberland County Council

County Hall

Morpeth

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Following receipt, the Clerk raised the following with NCC:

Dear Nigel

Thank you for the response which will be brought back to members.

So, I'm clear, in regards (a) Prudhoe Town Council could expect to have the play area asset transferred and would therefore be the legal owner? This has always been the preferred option of PTC but we were geared up that this was not possible as the play area forms part of a larger site and who knows what Active Northumberland may wish to do with the whole site in the next 30-40+ years. That being said, the last time this was discussed at Town Council, members seemed keener on a short-term lease, resulting in the offer of 10 years - what is perceived as the life of the play area.

In regards (b), does this still include the local agreement for Active Northumberland to carry out daily litter picks and being the eyes and ears so to speak.

In regards (c), we expected that once a capital sum was agreed, that NCC/Active would procure a play area, based on the results of local consultation. As NCC is managing the procurement, alongside Active, I'm not sure this onus falls on Prudhoe Town Council.

We have a meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> October, any counter proposals will need to be brought to that meeting. I would like to bring your response and any further clarification.

Kind regards, Sarah Eden  
Town Clerk