

ANNEX D

Service Background - Play Areas Inspections and Maintenance

- 1.1 The Play Area Inspections and Maintenance Service (CU2466) was tendered in 2013 and, like the Landscape Management service, the contract with Serco is due to expire on 31 March 2023. The play area service includes routine playground inspection and repair (including cleaning and graffiti removal); replacement and major refurbishment of play areas an additional non-routine work carried out on behalf of other Council services. The Council must comply with health and safety requirements with regards to inspection and maintenance of play areas.
- 1.2 There are 421 play areas in MK currently managed as part of the contract with Serco. A large majority of these are owned by MKC. Furthermore, there are many play areas owned by private developers or the Parks Trust. Over the last few years, the ownership of a number of MKC play areas (33) have been transferred to P&TCs under the Council's Asset and Service Devolution Approach (previously known as the CAT - Community Asset Transfer). At the point of transfer, MKC ceases to be responsible for them, thus making savings in terms of costs associated with landscape maintenance, inspection, etc.
- 1.3 It is envisaged that over the coming year or two, the Council will develop a strategic 'wholesale' approach to working with P&TC's to transfer these assets to them as opposed to a 'piecemeal' approach. To date, some P&TC's have taken on a number of these assets (16 have been transferred to Shenley Brook End and Tattenhoe, 16 to Newport Pagnell Town Council and 1 to Campbell Park).
- 1.4 Adjustments have been made to the Play Area Inspections and Maintenance Service (CU2466) with Serco to reflect the fact that the council has transferred a number of play areas and open spaces to P&TC's since 2017.