

REPORT TO: CABINET MEMBER FOR LEISURE AND TOURISM

DATE: 23rd March 2011

SUBJECT: PLAYBUILDER 2011 - PROPOSED DESIGN AND PROCUREMENT ARRANGEMENTS

WARDS AFFECTED: Meols, Ravenmeols, Victoria

REPORT OF: G. BAYLISS. DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND TOURISM
0151 934 2371

CONTACT OFFICER: MARK SHAW, PARKS AND GREEN SPACES MANAGER
0151 934 2393

**EXEMPT/
CONFIDENTIAL:** NO

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

To inform the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism of proposals to deliver improvements to play facilities that form part of the 2010/11 Playbuilder Phase 3 Programme at Crossens Community Park, Southport, Deansgate Lane Playing Fields, Formby, and Moorside Park, Crosby.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED

Cabinet Member's approval is required to accept the funding from Children's Services and to deliver the three schemes on Council-owned land.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

The Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism:-

- i.) accepts the funding from Childrens Services for the selected sites;
- ii.) approves the proposed design and procurement strategy for the third phase of the Playbuilder programme;
- iii.) authorises the Leisure and Tourism Director to seek competitive tenders for the works;
- iv.) notes that the Leisure and Tourism Director will accept the lowest/highest quality tenders in accordance with the delegated powers identified in the Council's Constitution;
- v.) authorises the Leisure and Tourism Director to include additional maintenance obligations as part of the next grounds maintenance re-tendering process.

KEY DECISION: No

FORWARD PLAN: No

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Following expiry of the call-in period

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

Do nothing or implement a significantly reduced scheme

IMPLICATIONS:

Budget/Policy Framework: None

Financial: Sefton has a grant allocation of £275,041.25 in 2010/11 for Play Builder schemes. Three Leisure Service sites have been approved as part of this programme at a total cost of £99,255

<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2009/ 2010 £	2010/ 2011 £	2011/ 2012 £	2012/ 2013 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by: Children's Services				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources (S106)				
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

Legal:

Risk Assessment:

Asset Management: The department is already managing the play areas in line within existing parks and open space policy.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS
FD 700 - The Head of Corporate Finance & ICT has been consulted and has no comments on the report

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community		√	
2	Creating Safe Communities	√		
3	Jobs and Prosperity		√	
4	Improving Health and Well-Being	√		
5	Environmental Sustainability	√		
6	Creating Inclusive Communities	√		
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	√		
8	Children and Young People	√		

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Minutes and Agendas for:

Crosby Area Committee, 17th March 2011
 Formby Area Committee, 17th March 2011
 Southport Area Committee, 30th March 2011

Cabinet Member – Childrens Services, 22nd Jun 2010, Playbuilder Capital Grant: 2010/11

Cabinet, 8th July 2010, Playbuilder Capital Grant: 2010/11

Cabinet, 16th December 2010, Playbuilder Capital Grant 2010/11

Parks and Greenspace Asset Management Strategy

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Following a successful application to the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) for Fair Play 'Play builder' status, Children's Services, working with the Leisure Department, submitted a Play builder Project Plan to the DCSF in July 2008.
- 1.2 The plan sets out how Sefton would provide innovative and stimulating play equipment and landscaping, which would facilitate physically active play opportunities for all children, but with a particular focus on 8-13 year-olds. The Plan was approved, and the Council was awarded a grant over the three year Play Builder programme. To date some 13 natural style play areas and improvements have been made across the parks and greenspaces in Sefton
- 1.3 Although initially Phase 3 projects of the programme were not progressed due to the Council's current financial situation, at its meeting of 17th December 2010, Cabinet considered several options for use of the monies. Cabinet agreed to approve three reduced schemes to move forward and these schemes have now been placed in the Capital Programme
- 1.4 Leisure Services' Parks and Greenspace Service have been requested by Children's Services to design and procure the three projects approved by the Play Partnership in 2010/11, that are located on Council owned Leisure sites, namely
- Crossens Community Park, Southport
 - Deansgate Lane Playing Fields, Formby
 - Moorside Park, Crosby

Plans showing the proposed locations of the facilities within the parks are shown in Annexe 1.

- 1.5 A sum of £33,085 has been approved and budgeted towards the capital cost of each of the projects.

2.0 Proposed Scheme

2.1 Deansgate Lane Playing Fields, Formby – Proposed Woodland Sculpture Trail

A vision plan was developed for the site in 2008 with the Friends of Deansgate Lane Playing Fields, following extensive discussions. This included a proposal to create a sculpture trail through the site.

This would include circa 12 woodland sculptures placed around the site to form a trail which visitors, school children and other groups could follow. Interpretation panels can be created at the start and at each piece to explain its relevance.

This proposal has now been discussed further with the Friends Group and has evolved to include the introduction of some play value (in line with the criteria of Playbuilder), and to be thematically based around a children's story (to be developed with the adjacent school).

2.2 Crossens Community Park, Southport – Football Kickabout Area

A vision plan for this site was adopted by Cabinet Member in 2003 following extensive discussions with the wider community over several months. This vision included provision of better informal football/ kickabout facilities.

This proposal, together with the provision of more tree planting and longer grass areas to give the park more of a 'park' feel, has been discussed with the Crossens Community Association and has evolved to include two new goal mouths, improved grass matting surfacing, and (if the budget permits) low fencing to the side to contain the ball.

2.3 Moorside Park, Crosby – Play Area Improvements

A vision plan for this site is currently being developed with the Friends of Moorside Park. This will include provision of improved play facilities.

The proposal at this stage is to replace the existing traditional style equipment, (which has come to the end of its useful life), with new equipment (to include two sets of swings, a slide, and a roundabout) and also to provide an informal willow planted area to create a sense of place and a feature to play within.

3.0 Community Involvement

3.1 As described above, the proposals are contained within existing vision plans for Crossens and Deansgate Lane, and will form part of the evolving plan for Moorside Park. Detailed discussions have been undertaken with the friends groups associated with each of these parks, and all are fully supportive of the proposals.

3.2 Resident newsletters have also been distributed to nearby residents, schools, and businesses etc in the vicinity of the sites. The feedback from this will be reported at the meeting. This is in line with a generic consultation methodology for parks and green spaces as presented to Sefton's Consultation Panel.

3.3 Area committee reports have been drafted and will be presented to each relevant committee. The feedback from this will be reported at the meeting (due to the tight timescales for delivery, it has been necessary to report to Cabinet Member earlier than usual in the process).

4.0 Financial Considerations

- 4.1 There is £99,255 approved within the Children's Services 2010/11 Capital Programme to fund these proposed works. Given the tight timescale for delivery, an extension into the first quarter of 2011/12 has been approved by Childrens Services

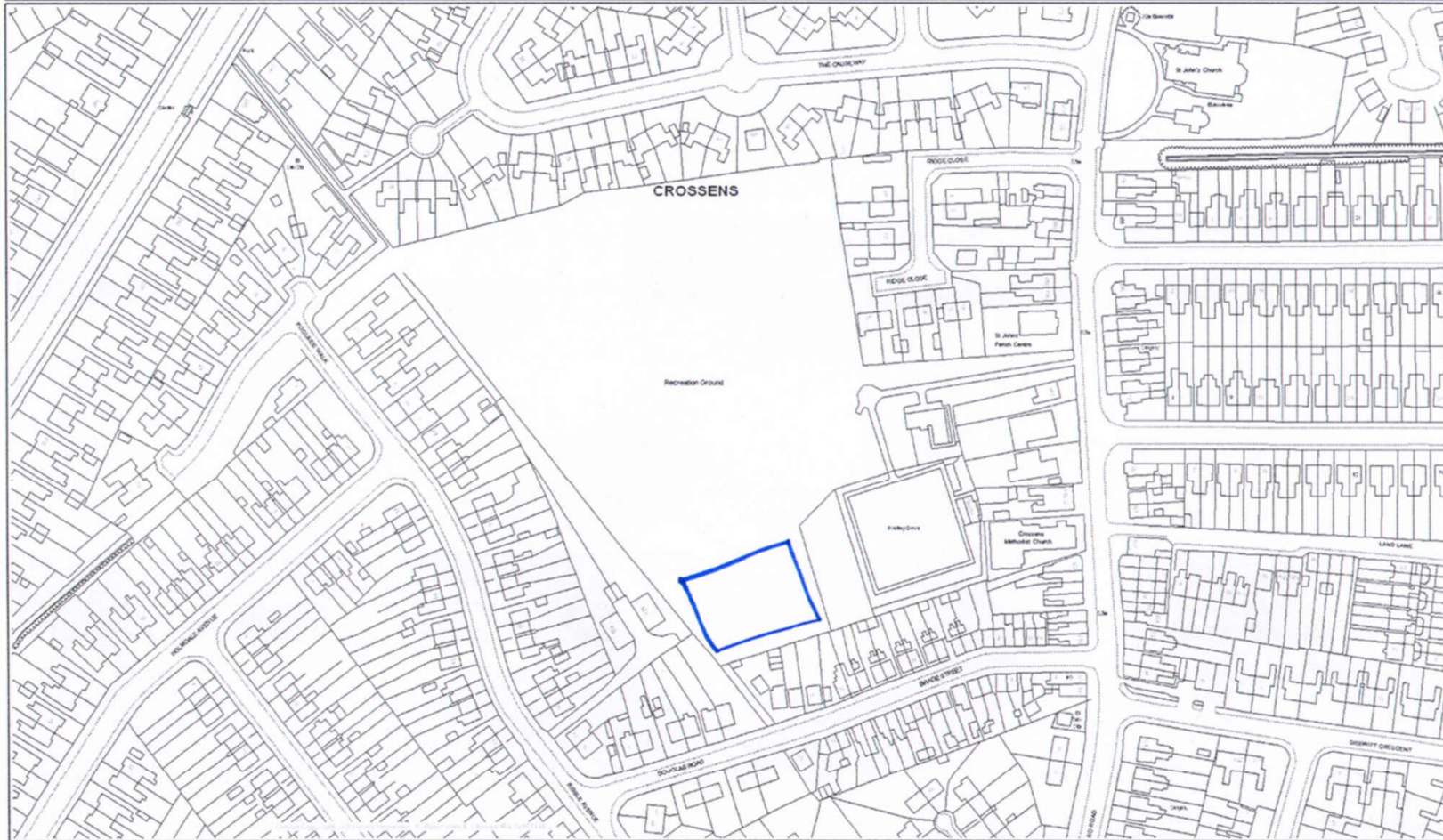
5.0 Tendering Process and Timescale

- 5.1 Subject to Cabinet Member approval, competitive tenders will be sought for each package of works. For Crossens Community Park and Moorside Park, competitive tenders will be sought based on lowest price. For Deansgate Lane, quality based tenders will be sought based on a fixed-cost design brief, and assessed by a panel of officers and Friends of Deansgate Lane.
- 5.2 Works should be complete on site by end of May 2011.

6.0 Revenue Implications

- 6.1 The schemes have, of course, been designed to minimise future maintenance implications by replacing existing play facilities with new, and providing simple and robust football facilities etc. However, as with previous phases of the Playbuilder programme, there will be additional revenue implications from the creation of new facilities (likely to be in the region of 3-5% of the capital cost to account for additional grounds maintenance, repairs and maintenance etc).
- 6.2 Additional revenue resources have been requested for previous phases from Cabinet, but these resources have not been forthcoming.
- 6.3 Should the revenue funding for maintenance and management of the new play facilities not be approved within the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan, any damage incurred to a piece of equipment by vandalism or wear and tear may result in the equipment being decommissioned and a loss of long term benefit of capital investment. The Play Partnership and Children's Services have been made aware of this.

Crossens Community Park



Sefton Council

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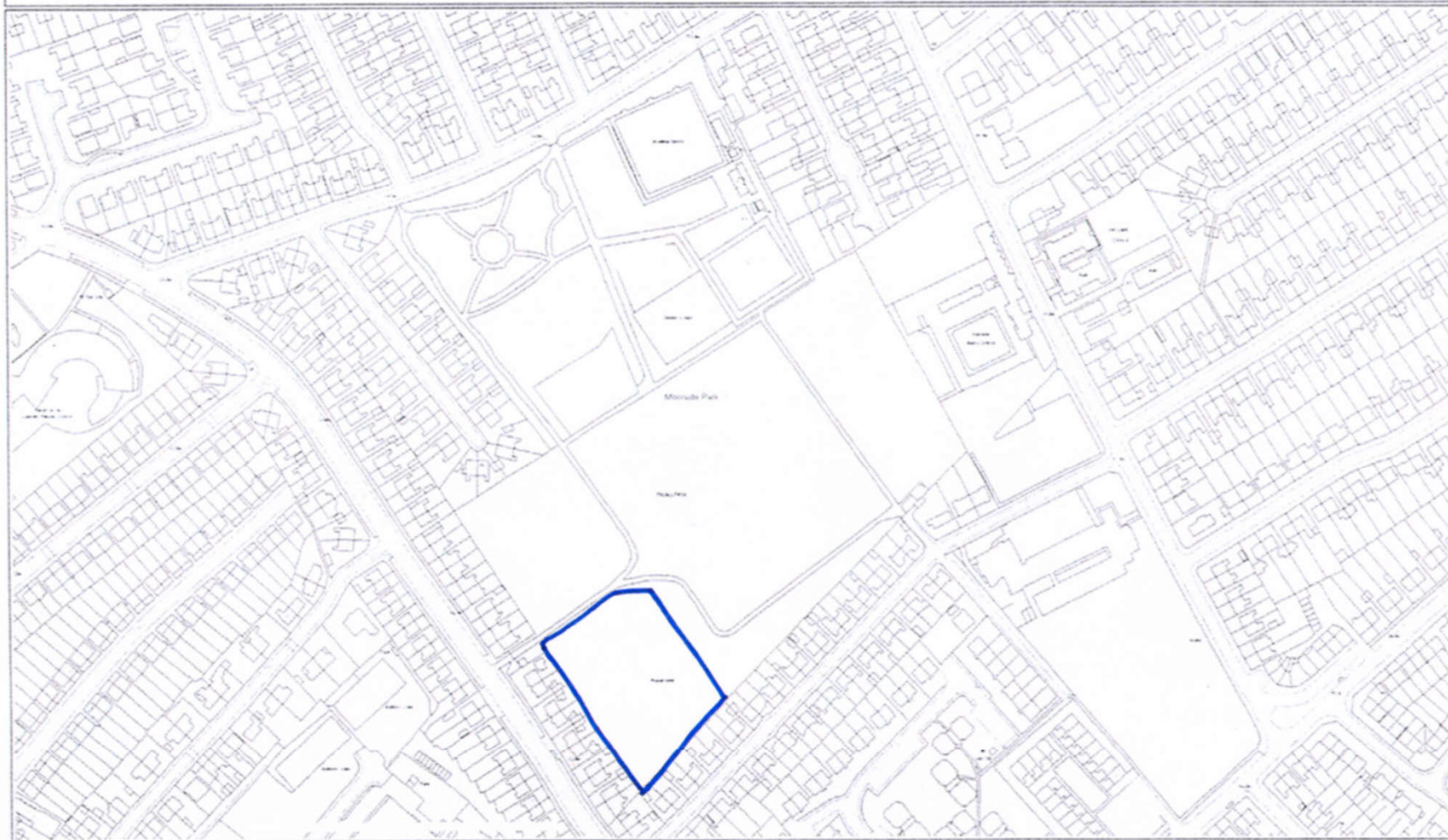
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Moorside Park, Crosby



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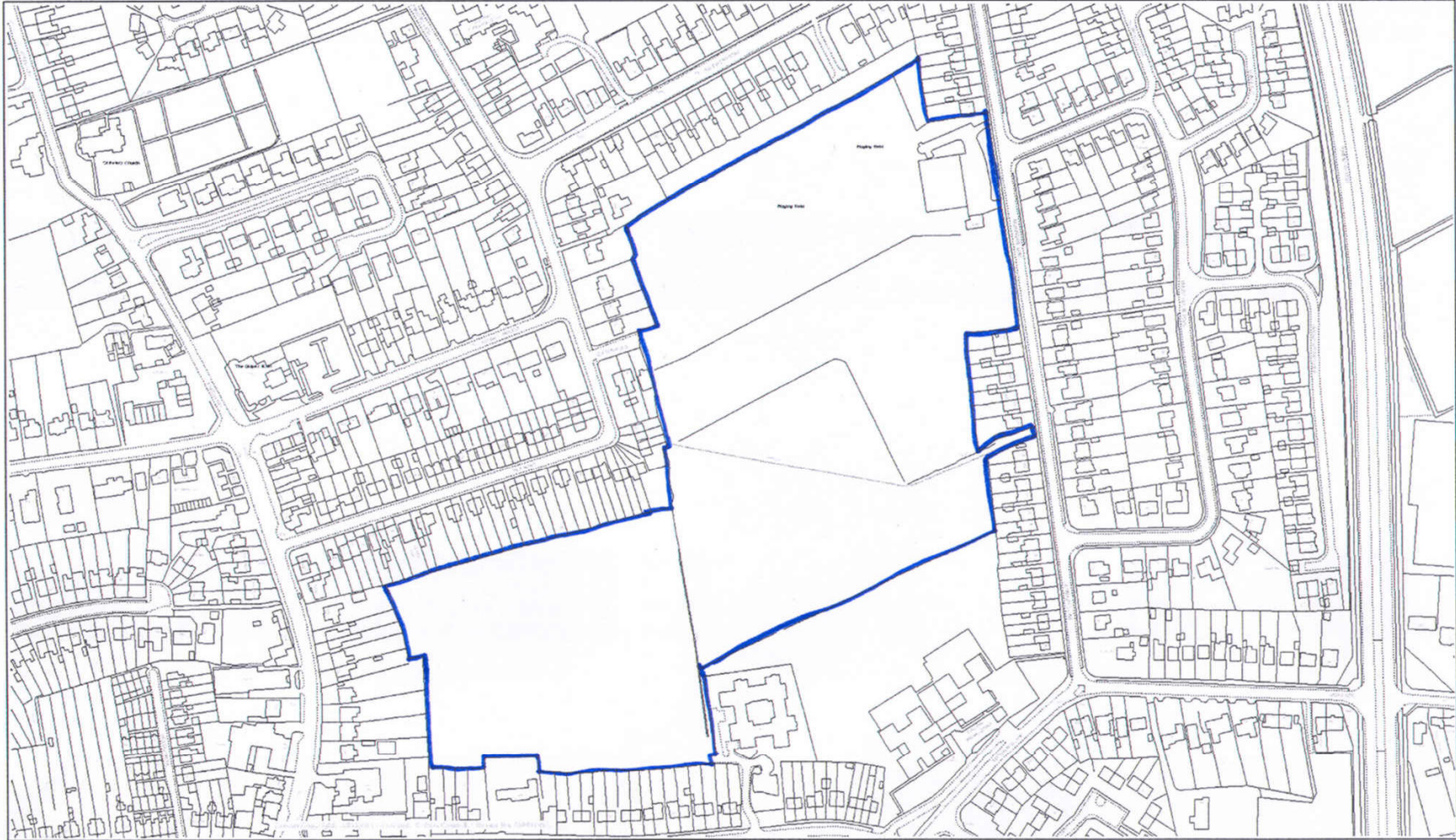
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Deansgate Lane Playing Fields



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