

Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL WARDS

CABINET

2nd July 2001

PLAY AREA STRATEGY 2001 - 2002

Report of the Director of Arts and Leisure

1 Purpose of Report

The report seeks approval to capital and revenue expenditure available for the refurbishment of both kickabout areas and children's playgrounds, based on the findings of the Play Area Strategy.

2 Summary

A total budget of £200,000 is available for the refurbishment of kickabout areas, children's playgrounds and adventure playgrounds in 2001-2002.

Members have previously considered and expressed their commitment to prioritise the provision of safe, accessible and high quality children's playgrounds and kickabout areas Citywide.

Such provision will complement the Council's policy of addressing social inclusion. Play and kickabout areas by provide facilities which are accessible to the whole community and can also provide diversionary facilities for youth.

The Arts and Leisure Department recently commissioned consultants to produce a Citywide Play Area Strategy. Officers are currently working with the consultants to analyse the research findings which will identify areas of play area deprivation which will then direct future refurbishment works in line with the recommendations of the strategy.

3 Recommendations

Members are asked to approve:

- (i) Capital expenditure of £150,000 in relation to Playground Improvements and Kickabout Areas in accordance with the 2001/02 Capital Programme.
- (ii) the principle of linking the Playground revenue and capital budgets together with the Kickabout Area capital budget in 2001/02 to enable prioritised refurbishment works to be carried out at a total cost of £200,000.

- (iii) The schedule of refurbishment for playgrounds/kickabout areas, based on on the findings of the Play Area Strategy, as detailed in Appendix A.

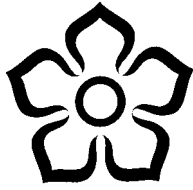
3 Financial & Legal Implications

Within the 2001/02 Capital Programme a total of £150,000 is available for refurbishment works, consisting of £100,000 for Playground Improvements and £50,000 for Kickabout Areas.

In addition £50,000 of the Playground Revenue Budget is available to fund the refurbishment of play areas.

4 Report Author

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Last year a total of 21 play areas were cleared of all items of play equipment following the NPFA inspection and risk assessment. Through the linking of the Playground Capital and Revenue Budgets for 2000-2001 the refurbishment of 10 of these play areas was achieved. These sites have been equipped and surfaced to comply with the European Standard for Playgrounds EN 1176 & 1177.

The Play Area Strategy recommends that this refurbishment work continues with the complete refurbishment of further 3 play areas and the replacement of individual items of equipment from many other sites.

The Play Area Strategy identifies other play areas which are not recommended for refurbishment due to concerns over their locations. Consultation with local residents is proposed to explore the suitability of alternative sites for play area provision to replace those sites previously cleared of all equipment and which are not recommended for refurbishment in the Play Area Strategy.

The proposed refurbishment works will not only replace high-risk items of play equipment with new equipment and safety surfacing conforming to the European Standard EN 1176/1177 but will make a significant contribution towards evidencing the Council's commitment to addressing social inclusion through the provision of accessible, safe and high quality play facilities for all communities.

FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

1 Other Implications

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	PARAGRAPH REFERENCES WITHIN SUPPORTING PAPERS
Equal Opportunities	No	
Policy	No	
Sustainable and Environmental	No	
Crime and Disorder	No	
Human Rights Act	No	

2 Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972

3 Consultations

Councillor Nigel Holden

APPENDIX A

SCHEDULE FOF REFURBISHMENT WORKS 2001-2002

Proposals – Play Areas

Sites with no equipment remaining

Montrose Spinney (Saffron)

St. Peters Site 6 (Wycliffe)

Vernon Street (St Augustines)

Refurbishment of the following sites:

Where some equipment has been removed as part of the 2000/2001 remedial works

Darenth Drive (Beaumont Leys)

Glovers Walk (Beaumont Leys)

Keepers Lodge Park (Beau. Leys)

Sharmon Crescent (New Parks)

Gilmorton Avenue (Aylestone)

Aylestone Rec Ground (Aylestone)

Attingham Close (W Humberstone)

Westcotes Park (Rowley Fields)

Cedarwood Close (W Humberstone)

Thirlmere Street (Castle)

Featherstone Drive (Eyres Monsell)

Monks Rest Gardens (Humberstone)

Kickabout Areas

Fencing repairs required to the following
Kickabout areas:

Fosse Rec Ground
(St. Augustines)

Aylestone Rec Ground
(Aylestone)

Bulwer Road
(Castle)

Ryder Road
(New Parks)

Cossington Street
(Latimer)

Plus:

Development of new ballcourt on Nether Hall Recreation Ground from North Hamilton Section 106 Agreement.