



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL WARDS

CABINET

29th July 2002

PLAY AREA IMPROVEMENTS 2002-2003

**Report of the Acting Corporate Director of Cultural Services
and Neighbourhood Renewal**

1 Purpose of Report

The report outlines the approved capital funding available for children's playgrounds and kickabout areas. The report presents a proposal for the refurbishment of existing play areas and the development of a kickabout area, based on the findings of the draft Play Area Strategy.

2 Summary

- 2.1 The approved capital programme includes the sum of £100,000 for improvement works to playgrounds and kickabout areas.
- 2.2 Last year, through the linking of the playground capital and revenue budgets, two play areas were completely refurbished and a further twelve sites were partially refurbished with new items of play equipment and associated safety surfacing, in compliance with the European Standard for Playgrounds EN 1176 & 1177.
- 2.3 This work formed the second year of a programme to replace play equipment removed as part of the 2000-2001 playground remedial works.
- 2.4 The draft Play Area Strategy recommends that this programme continues with the refurbishment of eight play areas where play equipment has previously been removed. The refurbishment works will consist of the siting of replacement play equipment with appropriate safety surfacing.
- 2.5 The draft Play Area Strategy identifies priority areas for the development of playgrounds and kickabout areas in areas of the City where multiple indices are high. A suitable site for the development of a kickabout area has been identified within the priority areas. The 2002-2003 capital allocation for playgrounds would fund the development of a kickabout area together with the refurbishment of eight play areas.

- 2.6 In addition to this capital programme funding from the North Hamilton Section 106 Agreement is available for the development of a proposed new ballcourt facility on Netherhall Recreation Ground.
- 2.7 Following the development of a kickabout area from the 2002-2003 capital budget for playgrounds, a three-year programme of kickabout area developments is proposed.
- 2.8 Recent research carried out, and published by the Thames Valley Police Authority has identified the potential benefits to local communities of installing kickabout areas and teenage shelters. Case studies throughout the country have established that the provision of kickabout areas can have a positive effect on anti-social behaviour and petty crime. Kickabout areas can provide young people with an outlet for their physical energy through team games as well as a non-confrontational place to meet. It is generally acknowledged that boredom can lead young people to commit petty crime, the provision of kickabout areas can deter this type of anti-social behaviour. In order to achieve these goals, young people need to be actively involved in decisions regarding the location of the kickabout area.
- 2.9 Revenue funding for playgrounds is required this year for minor refurbishment works and play equipment repairs resulting from vandalism and general wear. Minor refurbishment works to existing kickabout areas, to address any health and safety issues will also be funded from the playground revenue budget.

3 Recommendations

Members are asked to approve the refurbishment of eight play areas and the development of a kickabout area.

4 Financial & Legal Implications

Capital has been slipped from 2000/2001 to complete the refurbishment of one playground (30k) as approved by Members last year.

The continuation of the playground refurbishment programme is recommended with the replacement of previously removed play equipment on a total of eight play areas. The cost of this work is estimated to be £55,000.

In addition the development of a new kickabout area is proposed at a cost of £45,000.

The proposed refurbishment works will replace high-risk items of play equipment with new equipment and safety surfacing conforming to the European Standard EN 1176/1177.

Other Implications

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	PARAGRAPH REFERENCES WITHIN SUPPORTING PAPERS
Equal Opportunities	No	

Policy	No	
Sustainable and Environmental	No	
Crime and Disorder	Yes	2.8
Human Rights Act	No	
Elderly, People on Low Income	No	

5 Consultations

Councillor Nigel Holden

6 Background Papers

None

7 Report Author

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DECISION STATUS

Key Decision	Yes
Reason	Significant effect on more than two wards
Appeared in Forward Plan	Yes
Executive or Council Decision	Executive (Cabinet)

APPENDIX A

SCHEDULE OF REFURBISHMENT WORKS 2002-2003 - £100,000

Proposal - Development of a new kickabout area on the open space off Battersbee Road, New Parks - £45,000

Proposal – Refurbishment of play areas - £55,000

Refurbishment of the following sites: to replace play equipment removed as part of the 2000-2001 play area remedial works :

Ash Street, (Charnwood)

Cossington Street, (Latimer)

Melbourne Street, (Wycliffe)

Manor House, (Rowley Fields)

Oxendon Street, (Wycliffe)

Ross Walk, (Abbey)

St. Matthews Park, (Wycliffe)

Stephenson Drive, (St. Augustines)