

Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED: Abbey, Evington, Western Park, Latimer,
Spinney Hills, Thurncourt

CABINET

1ST SEPTEMBER 2003

PLAY AREA AND KICKABOUT AREA IMPROVEMENTS 2003-2004

Report of the Service Director, Cultural Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report outlines the approved capital funding available for children's playgrounds and kickabout areas and presents proposals for the refurbishment of existing play areas. It also recommends that a detailed assessment of kickabout areas is carried out in preparation for a subsequent review.

2. Summary

- 2.1 The play area refurbishment programme, initiated in response to the 2000-2001 playground remedial works, is nearing completion, with only six play areas left empty where play equipment has been removed.
- 2.2 The programme can be completed this year using available capital funds for the provision of replacement play equipment and associated safety surfacing at the six outstanding play areas. (See Appendix A for list of sites).
- 2.3 Capital funding in 2002-2003 for the development of a kickabout area in the New Parks ward has been slipped into this year's programme due to problems with the original proposal. An alternative site in New Parks has now been identified and work will proceed this year.
- 2.4 A detailed assessment of existing kickabout areas will form the basis for a proposed review of the service. A subsequent report will be presented on completion of the assessment with recommendations for the allocation of capital funding.

3. Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

1. approve the refurbishment of six play areas at a cost of £55,000 from the 2003/04 Capital Programme

2. note that a subsequent report will be presented at a later date, which will present the findings of the kickabout area assessment and make recommendations for refurbishment and development works to be funded from the remaining capital programme provision

4. Financial and legal Implications

4.1 Financial Implications

- 4.1.1 Capital funding was slipped from 2002-2003 for the development of a kickabout area in New Parks (£45,000). This was approved by Cabinet last year.
- 4.1.2 The refurbishment of the six outstanding play areas is possible by using £55,000 of the £100,000 capital allocation for playgrounds and kickabout areas.
- 4.1.3 The remaining £45,000 within the capital programme will be used for the refurbishment or development of kickabout areas following a detailed assessment of current provision. (Jane Tysoe, Cultural Services and Neighbourhood Renewal Head of Finance)

4.2 Legal Implications

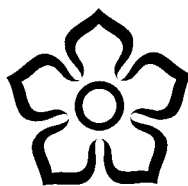
- 4.2.1 There is no statutory requirement for the provision of either play areas or kickabout areas but under Section 19 Local government (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1976 a local authority may provide, inside or outside its area, such recreational facilities as it thinks fit so there is no power for this provision. The play area refurbishment works will provide play equipment and associated safety surfacing which fully conform to the European Standard for Playgrounds (EN 1176/1177) (Sue Doyle – Legal Services)

5. Report Author/Officer to contact:

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DECISION STATUS

Key Decision	No
Reason	N/A
Appeared in Forward Plan	No
Executive or Council Decision	Executive (Cabinet)



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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. Report

- 1.1 The current approved capital programme includes a sum of £100,000 for improvement works to playgrounds and kickabout areas.
- 1.2 Last year one play area was completely refurbished and a further seven sites were partially refurbished with new items of play equipment and associated safety surfacing, in compliance with the European Standard for Playgrounds EN 1176 and 1177.
- 1.3 This work continues a refurbishment programme to replace outdated or sub-standard play equipment removed as part of the 2000-2001 playground remedial works.
- 1.4 We recommend that this programme be completed by the partial refurbishment of the remaining six play areas where play equipment had previously been removed (see Appendix a). The refurbishment works will consist of the siting of replacement play equipment with appropriate safety surfacing.
- 1.5 The development of a new kickabout area from the 2002-2003 capital programme in the New Parks Ward has been delayed due to problems with the original site proposed for this development. As a result £45,000 of the capital programme has been slipped into this year's programme to enable this development to proceed on an alternative site. A recent approach by the Allextion Tenants and Residents Association has highlighted the need for a kickabout area on the open space at Allextion Gardens in New Parks. This project is a viable alternative to the previous project planned for this ward.
- 1.6 Cultural Services currently manage a total of 20 kickabout areas throughout the City. Some of these are in a poor condition or are unsuitably located. Where kickabout areas are located away from overlooking properties, roads or pedestrian routes they can become subject to anti-social behaviour. A detailed assessment of existing kickabout areas will identify development and refurbishment needs that will form the basis for the review of children's outdoor play areas across the city.

FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

1. Financial Implications

- 1.1 Capital funding was slipped from 2002-2003 for the development of a kickabout area in New Parks (£45,000) this was approved by Members last year.
- 1.2 The continuation of the playground refurbishment programme is recommended with the replacement of previously removed play equipment on a total of six play areas (see Appendix A). The cost of this work is estimated to be £55,000.
- 1.3 The remaining £45,000 will be the subject of a further report to Cabinet following a detailed assessment of existing kickabout areas. The report will make recommendations for the allocation of this funding for the refurbishment of existing kickabout areas to maximise the user potential these sites. (Jane Tysoe, Cultural Services and Neighbourhood Renewal Head of Finance).

2. Legal Implications

- 2.1 The proposed play area refurbishment works will replace high-risk items of play equipment with new equipment and safety surfacing conforming to the European Standard EN 1176/1177. (Sue Doyle – Legal Services)

3.1 Other Implications

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph Within Supporting information	References
Equal Opportunities	No		
Policy	No		
Sustainable and Environmental	No		
Crime and Disorder	No		
Human Rights Act	No		
Elderly/People on Low Income	No		

3.2 Risk Assessment Matrix

	Risk	Likelihood L/M/H	Severity Impact L/M/H	Control Actions (if necessary/or appropriate)
1	Child involved in playground accident leading to personal injury claim	M	H	Risk minimised by installing equipment and safety surfacing in compliance with the European Standard for Playgrounds

L - Low	L - Low
M - Medium	M - Medium
H - High	H - High

4. Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972

None.

5. Consultations

Consultee

Date Consulted

Cultural Services & Neighbourhood Renewal Head of Finance	June 2003
Allextion Tenants and Residents Association	May 2003
Landscape Manager – City Landscape	May 2003
Sue Doyle – Legal Services	June 2003

7. Report Author

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APPENDIX A

SCHEDULE OF PLAY AREA REFURBISHMENT WORKS 2003-2004

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

Border Drive (Abbey)

Downing Drive (Evington)

Fosse Recreation Ground (Western Park)

Martin Street (Latimer)

Taylor Road (Spinney Hills)

Willowbrook Park (Thurncourt)