

Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED: Various

CABINET

1st March 2004

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2003/04 PLAYGROUND AND KICKABOUT AREAS

Report of the Service Director, Cultural Services

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report requests approval for the Capital Funding already allocated for the development and refurbishment of kickabout areas to be redirected and spent on 4 projects which will make a greater impact on the Council's strategic objective to improve the environment to make local neighbourhoods and the City Centre places for people to be proud of.

2 Summary

- 2.1 There is currently £45,000 allocated in the capital programme to carry out refurbishment of kickabout areas managed by Cultural Services in the City. Whilst this work is important, and officers propose to carry out condition surveys in 2004. meanwhile we would like to use the balance of the funding to undertake a range of projects detailed in the supporting information. These will have a more immediate impact on local neighbourhoods in accordance with the Council's strategic objectives.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 That Cabinet approve spending of the £45,000 previously allocated for kickabout refurbishment on the areas of work identified in this report.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The 2003/2004 Capital programme allocated £100k for children's playgrounds and kickabout areas. Cabinet on 1st September agreed that £55k of this should be used for the refurbishment of 6 identified play areas. In addition £45k was carried forward from the 2002/2003 capital programme for the development of a kickabout area in New Parks.
- 4.2 Cabinet agreed that a further report should be brought identifying the findings of the kickabout area assessment and making recommendations for refurbishment and development works to be funded from the remaining £45k 2003/2004 capital programme allocation.

5 Legal Implications

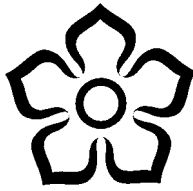
5.1 There are no legal implications at the time of this report being written.

6 Report Author

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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. Background

- 1.1 This report seeks approval to redirect capital expenditure of £45,000 in 2003/2004, for refurbishment of kickabout areas within the City to a range of other projects.
- 1.2 A new kickabout area is being developed at Allexton Gardens in New Parks for completion by 31st March 2004. A citywide strategy for play and youth, which will involve kickabout areas, will be prepared in 2004/2005. This will consider the rationalisation of all play and youth facilities across the City. In the absence of this strategy, part of the funding allocated within this financial year will be used to carry out condition surveys and associated health and safety works to existing kickabout areas. Officers advise that detailed surveys need to be commissioned to consider the condition of the 19 kickabout areas to identify any imminent health and safety/structural problems, rather than develop new areas at this time.
- 1.3 There are, however, a number of other projects that, due to constraints in the parks and green spaces budgets, cannot be financed. The projects are high priority and contribute significantly to the City Council's strategic objective "to improve the environment to make local neighbourhoods and the City Centre places for people to be proud of".
- 1.4 The table below identifies the areas of work that members are asked to approve.

Ward	PRIORITY ITEMS	Approx. Costs	Justification
All	Minor repairs to kickabout areas as identified from the condition surveys.	£10,000	Health & Safety
Aylestone	Supply and fit fencing around Aylestone Hall bowls green (currently not in use due to continued vandalism, if not addressed bowls club may fold).	£19,000	Crime & Safety
Eyres Monsell	Removal of Potting shed at Saffron Hill Cemetery as it is used for anti social activities	£10,000	Crime & Safety
New Parks	Security measures to stop motorcycles at Stokeswood Park.	£6,000	Crime & Safety
		TOTAL	£45,000

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 The 2003/2004 Capital programme allocated £100k for children's playgrounds and kickabout areas. Cabinet on 1st September agreed that £55k of this should be used for the refurbishment of 6 identified play areas. In addition £45k was carried forward from the 2002/2003 capital programme for the development of a kickabout area in New Parks.
- 2.2 Cabinet agreed that a further report should be brought identifying the findings of the kickabout area assessment and making recommendations for refurbishment and development works to be funded from the remaining £45k 2003/2004 capital programme allocation.

3. Legal Implications

- 3.1 There are no legal implications at the time of this report.

4. Other Implications

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph References Within Supporting information
Equal Opportunities	NO	
Policy	YES	1.2, 1.3
Sustainable and Environmental	YES	1.2, 1.4
Crime and Disorder	YES	1.2, 1.4
Human Rights Act	NO	
Elderly/People on Low Income	NO	

5. Risk Assessment Matrix

	Risk	Likelihood L/M/H	Severity Impact L/M/H	Control Actions (if necessary/or appropriate)
1	Risk of serious injury to users on the kickabout areas.	H	H	Kickabout areas would need to be closed.
2	Fencing around Aylestone Bowling Green, Aylestone Hall Gardens needs putting in place to help stop continued vandalism. If fencing is not done this may lead to a loss of bowlers in this area.	H	H	The area would need to be fenced temporarily with herras fencing however, this would not resolve the situation on a permanent basis and would be very unsightly.
3	The Potting shed, at Saffron Hill Cemetery is unsafe and is used for anti social activities. This structure also contains asbestos. There is a risk of serious injury.	H	H	The building could be fenced off but this would not resolve the problems on a permanent basis.
4	Motorcycles accessing Stokeswood Park and could cause serious injury to park users.	H	H	

L – Low M – Medium H – High

6. Consultations

Jayne Tysoe, Head Of Finance, CSNR
Legal Services, Rebecca Jenkins

7. Report Author

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