

Leicester  
City Council

**WARDS AFFECTED: Belgrave  
Humberstone, Spinney Hill, Castle, Braunstone Park and  
Rowley Fields, Freeman, Western Park**

**FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:  
CABINET**

**8<sup>th</sup> November 2004**

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**PLAY AREA IMPROVEMENTS 2004-2005**

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**Report of the Service Director, Cultural Services**

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To authorise expenditure of £100,000 for improvements to play areas from the 2004/05 Capital Programme.

**2. Summary**

- 2.1 The capital programme for 2004 - 2005 approved by Cabinet on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2004 includes the sum of £100,000 for improvement works to play areas. That approval was subject to "further approval by Cabinet with regards to the detailed implementation of the scheme".

**3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 Cabinet are asked to authorise expenditure from the 2004/05 Capital Programme of £100,000 for improvements to 7 play areas as identified at Table 1 in paragraph 1.4 of the Supporting Information.

**4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 Capital funding of £100,000 was identified within the 2004-2005 capital programme for play areas and kickabout areas, but required further Cabinet approval. This paper seeks such approval.

A C Tomlins - Head of Finance, Regeneration and Culture

**Legal Implications**

- 4.2 No specific legal implications arise from this report.

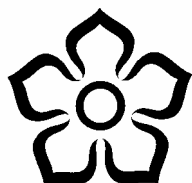
Joanna Bunting – Assistant Head of Legal Services

**5. Report Author/Officer to contact:**

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**Play and Youth Services Manager**  
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**DECISION STATUS**

<b>Key Decision</b>	No
<b>Reason</b>	N/A
<b>Appeared in Forward Plan</b>	No
<b>Executive or Council Decision</b>	Cabinet



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**WARDS AFFECTED: VARIOUS**

**FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:  
CABINET**

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**PLAY AREA IMPROVEMENTS 2004-2005**

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**Report of the Service Director, Cultural Services**

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 Capital funding has been provided by Cabinet over the past three years for a programme of refurbishment and development of play areas and kickabout areas.
- 1.2 This paper proposes refurbishing a number of play areas across the City with new items of play equipment and associated safety surfacing. This work will ensure compliance with the European Standards for Playgrounds and the Disability Discrimination Act.
- 1.3 An assessment has been carried out by the Play and Youth Services section to prioritise the proposed capital expenditure of £100,000. They gave particular consideration to sites which currently reflect poor play value and for which there are no alternative facilities within walking distance. The National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) call this the 'six acre standard'. In general terms, the NPFA six acre standard recommends a minimum standard of outdoor space for children's play per 1,000 population.

- 1.4 If Cabinet agrees, the refurbishment works will consist of the replacement of large items of equipment in existing sites as follows:-

**Table 1**

<b>Site</b>	<b>Ward</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Loughborough Road – this is a local equipped play area serving a large number of properties within a 5 minute walk. The equipment in this area is old and some equipment has been removed in the past resulting in poor play value.	Belgrave	£10,000
Netherhall - this is a local equipped play area in a large open space. This site is the only play area in Netherhall and caters for a large number of properties. Play value is poor due to old equipment. There is limited play value for children over six years of age.	Humberstone	£20,000
Crown Hills – this is a local equipped play area. It is a well used play area to the side of Coleman Primary School. The existing timber play equipment is old and has been regularly vandalised. It needs to be replaced with more updated vandal resistant equipment.	Spinney Hill	£15,000
Victoria Park (Junior) –This is a City Park play area in need of refurbishment due to old equipment. Several items have been removed in the past, and the Council has received numerous requests from local residents and children to replace the play equipment.	Castle	£15,000
Hockley Farm Road – this is a local equipped area for play that has very little play equipment remaining due to vandalism. There have been requests from local residents to provide new equipment.	Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields	£15,000
Elston Fields – this scheme needs Council part funding in partnership with the Saffron Young Peoples Project (SYPP). SYPP wish to develop the site by providing a youth shelter.	Freeman	£5,000
Western Park – a City Park play area with old equipment that needs replacing. The lack of facilities for children over the age of six years has resulted in persistent vandalism to the toddler play area.	Western Park	£20,000

## **2. Financial, Legal and Other Implications**

## Financial Implications

- 2.1 Capital funding of £100,000 was identified within the 2004-2005 capital programme for play areas and kickabout areas but required further Cabinet approval. This paper seeks such approval.
- 2.2 Due to £15,000 being carried forward from the capital funding from last year to carry out works to kickabout areas, the £100,000 allocation for 2004/05 can be used solely to refurbish the seven sites identified in this report.

A C Tomlins – Head of Finance, Regeneration and Culture

## 3. Legal Implications

No specific legal implications arise from this report.

Joanna Bunting – Assistant Head of Legal Services

## 4. Other Implications

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph Within Supporting information	References
Equal Opportunities	Yes	1.2	
Policy	Yes	1.2	
Sustainable and Environmental	Yes	Table 1	
Crime and Disorder	Yes	Table 1	
Human Rights Act	No		
Elderly/People on Low Income	No		

## 5. Risk Assessment Matrix

	Risk	Likelihood L/M/H	Security Impact L/M/H	Control Actions (if necessary or appropriate)
1.	If approval is not obtained to spend the capital allocation on the play areas, there will be a general deterioration in the standard of play area provision.	L	M	Close playgrounds or remove equipment if unsafe
		L - Low	L - Low	
		M - Medium	M - Medium	
		H - High	H - High	

## 6. Background Papers

Play Area Strategy 2001 – 2002 – Cabinet 2 July 2001  
Play Area Improvements 2002 – 2003 – Cabinet 29<sup>th</sup> July 2002  
Play Area & Kickabout Area Improvements 2003-2004 – Cabinet 1<sup>st</sup> September 2003  
Corporate Capital Programme 2004/05 – Cabinet 19<sup>th</sup> January 2004

**7. Consultations**

<b>Consultee</b>	<b>Date consulted</b>
R & C Head of Finance – Alan Tomlins	27-9-04
Legal Services – Joanna Bunting	28-9-04

**8. Report Author**

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