

Executive Decision Report

Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) and Ball Court reinvestment – release of capital provision

Decision to be taken by: City Mayor

Decision to be taken on: 18 January 2023

Lead director: Sean Atterbury



City Mayor

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
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- Report version number: 3.0

1. Summary

- 1.2 The City Council manages approximately 30 multi-use game areas (MUGA's) and ballcourt areas across the city. The condition of these sites is varied, with some sites in good and usable conditions and others that require substantial investment.
- 1.3 The Council is planning to invest £600k of capital money held within a policy provision towards the redevelopment of a number of sites across the city. The first phase of works will take place in 2022/23 and 2023/24 and will be managed through the Neighbourhood & Environmental Services division.

2. Recommendations

- 2.0 It is recommended that:
 - The proposed list of sites and associated works is approved.
 - £615k is added as an immediate start to the capital programme, with £600k being released from a policy provision held for this purpose and £15k from s106 contributions.

3. Supporting information including options considered:

- 3.1 The City Council manages a number of outdoor multiuse games areas (MUGA), ballcourts and kickabout areas across the city. These are located in parks, local open spaces, neighbourhood centres and other places. These facilities provide and cater for a range of sports, although this is predominately basketball and football. The facilities vary in size, age and condition with some sites having dedicated additional features such as floodlighting to allow for use after-dark or in the winter. The condition of the facilities vary also – some have received recent capital investment through funding such as S106 developer contributions, whilst others have lagged behind and deteriorated due to things such as antisocial behaviour and a lack of available funding.
- 3.2 A condition survey was commissioned in early 2022, to look at our existing ballcourt provision and to provide comments and recommend improvements where applicable. The survey was carried out by the Royal Society of the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) who undertake the city council's annual play area inspections.

- 3.3. The survey helped to identify a number of issues across many of the sites – these included improvements to perimeter fencing, floodlighting, surfacing and the addition of other equipment and outdoor furniture. Each facility is inherently different, with a range of issues and recommendations to tackle these.
- 3.4 Officers within Neighbourhood and Environmental Services and Sports Services used the RoSPA condition survey to prioritise each facility for redevelopment. Other factors that were considered included:
- Condition (from the RoSPA survey)
 - Level of deprivation of surrounding area
 - Levels of ASB
 - Inactivity levels
- 3.5 From these a list of high, medium and low priority sites has been created in order to ensure that resources are appropriated correctly and capital funding is directed to those sites most at need of redevelopment.
- 3.6 The City Council is proposing a major investment programme in its MUGA, ballcourt and kickabout facilities over a 3 year period. £2.5m is included within the draft capital programme for 2023/24, and is subject to Council ratification in February 2023. The first phase of funding of £600,000 was approved by full Council in the 2022/23 capital programme and is held within a policy provision. Release of this through this report will enable works to commence in the spring of 2023.
- 3.7 The priority sites for the first phase of funding are:
- Cedar Road Gardens
 - Melbourne Street ballcourt
 - Hillsborough Road kickabout area.
- With the pre-estimate costs for these works of:
- Cedar Road (ball court only) - £365k
 - Melbourne Street – £140k
 - Hillsborough Road - £95k
- 3.8 The overall capital budget will be supplemented with additional S106 monies allocated for Cedar Road Gardens– approximately £15k, to give a total programme budget of £615k.
- 3.9 The programme will be managed by officers within Neighbourhood and Environmental Services, who will commission professional consultancy services to assist with the project delivery. It is anticipated that works will start on site in early to mid-2023 at Cedar Road Gardens and Melbourne Street. Stakeholders will be communicated to throughout the programme and kept updated with project developments on site.
- 3.10 The City Council has a construction framework contract in place, with which the works would be able to progress relatively quickly. Officers do not anticipate either that any of the works would require planning permission, and should all be granted as permitted development. This will be clarified however with Planning

prior to the start of the works.

- 3.11 The second phase of works are anticipated to commence in mid-2023, subject to Council approving the budget in February 2023, and a further report will be brought to the Executive with a list of priority sites and programme of works.

4. Details of Scrutiny

None

5. Financial, legal and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

This report seeks approval to release £600k from a policy provision that was approved in the 2022/23 Capital Programme Report to Council in February 2022, alongside the addition of £15k of s106 funding to the Capital Programme. The draft 2023/24 Capital Programme Report will be presented to full Council in February 2023, and currently proposes inclusion of a further £2.5m towards MUGA's.

Stuart McAvoy – Head of Finance

5.2 Legal implications

Legal advice will be provided as required to support the proposals as set out in the report (if approved).

Kevin Carter, Head of Law – Commercial, Property and Planning

5.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

Capital works within the city are significant sources of carbon emissions. Following Leicester City Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency and ambition for the city to reach net zero carbon by 2030 tackling emissions from these sources is vital. Opportunities to minimise emissions should be therefore considered from the design stages of projects. This could include seeking opportunities to reduce emissions through the use of low carbon materials, sustainable construction practices (including reducing waste sent to landfill) and specifying the use of low energy lighting, as applicable to the specific works to be carried out.

Aidan Davis, Sustainability Officer, Ext 37 2284

5.4 Equalities Implications

There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report. It is important to ensure that accessible and inclusive design concepts are taken into account, as these help to support the general aims of the PSED and will be particularly beneficial in removing barriers to participation for people from across a range of protected characteristics.

Equalities Officer, Surinder Singh Ext 37 4148

5.5 Other Implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

n/a

6. Background information and other papers:

n/a

7. Summary of appendices:

n/a

8. Is this a private report (If so, please indicated the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?

No

9. Is this a “key decision”?

No

10. If a key decision please explain reason

n/a