



Democratic Services

Location: Phase II
Ext: 7655
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**To: COUNCILLOR MARTIN GODDARD
CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE**

**COUNCILLOR EDDIE LAVERY
CABINET MEMBER FOR RESIDENTS SERVICES**

c.c. All Councillors
c.c. All Members of the Residents Services Select Committee
c.c. Jamie Bell, Place Directorate
c.c. Perry Scott, Corporate Director of Place

Date: 5 August 2022

Non-Key Decision request

Form D

CAPITAL RELEASE REPORT (July 2022)

DEPARTMENT: Environment and Leisure

SERVICE AREA / PROGRAMME: Green Spaces – Housing Revenue Account Works to Stock 2022/23 Programme: Playground Refurbishment Workstream: Wylchin Close Children's Playground Safety Compliance Works.

RELEASE NO: 18

Dear Cabinet Members

Attached is a report requesting that a decision be made by you as an individual Cabinet Member. Democratic Services confirm that this is not a key decision, as such, the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 notice period does not apply.

You should take a decision **on or after Monday 15 August 2022** in order to meet Constitutional requirements about publication of decisions that are to be made. You may wish to discuss the report with the Corporate Director before it is made. Please indicate your decision on the duplicate memo supplied, and return it to me when you have made your decision. I will then arrange for the formal notice of decision to be published.

Anisha Teji
Democratic Services Officer

Title of Report: Green Spaces – Housing Revenue Account Works to Stock 2022/23 Programme: Playground Refurbishment Workstream: Wylchin Close Children's Playground Safety Compliance Works. RELEASE NO: 18

Decision made:

Reasons for your decision: (e.g. as stated in report)

Alternatives considered and rejected: (e.g. as stated in report)

SignedDate.....

Cabinet Member for Finance/Cabinet Member for Residents Services

CAPITAL RELEASE REPORT (July 2022)

DEPARTMENT: Environment and Leisure

SERVICE AREA / PROGRAMME: Green Spaces – Housing Revenue Account Works to Stock 2022/23 Programme: Playground Refurbishment Workstream: Wylchin Close

Children's Playground Safety Compliance Works.

RELEASE NO: 18

Cabinet Members	Councillor Martin Goddard Councillor Eddie Lavery
Cabinet Portfolios	Cabinet Member for Finance Cabinet Member for Residents Services
Officer Contact	Jamie Bell, Place Directorate
Papers with report	Appendix A with capital release requests for approval

HEADLINES

Summary	To seek Cabinet Member approval for the release of capital funds to carry out re-surfacing works to Wylchin Close Playground to meet compliance. The Current surfacing under the equipment does not meet Safety Standards and has failed safety inspections.
Putting our Residents First	This report supports the Council objective of strong financial management.
Financial Cost	This report seeks the release of £31k from the Playground Refurbishment Workstream within the Housing Revenue Account Works to Stock Programme 2022/23 capital budget for the safety compliance works at Wylchin Close children's playground. The works will commence upon release of the funds and are due for completion by August 2022
Relevant Select Committee	Residents Services Select Committee
Ward(s) affected	Northwood Hills

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Cabinet Member for Resident Services agree to the following capital release requests of £31k from the Playground Refurbishment

Workstream within the Housing Revenue Account Works to Stock Programme 2022/23 capital budget for Wylchin Close Playground Safety Compliance works. (Appendix A)

Reasons for recommendation

The replacement of this playground's safety surface is necessary due to it now reaching the end of its economical life. This has been identified by the safety inspections undertaken by RoSPA qualified Inspectors and engineers from our insurance company Zurich. This approach is supported by local residents and families using the site. This has also been identified by Ward Councillors who have submitted a Members Enquiry relating to its condition.

Alternative options considered

The Cabinet Members could decide not to accept the recommendations. This would mean that the replacement of the Safety Surface would not be undertaken, risking this playground being closed due it not meeting compliance and no longer being in a safe condition.

Select Committee comments

None at this stage

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The Report is seeking the release of funds to remove existing surfacing and replace the safety surface from under the play equipment at Wylchin Close in Northwood Hills, to comply with Safety Standards. This piece of work will be carried out the Council's approved contracted supplier, HAGS who carry out all inspection and maintenance across all Parks and Housing Playgrounds, Gyms, Skate Parks, and Ball Courts within the Borough.

Table 1: Cost Plan Wylchin Close Safety Compliance Works

<i>Project / Programme Cost plan</i>	<i>Amount £</i>
<i>Works</i>	<i>27,929</i>
<i>Internal fees 10%</i>	<i>2,793</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>30,722</i>

Financial Implications

Budget £270k, Previously Released / Pending Release £Nil, Capital Release Requested £31k.

The 2022/23 HRA Capital Programme approved by Cabinet and Council in February 2022, includes a capital budget for the Works to Stock programme of £20,023k. In July 2022, Cabinet approved the rephasing of £7,575k from the 2021/22 HRA Capital Programme, of which, £7,058k has been rephased into the 2022/23 Programme and £517k rephased into 2023/24 Programme. This gives a revised capital budget for the Works to Stock 2022/23 Programme of £31,241k. Within this, the Playground Refurbishment workstream budget is £270k.

This report is seeking the release of £31k for the replacement of the safety surface under the play equipment at Wylchin Close in Northwood Hills to comply with safety standards. The release

request is based on the quoted costs received from the Council's approved contracted supplier, HAGS who carry out all inspection and maintenance across the green spaces within the borough and includes internal fees of 10% of the quoted costs.

The remaining £239k for the Playground Refurbishment workstream will be subject to the capital release procedure.

RESIDENT BENEFIT & CONSULTATION

The benefit or impact upon residents, service users and communities?

The Council and its partners are committed to making the Borough a cleaner, greener and safer environment. The recommendations within this report will ensure that the identified works to this playground can progress to create a safer and fun play experience for local children as well as a meeting/social space for parents and carers of young children to enjoy.

Consultation carried out or required

None.

CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance has reviewed the report and concurs with the financial implications set out above, noting that the recommended action to agree a release of £31k for the replacement of the safety surface under the play equipment at Wylchin Close in Northwood Hills to comply with safety standards will be funded from the approved 2022/23 Property of Works Programme capital budget.

Legal

Legal Services confirms that the Council is responsible for carrying out this function pursuant to Section 12 of the Housing Act 1985. Thus, there are no legal impediments to the capital release being authorised, although any contract that is entered into must comply with the Council's Procurement and Contract Standing Orders.

Infrastructure / Asset Management

There are no Infrastructure / Asset Management implications arising from this report

Capital Release Protocol

The release of all capital funds, and certain revenue funds, held by the Council is to be made by a formal democratic decision. No expenditure can be placed or committed by officers until this formal approval is given by Democratic Services. Release of funds must be for identified projects

only and strictly not for the general release of funds for projects to be identified at a later date. No block releases of capital or funding will be allowed, except if authorised by the Leader of the Council in advance to Corporate Finance. The release of funds will only be made if previous Council, Cabinet or Cabinet Member agreement has been given to the project and only if there is an approved budget.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

APPENDIX A

Housing Revenue Account Works to Stock Programme 2022/23: Playground Refurbishment workstream – Wylchin Close Children's Playground Safety Compliance Works. Release No18

Location	Project / Expenditure Title	Information	Funds Release Sought £000's	Approve	Hold	More Information Required
Wylchin Close Children's Playground Northwood Hills	Safety Compliance Works	Replacement of the safety surface under the play equipment to meet safety standards	31			
Total seeking release			31			
Previously released			0			
Budget			270			
Remaining budget			239			