



Democratic Services

Location: Phase II

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CMD No: 991

To:

**COUNCILLOR MARTIN GODDARD
CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE**

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

c.c. All Members of the Residents' Services Select Committee

c.c. Jamie Bell – Place Directorate

c.c. Perry Scott – Corporate Director of Place

c.c. All Ward Councillors for Harefield Village and Eastcote

Date: 12 December 2023

Non-Key Decision request

Form D

CAPITAL RELEASE REPORT (April 2023)

DEPARTMENT: Place

SERVICE AREA / PROGRAMME: Green Spaces - Housing Revenue Account Works to Stock 2023/24

Programme: Playground Refurbishment Workstream: Coteford Close and Gilbert Road Children's

Playground refurbishment work

RELEASE NO: 29

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 Wednesday 20 December 2023** 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.

Rebecca Reid
Democratic Services Apprentice

Title of Report: CAPITAL RELEASE REPORT (April 2023)

DEPARTMENT: Place

SERVICE AREA / PROGRAMME: Green Spaces – Housing Revenue Account Works to Stock 2023/24

Programme: Playground Refurbishment Workstream: Coteford Close and Gilbert Road Children's
Playground refurbishment work

RELEASE NO: 29

Decision made:

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

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

Signed Date.....

Cabinet Member for Finance / Cabinet Member for Residents' Services

CAPITAL RELEASE REPORT (April 2023)

DEPARTMENT: Place

SERVICE AREA / PROGRAMME: Green Spaces – Housing Revenue Account Works to Stock 2023/24 Programme: Playground Refurbishment Workstream: Coteford Close and Gilbert Road Children's Playground refurbishment work

RELEASE NO: 29

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 – Capital release requests for approval

HEADLINES

Summary	To seek Cabinet Member approval for the release of capital funds to carry out refurbishment works to Coteford Close and Gilbert Road Playgrounds. The Current playgrounds are now beyond economical repair; many pieces of equipment no longer meet safety standards and require replacing.
Putting our Residents First	This report supports our ambition for residents / the Council of: Enjoy access to green spaces, leisure activities, culture, and arts. This report supports our commitments to residents of: A Green and Sustainable Borough.
Financial Cost	This report seeks the release of £101k from the Playground Refurbishment Workstream within the Housing Revenue Account Works to Stock Programme 2023/24 capital budget for the Refurbishment works to Coteford Close and Gilbert Road children's playgrounds. The works will commence upon release of the funds and are due for completion by April 2024.
Relevant Select Committee	Residents' Services Select Committee.
Ward(s) affected	Harefield Village and Eastcote.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Cabinet Member for Residents' Services agree to the following capital release requests of £101k from the Playground Refurbishment Workstream within the Housing Revenue Account Works to Stock Programme 2023/24 capital budget for the Refurbishment of Coteford Close and Gilbert Road Childrens Playgrounds. (Appendix A)

Reasons for recommendation

The refurbishment of these playgrounds is necessary due to it now reaching the end of its economic 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 their condition.

This funding release is part of the Council's Playground refurbishment programme approved by Cabinet in November 2022 with a contract award to Kompan Ltd for the provision of the design, replacement, and installation of playground equipment over a 4-year period. The programme approved by Cabinet included these two playground sites.

Alternative options considered

The Cabinet Members could decide not to accept the recommendations. This would mean that the refurbishment of these playgrounds would not be undertaken, risking the playgrounds being closed due to them 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 equipment, surfacing, and fencing and replace with new at Coteford Close, Northwood and Gilbert Road, Harefield to comply with Safety Standards. This work will be carried out by the Council's approved contracted supplier, Kompan, who were recently awarded the tender for playground refurbishments across all Parks and Housing Playgrounds, within the Borough.

Table 1: Cost Plan **Coteford Close** Playground Refurbishment Works

<i>Project / Programme Cost plan</i>	<i>Amount £</i>
<i>Works</i>	<i>44,000</i>
<i>Internal fees 10%</i>	<i>4,400</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>48,400</i>

Table 2: Cost Plan **Gilbert Road** Playground Refurbishment Works.

Project / Programme Cost plan	Amount £
<i>Works</i>	<i>48,000</i>
<i>Internal fees 10%</i>	<i>4,800</i>
Total	52,800

Financial Implications

Budget £270k, Previously Released / Pending Release £148k, Capital Release Requested £101k.

The 2023/24 HRA Capital Programme, approved by Cabinet and Council in February 2023, includes a capital budget for the Works to Stock programme of £22,437k. Within this, the Playground Refurbishment workstream budget is £270k.

Previously £148k has been released from the HRA Playground Refurbishment workstream for the refurbishment of Albion Road and St Peters Road Childrens Playgrounds.

This report is seeking the release of £101k for the refurbishment of Coteford Close and Gilbert Road Childrens Playgrounds. The release request is based on the quoted costs received from the Council's approved contracted supplier, Kompan, who carry out all Playground Refurbishments across the green spaces within the Borough and includes internal fees of 10% of the quoted costs.

The remaining £21k 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 £101k for the refurbishment of Coteford Close and Gilbert Road Childrens Playgrounds will be funded from the approved 2023/24 HRA Works to Stock Playground Refurbishment capital budget.

Legal

Legal Services confirm that the Council is responsible for carrying out this function pursuant to Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. 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.

TITLE OF APPENDICES

Appendix A – Capital release requests for approval

APPENDIX A – Capital release requests for approval

Housing Revenue Account Works to Stock Programme 2023/24: Playground Refurbishment workstream – Coteford Close and Gilbert Road Children's Playground Refurbishments Works. Release No29

Location	Project / Expenditure Title	Information	Funds Release Sought £000's	Approve	Hold	More Information Required
Coteford Close (Eastcote) and Gilbert Road (Harefield Village) Children's Playground's	Refurbishment Works	Refurbishment of Both Playgrounds as they are now beyond economical repair	101			
Total seeking release			101			
Previously released			148			
Budget			270			
Remaining budget			21			