



Democratic Services

Location: Phase II
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CMD No: 1209

**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. Karrie Whelan – Corporate Director of Place
c.c. Ward Councillors for West Drayton and Pinkwell

Date: 22 August 2024

Non-Key Decision request

Form D

CAPITAL RELEASE REPORT (July/ 2024/25)

DEPARTMENT: Place

SERVICE AREA / PROGRAMME: Housing Revenue Account Works to Stock - Playground Refurbishment Workstream - The Brambles and Croyde Avenue Children's Playground Safety Compliance Works. **RELEASE NO:** 24

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 2 September 2024** 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 (July/ 2024/25)

DEPARTMENT: Place

SERVICE AREA / PROGRAMME: Housing Revenue Account Works to Stock - Playground Refurbishment Workstream – The Brambles and Croyde Avenue Children's Playground Safety Compliance Works. **RELEASE NO:** 24

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 (July/ 2024/25)

DEPARTMENT: Place

SERVICE AREA / PROGRAMME: Housing Revenue Account Works to Stock - Playground Refurbishment Workstream – The Brambles and Croyde Avenue Children's Playground Safety Compliance Works. RELEASE NO: 24

Cabinet Members	Councillor Martin Goddard Councillor Eddie Lavery
Cabinet Portfolios	Cabinet Member for Finance Cabinet Member for Residents' Services
Officer Contact	Jamie Bell – Green Spaces
Papers with report	Appendix A with capital release requests for approval Appendix B with Playground Designs

HEADLINES

Summary	To seek Cabinet Member approval for the release of capital funds to carry out refurbishment works to The Brambles Ball Court and Croyde Avenue Playground. The current Ball Court & Playground are now beyond economical repair; many pieces of equipment no longer meet safety standards and require replacing.
Putting our Residents First Delivering on the Council Strategy 2022-2026	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 £200k from the 2024/25 Housing Revenue Account Works to Stock capital budget for the refurbishment works to The Brambles Ball Court and Croyde Avenue Playground. The current state of the Playground no longer meets safety standards. The works will commence upon release of the funds and are due for completion by October 2024
Relevant Select Committee	Residents' Services Select Committee.
Relevant Wards	West Drayton and Pinkwell.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Cabinet Member for Residents' Services agree to the following capital release requests of £200k from the Playground Refurbishment Workstream within the Housing Revenue Account Works to Stock Programme 2024/25 capital budget for the Refurbishment of The Brambles Ball Court and Croyde Avenue Childrens Playground.

Reasons for recommendation

The refurbishment of the Ball Court and playground is necessary due to both now reaching the end of their 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 sites. The Brambles Ball court has also been identified by Ward Councillors as requiring refurbishment and in turn have submitted Members Enquiries relating to its 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.

Alternative options considered

The Cabinet Members could decide not to accept the recommendations. This would mean that the refurbishment of these two sites would not be undertaken, risking the playground and ball court 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 The Brambles Ball Court, West Drayton and Croyde Avenue Playground, Hayes to comply with Safety Standards. This work will be carried out by the Council's approved contracted supplier, Kompan, who were awarded the tender for playground refurbishments across all Parks and Housing Playgrounds, within the Borough.

Table 1:

Project / Programme Cost plan	£
Brambles Ball Court	100,427.26
Croyde Avenue Playground	80,154.06
External fees	0
Internal fees	9,029.07
Planning & Building Control fees	0
Furniture & equipment	0
Project Contingency	10,000.00

Total	£199,610.39
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Financial Implications

Budget £219k, Previously Released £Nil, Capital Release Requested £200k - Appendix A

The 2024/25 HRA Capital Programme, approved by Cabinet and Council in February 2024, includes a capital budget for the Works to Stock programme £26,767k. Within this, the Playground Replacement Programme workstream budget is £219k.

The Report is seeking the release of funds to remove existing equipment, surfacing and fencing, and replace with new at The Brambles Ball Court, West Drayton and Croyde Avenue Playground, Hayes to comply with Safety Standards.

This work will be carried out by the Council's approved contracted supplier, Kompan, who were awarded the tender for playground refurbishments across all Parks and Housing Playgrounds, within the Borough.

The remaining £19k for the Playground Replacement Programme workstream budget 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 these play areas 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

No consultation has been carried out; the identified play areas are existing sites that have reached their end of life and require refurbishment.

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 £200k to remove existing equipment, surfacing, and fencing, and replace with new at The Brambles Ball Court, West Drayton and Croyde Avenue Playground, Hayes to comply with Safety Standards.

Legal

The Borough Solicitor 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 - Playground Refurbishment Workstream – The Brambles and Croyde Avenue Children's Playground Safety Compliance Works. RELEASE NO: 24

Location	Project/ Expenditure Title	Information	Funds Release Sought £000's	Approve	Hold	More Information Required
The Brambles Ball Court, West Drayton and Croyde Avenue, Hayes	Playground Replacement Programme	To remove existing equipment, surfacing, and to replace with new	200			
Total seeking release			200			
Previously released			0			
Budget			219			
Remaining budget			19			

APPENDIX B

The Brambles Ball Court Design



Croyde Avenue Playground Design

