

CABINET
4 APRIL 2023

**RELEASE OF CAPITAL 2023/24 – ESSENTIAL REPAIRS TO PLAY AREAS, A BRIDGE ACROSS
THE SKERNE RIVER AND RELEASE OF ADVANCED DESIGN FEES**

**Responsible Cabinet Member -
Councillor Scott Durham, Resources Portfolio**

**Responsible Director -
Dave Winstanley, Group Director of Services**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To approve the release of capital funding approved in the Medium Term Financial Plan to undertake essential repairs to play areas, repairs to a bridge over the River Skerne and release advanced design fee funding to enable projects to be developed.

Summary

2. The Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2023/24 to 2026/27 included the following financial allocations:
 - (a) £200,000 over the next 4 years for repairs to play areas over and above the annual revenue maintenance to replace/maintain play equipment to the required safety standard.
 - (b) £50,000 to carry out essential maintenance work to a bridge over the River Skerne in the Parkgate area.
3. The Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2022/23 to 2025/26 included the following financial allocations:
 - (a) £150,000 in 2022/23 and the same amount in 2023/24 for advanced design work on projects to ensure projects are developed to appropriate standards for funding applications and Council decision making processes.
4. This report seeks approval to release the capital funding to deliver the works and projects identified above.

Recommendation

5. It is recommended that the following amounts approved in the MTFP are released :-
 - (a) £200,000 for essential play area equipment replacement/ maintenance.

- (b) £50,000 for essential repairs to a bridge over the River Skerne.
- (c) £300,000 of advanced design fees be released for the development of Council priority projects.

Reasons

6. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons:-

- (a) To ensure the play areas/equipment are safe for children to use.
- (b) To ensure the bridge is in a safe condition to enable its ongoing use.
- (c) To ensure that schemes which are Council priorities are progressed.

Dave Winstanley
Group Director of Services

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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S17 Crime and Disorder	Ensuring play areas are well maintained provides opportunities for young people to engage in positive activities.
Health and Wellbeing	Provision of play areas has a positive impact on young people's health and wellbeing.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	There are no implications on carbon and climate change.
Diversity	There is no specific implications on diversity.
Wards Affected	Play areas are located in various wards across the Borough.
Groups Affected	Young people will benefit from improved play areas.
Budget and Policy Framework	There is no impact on the budget or policy framework.
Key Decision	No
Urgent Decision	No
Council Plan	The provision of play areas has a positive impact on the Council's visions and priorities.
Efficiency	There is no impact on the Council efficiency agenda.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

7. The Council currently has 34 play areas across the Borough, which are of varying ages and over the next four years additional equipment replacement and repairs are required at a number of sites. Resources are limited so the investment will be prioritised on areas that have been identified from the annual external assessments and have Health and Safety requirements.
8. This additional work cannot be funded from the annual revenue allocation for basic ongoing maintenance and an amount was approved in the MTFP to cover these works.
9. The bridge over the River Skerne (SB10 Blackwell Meadows) on the open space in Parkgate requires essential maintenance to the main load bearing beams and decking. These repairs will ensure the bridge can continue to be used safely. The cost of the works are above revenue allocations, and a specific capital allocation has been approved in the MTFP.
10. An annual Advanced design work budget is approved in the MTFP. This is required to progress schemes which are Council priorities to understand the business case for investment, progress the ideas and ensure schemes are ready to be delivered when funding opportunities arise. Approval is sought to release these funds to progress advanced design works to inform funding applications and the council decision making processes.

Financial Implications

11. A sum of £200,000 has been allocated in the MTFP for play areas, £50,000 for bridge repairs and £300,000 for advanced design fees as detailed in this report.

Procurement Advice

12. Any procurement required to deliver the work will be carried out in line with the Council's contract procedure rules.