

**LEISURE, ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
24 NOVEMBER 2021**

PART I

**7. THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAY AREA – CAPITAL UPGRADING
PROGRAMME 2024 – 2033**

DCES

1 Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with proposals for the future priority order for upgrading and refurbishing play areas in the District.

2 Details

Previously agreed programme 2021 - 2024

- 2.1 Members have previously agreed a capital upgrade programme for Leisure facilities from 2021 - 2024 at the Leisure, Environment and Community Committee meeting of 11 July 2018 (minute note: LEC 07/18).
- 2.2 The following table shows the previously agreed programme for 2021 - 2024:

Year	Currently Agreed	Budget / Funding	Project Update
2021/22	Denham Way, Maple Cross	£50,000 – TRDC Capital Sourcing additional funding opportunities to widen the opportunities for the project	Consultation completed Funding application due to be submitted to HS2 and other funding pots being identified
	Eastbury Outdoor Gym	£8,000 – TRDC Capital £25,575 – Batchworth Community Council Capital	Phase 2 public consultation to take place between November and December. Final designs submitted in January for consideration at March Planning Committee.
	The Swillet Cycle Track	£2,475 – Hertfordshire County Council (Public Health) £24,750 – Veolia £8,250 – TRDC Capital	Funding awarded and planning approval granted. Installation to commence in early Spring due to ground conditions.
	General Upgrading of play areas	£100,000 – TRDC Capital	Procurement process completed in September Work commencing in November - February

	Aquadrome Outdoor Fitness Zone Leavesden Country Park Outdoor Fitness Zone	£27,200 – TRDC Capital £27,200 – TRDC Capital	Procurement process during November - January Planning application due to be submitted for consideration at March planning committee.
2022/23	Oxhey Playing Fields	£100,000 – TRDC Capital Sourcing additional funding opportunities	Consultation taking place in winter Funding applications due to be submitted in early 2022
	Hayling Road Outdoor Fitness Zone Barton Way Outdoor Fitness Zone	£27,200 – TRDC Capital £27,200 – TRDC Capital	Contractor procured in 2021/22
2023/24	Fearney Mead, Mill End Lincoln Drive, South Oxhey	£50,000 – TRDC Capital £50,000 – TRDC Capital	No update
	King George V Outdoor Fitness Zone	£27,200 – TRDC Capital	Contractor procured in 2021/22

- 2.3 Play areas across the district have been successfully upgraded since 2008, providing a variety of high quality play areas for all local communities. Continued investment is required to keep the district's play areas at a high standard and to ensure that all equipment and surfacing meets the required British Standards (BS EN 1176 and BS EN 1177).
- 2.4 As part of the British Standards in playground safety, play areas must have an annual inspection, completed by a Registered Play Inspector. Officers review these annual inspections and carry out the required recommendations for each play area contained within the report. These reports also consider the life expectancy of the play areas.
- 2.5 The table detailed at 2.9 is the suggested programme for 2024 – 2033, taking into account the annual inspection recommendations, as well as the timetable in which they were originally upgraded.
- 2.6 Most play areas across Three Rivers remain at a high standard and therefore the recommendations are to split the budget across two sites each year as they do not require whole play area upgrading. The exceptions to this will be in the years it is recommended to carry out a General Upgrading of play areas, as well as for two of the older, larger play areas, where the full budget will be required to carry out the upgrade.
- 2.7 The General Upgrading programme will take into account some of the higher priority recommendations from the annual inspections and will be across a number of sites in the district.

2.8 The following table shows the previously agreed play area and outdoor fitness zones upgrading programme from 2022 – 2023:

Year	Currently Agreed	Budget / Funding
2022/23	Oxhey Playing Fields	£100,000 – TRDC Capital Sourcing additional funding opportunities
	Hayling Road Outdoor Fitness Zone	£27,200 – TRDC Capital
	Barton Way Outdoor Fitness Zone	£27,200 – TRDC Capital
2023/24	Fearney Mead, Mill End	£50,000 – TRDC Capital
	Lincoln Drive, South Oxhey	£50,000 – TRDC Capital
	King George V Outdoor Fitness Zones	£27,200 – TRDC Capital

2.9 The following table shows the proposed programme for the upgrading of play areas, from 2024-2033, including the year they were originally upgraded and recommended budget for each project:

Year	Proposals 2024 - 2033	Previously Upgraded/ Installed	Budget / Funding
2024/25	Eastbury Play Area, Eastbury	2009	£50,000 – TRDC Capital
	Ebury Play Area, Rickmansworth	2016	£50,000 – TRDC Capital
2025/26	General Upgrading of play areas	N/A	£100,000 – TRDC Capital
2026/27	Barton Way Play Area, Croxley Green	2010	£100,000 – TRDC Capital
2027/28	Oulton Way Play Area, Carpenders Park	2011	£50,000 – TRDC Capital
	Ashburnham Drive Play Area, South Oxhey	2011	£50,000 – TRDC Capital
2028/29	Hayling Road Play Area, South Oxhey	2011	£100,000 – TRDC Capital
2029/30	General Upgrading of play areas	N/A	£100,000 – TRDC Capital
2030/31	Baldwins Lane Play Area, Croxley Green	2013	£50,000 – TRDC Capital
	Scotsbridge Play Area, Rickmansworth	2012	£50,000 – TRDC Capital
2031/32	King George V Play Area, Mill End	2013	£50,000 – TRDC Capital
	Ashridge Play Area, South Oxhey	2014	£50,000 – TRDC Capital
2032/33	Leavesden Country Park Play Area	2019	£50,000 – TRDC Capital

	Langley Lane Play Area	2017	£50,000 – TRDC Capital
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2.10 Officers will also look to source additional funding to support the projects outlined as well as working with the appropriate Parish/Community Councils as and when required.

2.11 Officers would recommend finalising a service level agreement with the appropriate Parish/Community Council, where projects are jointly delivered.

3 Options and Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with proposals for the future priority order for upgrading and refurbishing small leisure capital facilities in the District.

4 Policy/Budget Reference and Implications

3.2 The recommendations in this report are within the Council's agreed policy.

3.3 The proposed recommendation will impact on the following key performance indicators:

- CP02 – Satisfaction with Parks and Open Spaces
- C022 – Satisfaction with sports and leisure facilities
- LL34 - To maintain accreditation for Green Flag
- LL31 – Number of attendances by adults at leisure venues and activities
- LL33 – Number of attendances by young people at leisure venues and activities

3.4 The proposed recommendation will impact on the following service performance indicators:

- CP24 – Number of adults achieving 30 minutes of physical activity per week

3.5 The impact of the recommendations on this/these performance indicator(s) is:

1. To support the Council in achieving these performance indicators by providing clean, safe and well maintained parks and open spaces for people to use and enjoy for a variety of reasons: play, recreational, health and wellbeing, environmental etc.
2. By providing positive activities for children and young people, which support their own physical and mental health and wellbeing
3. In order to achieve Green Flag status, the site must demonstrate a variety of uses by different community groups.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 Members have previously agreed £100,000 for "Improving Play Areas – Future Scheme" since 2013. Officers therefore propose that this funding be utilised for the priority order detailed in 2.10.

- 4.2 Should any additional funding be required, an application for this will be submitted as part of the budget setting process.
- 4.3 Play areas have an annual revenue budget allocated to them for ongoing maintenance. However, as play areas have increased in number, size, style and popularity, there is likely to be a future requirement to increase the management and maintenance of these sites. Therefore, these may require future growth bids and these will be included in the Environmental Protection Service Plan and considered as part of the budget setting process.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 All proposed works will be tendered within the Council's constitution and procurement procedures.
- 5.2 All projects must have a post installation inspection carried out by a Registered Play Inspector and all play areas must meet the British Standards: BS EN 1176 and BS EN 1177.

6 Equal Opportunities Implications

6.1 Relevance Test

Has a relevance test been completed for Equality Impact? See Appendix A	Yes
Did the relevance test conclude a full impact assessment was required? Play facilities and outdoor fitness zones are open access and free to the public to use. Local residents will be consulted as part of the upgrading and refurbishing play area programme, including those with a disability and inclusive equipment included within each site.	No

7 Staffing Implications

- 7.1 The play area and outdoor fitness zones capital programme will require the time of the Landscapes and Leisure Development Manager, Projects Development Officer, external Principal Designer and Project Manager to oversee project management, consultation, negotiations and installation of the new facilities.
- 7.2 The maintenance of play areas and outdoor leisure facilities will be managed and overseen by Environmental Protection.

8 Environmental Implications

- 8.1 The installation of new leisure facilities across the District will increase the quality of provision of community facilities in the public open spaces.
- 8.2 The new facilities will aim to make use of natural materials as well as recycled materials. The designs will be sustainable and will include sustainable features where possible. The users of the children's play area will be encouraged to appreciate the natural surroundings as part of the play experience.

8.3 The procurement specification will required the tendering contractor to provide evidence of their own approach to sustainability and will be scored accordingly as part of the tender evaluation.

8.4 This will support the Council's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy.

9 Community Safety Implications

9.1 The local Police Community Safety Officers, Crime Prevention Liaison Officer and the Grounds Maintenance team will be consulted on the final design options for all sites.

9.2 The installation of new leisure facilities will provide the opportunity for children and young people to take part in positive activities.

10 Public Health implications

10.1 Accessible, well maintained parks and open spaces have never been more vital to the health and wellbeing of individuals than during the COVID 19 Pandemic.

10.2 Providing free, accessible play facilities will encourage children and young people to be physically active, and will support the achievement of the Council's Physical Activity Strategy.

10.3 It will also provide a point for families to meet and socialise, supporting mental wellbeing and the priorities of the Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

11 Customer Services Centre Implications

11.1 None specific

12 Communications and Website Implications

12.1 All information relating to parks and open spaces, including play areas, is available on the Three Rivers District Council's Leisure website: www.threeriversleisure.co.uk.

12.2 The local community will be informed when works to upgrade the play areas will take place and will be included in consultation for each project.

13 Risk and Health & Safety Implications

13.1 The Council has agreed its risk management strategy which can be found on the website at <http://www.threerivers.gov.uk>. In addition, the risks of the proposals in the report have also been assessed against the Council's duties under Health and Safety legislation relating to employees, visitors and persons affected by our operations. The risk management implications of this report are detailed below.

13.2 The subject of this report is covered by the Environmental Protection Service Plan and Leisure and Landscapes Service Plan. Any risks resulting from this report will be included in the risk register and, if necessary, managed within this/these plan(s).

Nature of Risk	Consequence	Suggested Control Measures	Response (tolerate, treat	Risk Rating
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			<i>terminate, transfer)</i>	<i>(combination of likelihood and impact)</i>
Accidents and injuries to Children and young people and adults	Injury to a member of the public Poor publicity for the Council Financial claim made Complaints from parents/carers	Keep play areas regularly updated to the required standards Regularly monitor play areas following the British Standards	Treat	2
Incidents of vandalism	Injury to a member of the public Poor publicity for the Council Financial claim made Complaints from parents/carers	Online reporting system for the public Play areas regularly inspected Partnership work with the local police	Tolerate	2
Incidents of graffiti	Increase in anti-social behaviour Obscene language observed by small children Complaints from parents/carers	Online reporting system for the public Play areas regularly inspected Partnership work with the local police	Tolerate	2
Poor customer satisfaction with the quality of a number of the district owned and managed children's play areas	Complaints from parents/carers Poor publicity for the Council	Keep play areas regularly updated to the required standards Regularly monitor play areas following the British Standards	Treat	2

13.3 The above risks are scored using the matrix below. The Council has determined its aversion to risk and is prepared to tolerate risks where the combination of impact and likelihood scores 6 or less.

Likelihood	Low	High	Very High	Very High
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	4	8	12	16
	Low 3	Medium 6	High 9	Very High 12
	Low 2	Low 4	Medium 6	High 8
	Low 1	Low 2	Low 3	Low 4
	Impact Low -----> Unacceptable			

Impact Score

4 (Catastrophic)

3 (Critical)

2 (Significant)

1 (Marginal)

Likelihood Score

4 (Very Likely (≥80%))

3 (Likely (21-79%))

2 (Unlikely (6-20%))

1 (Remote (≤5%))

- 13.4 In the officers' opinion none of the new risks above, were they to come about, would seriously prejudice the achievement of the Strategic Plan and are therefore operational risks. The effectiveness of the management of operational risks is reviewed by the Audit Committee annually.

14 Recommendation

- 14.1 That the Leisure, Environment and Community Committee agree the proposals for the 2024 – 2033 play area upgrading programme as detailed at point 2.10.

Report prepared by: Charlotte Gomes, Landscapes and Leisure Development Manager

Data Quality

Data sources:

Annual Play Area Inspection Reports

Data checked by:

Lisa Cook, Project Development Officer

Howard Ringland, Grounds Maintenance Manager
Gary Drury, Service Manager

Data rating:

1	Poor	
2	Sufficient	✓
3	High	

Background Papers
None

APPENDICES

- Appendix A – Relevance Test