

ABINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

Report to	Environment & Amenities Committee
Meeting date	20th February 2024
Report author	Tim Badcock
Agenda item	10

Cemetery & Outdoor Services Managers Report – Play area improvements plan

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To inform members of the estimated costs for the future improvements of the town council's play areas.

2. Summary

- 2.1 At the December 2023 meeting of this committee officers were requested to provide a report identifying what play equipment items may be needed for each play area to enable the development of a plan for replacement or refurbishment of play equipment.

3. Action required

- 3.1 Members are requested to consider the report and instruct officers accordingly.

4. Link to strategic plan and objectives

- 4.1 Play area improvement supports the councils 4 key objectives.

5. Background

- 5.1 In 2022 the Environment & Amenity Committee agreed a programme of play equipment upgrades with Boxhill Recreation Ground and Chilton Close play area receiving new equipment to improve provision for younger children. In 2023 Boxhill and Caldecott recreation grounds had pendulum swings installed improving the parks for teenagers. Caldicot also received fitness equipment items for teenage/adult use.
All enclosed play areas had safer self-closing gates installed.
Currently, in early 2024, installation of a multi-use games area (enclosed ball court) has begun at Caldecott Recreation Ground.

6. **Key information and options**

6.1 As previously agreed by this committee improvements will happen in the following order with dates to be considered dependant on budget. Costs are indicative for budget setting purposes –

Boxhill & Chaunterell Way - additional/ replacement exercise equipment	£10,000-£15,000
Caldicott Rec – Large climbing frame	£50,000
Boxhill Rec – Large climbing frame	£50,000
Chaunterell Way - extension to play area to improve provision for early years and parents	£35,000
Masefield - large climbing structure Net climber or Frame/Tower	£30,000 £60,000-£120,000
Masefield – shelter/seating	£12,000

7. **Climate change/green implications**

- 7.1 Outdoor play encourages interaction with the natural environment.
- 7.2 Equipment is sourced from environmentally responsible manufacturers and where possible made from sustainable materials.

8. **Financial/budget implications**

8.1 The balance of the play area improvement EMR 345 after committed spend is £89,000. The balance of this year's play area improvement revenue budget is £87,000 plus £60,000 capital in next year's budget.

9. **HR implications**

9.1 This project will be managed by the COSM.

10. **Supporting papers and appendices**

None