

ABINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

Report to	Environment, Amenities and Infrastructure committee
Meeting date	8th June 2026
Report author	Tim Badcock
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Cemetery & Outdoor Services Managers Report Play Area Improvements Update

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To update members on improvement progress and propose improvements for the Town Councils play areas.

2. Summary

- 2.1 New equipment has been ordered for Boxhill Recreation Ground and Caldecott Recreation Ground.
- 2.2 Quotes have been obtained for further improvements at Chilton Close Play Area.
- 2.3 The Outdoor Services Team are carrying out rectification work following annual safety reports. Whilst this is taking place, assessment of wear and tear is highlighting other areas needing works. Many play surfaces are nearing end of life and therefore budget must be retained for repairs/replacements.

3. Action required and recommendations

- 3.1 Members are requested to approve the play area improvement suggestions below in item 6.

This will require a proposer, seconder and vote.

4. Link to strategic plan and objectives

- 4.1 Play area improvement supports the council's four key objectives.

5. Background

- 5.1 Following the resolutions made at the Committee meeting in February 2026, the Chair and COSM met to consider the received quotations for new play units proposed for Caldecott and Boxhill. Two new, dynamic units were chosen. One will

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replace the under-used climbing frame at Caldecott and the other will be added to Boxhill whilst retaining the serviceable multiplay unit nearby.

- 5.2 At the February 2026 meeting of this committee the COSM was requested to bring a costed proposal for further play area improvements in 2026. This is detailed in this report.

6. **Key information and options**

- 6.1 The play equipment provider has advised a provisional start date of 22nd June 2026 for play area improvements selected by the chair and COSM.

- 6.2 Proposed improvements –

Chilton Close - An extension to the popular Ninja fitness trail, incorporating four additional items, has been quoted at a total cost of £19,598.66. Quotation and illustrations are attached to this report.

Chilton Close – Adult focused outdoor gym equipment. This could be achieved with a budget of **£12,000**

These improvements can be achieved using the 2026/27 Play Area Equipment budget – 205/4728

- 6.3 It is officer recommendation that the remaining **£57,455.99** is retained for play area surfacing repairs in various locations. These repairs need to be prioritised over additional equipment purchases to ensure the safety of our parks.

The committee is requested to delegate authority to the Town Clerk and COSM to use the necessary amounts from this remaining budget to enable these repairs.

Any underspend can be reallocated to new equipment purchasing later in 2026/27.

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 Play area equipment 205/4728 has a balance of **£89,054.65**

9. **HR implications**

- 9.1 This project is managed by the Cemeteries and Outdoor Services Manager.

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10. **Supporting papers and appendices**

Images of proposed items attached