



Meeting	Winchester Town Forum
Date and Time	Wednesday, 8th November, 2023 at 6.30 pm.
Venue	Walton Suite, Winchester Guildhall and streamed live on YouTube at www.youtube.com/winchestercc

Note: This meeting is being held in person at the location specified above. Members of the public should note that a live video feed of the meeting will be available from the council's YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/winchestercc) during the meeting.

A limited number of seats will be made available at the above named location however attendance must be notified to the council at least 3 working days before the meeting. Please note that priority will be given to those wishing to attend and address the meeting over those wishing to attend and observe.

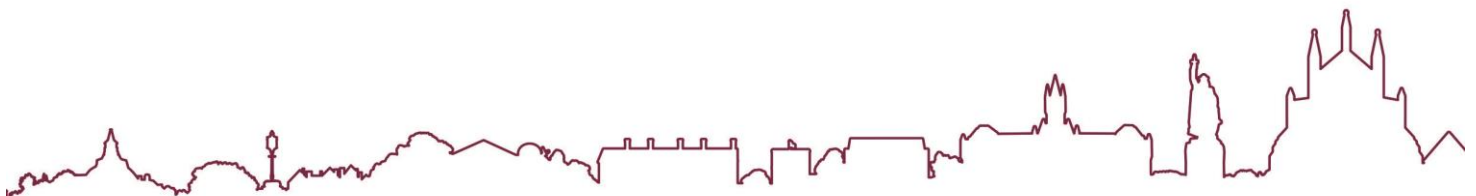
AGENDA

Procedural Items

- 1. Apologies**
To record the names of apologies given
- 2. Disclosures of Interests**
To receive any disclosure of interests from Members and Officers in matters to be discussed.
Note: Councillors are reminded of their obligations to declare disclosable pecuniary interests, personal and/or prejudicial interests in accordance with legislation and the Council's Code of Conduct.

If you require advice, please contact the appropriate Democratic Services Officer, prior to the meeting.

- 3. Chairperson's Announcements**
- 4. Minutes of the previous meeting (Pages 5 - 12)**
That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2023 be signed as a correct record.



Business Items

5. **Public Participation**

To receive and note the questions asked and statements made from members of the public on issues relating to the responsibility of this Forum.

Members of the public and visiting councillors may speak at the Forum, provided they have registered to speak three working days in advance. Please contact Democratic Services **by 5pm on Thursday, 2 November 2023** via democracy@winchester.gov.uk or (01962) 848 264 to register to speak and for further details.

6. **Winchester Town Account Medium Term Financial Position (Draft budget options) (WTF324)** (Pages 13 - 22)

7. **Budget Review: Play Refurbishment Programme - Final Proposals (WTF326)** (Pages 23 - 40)

8. **Informal Group - Verbal Update**

Optional: The Chairs of any of the informal groups may briefly update the Forum on any recent developments from their group.

9. **Work Programme 2023/24** (Pages 41 - 42)

To note the latest Work Programme for 2023/24.

Laura Taylor
Chief Executive

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31 October 2023

Agenda Contact: Claire Buchanan, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Tel: 01962 848 438 Email: cbuchanan@winchester.gov.uk

**With the exception of exempt items, Agenda, reports and previous minutes are available on the Council's [Website](#)*

MEMBERSHIP

Chairperson: Reach (Liberal Democrats)

Vice-Chairperson: Batho (Liberal Democrats)

Liberal Democrats

Becker
Edwards
Eve
Learney
Morris
Prest
Scott
Tippett-Cooper
Thompson
Tod
Westwood
Wise

Conservatives

Green

Quorum = 5 members

The two County Council Members representing the Winchester Town area are invited as observers.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A public question and comment session is available at 6.30pm for a 15 minute period. There are a few limitations on the questions you can ask. These mainly relate to current applications (including grants), personal cases and confidential matters.

To reserve your place to speak, you are asked to register with Democratic Services three clear working days prior to the meeting –Please contact Democratic Services via democracy@winchester.gov.uk or (01962) 848 264 to register to speak and for further details.

VOTING

- apart from the Chairperson, every Member has one vote when a matter before the meeting requires a decision.
- in the event of an equality of votes, the Chairperson may exercise a casting vote and that vote may be exercised in any way seen fit.
- a Member may abstain from voting, or vote differently from how they may have indicated during the debate, without further explanation.

The way each Member voted will not be recorded in the minutes, unless a motion to have a Recorded Vote has been passed.

Disabled Access

Disabled access is normally available, but please phone Democratic Services on 01962 848 264 or email democracy@winchester.gov.uk three clear working days prior to the meeting to ensure that the necessary arrangements are in place.

FILMING AND BROADCAST NOTIFICATION

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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 4

WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM

Thursday, 14 September 2023

Attendance:

Councillors

Reach (Chairperson)

Batho
Becker
Edwards
Eve
Learney
Morris

Prest
Scott
Tippett-Cooper
Thompson
Tod
Wise

[Full video recording](#)

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Westwood.

2. **DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS**

Councillor Tod declared a personal (but non prejudicial) interest concerning agenda items that may be related to his role as a County Councillor.

Councillor Thompson declared a personal (but non prejudicial) interest in respect of item 6 (Town Forum Grants Programme Update) due to her role as council representative on the Play to the Crowd Board.

3. **CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Hiscock, Hampshire County Council, to the meeting and thanked Councillors Batho and Tippett-Cooper for their excellent work carried out on the community speedwatch scheme since the last meeting had taken place.

4. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 June 2023 be approved and adopted.

5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Ian Tait spoke in relation to item 7 (Winchester City Street Market Management Contract and Operating Policy). A summary of his comments are contained under the relevant item below.

6. **TOWN FORUM GRANTS PROGRAMME UPDATE (WTF321)**

The Chair of the forum introduced the report which set out details of the grants awarded and outcomes achieved from the community grants programme in 2022/23 with as operated by the forum and included contributions to core funded organisations, a project grant scheme and a small grant scheme and outlined the programme for delivery in 2023/24. The forum were asked to note the achievements and successes of the grant programmes over the last year.

The Town Centre and Community Manager stated that over the last financial year the budget had been fully spent. In addition, funding had also been provided to organisations within the town area to provide support with the cost of living and it was noted that the reach across the town regarding community and member engagement had increased to support the programme. However, the continued support of members was sought to encourage applications.

Members asked a range of comments and questions which were responded to by the Town Centre and Community Manager and the Funding and Development Manager. These included methods of advertisement used to promote the grant schemes, drop-in sessions on the application process etc. Members help was sought to 'spread the word' about the availability of funding grants to interested organisations and groups in their communities.

RESOLVED:

1. The achievements and successes of the Small Grant and Project Grant programmes in 2022-23 be noted;
2. The important role of members in supporting the community engagement process and encouraging grant applications, be noted;
3. That the impending review of the overall council community grants programme as part of TC25, the outcome of which will feed into the proposal to address budget reductions to the Town Forum grants budget in 2025/26 and 2026/27, be noted;
4. That the Corporate Head of Economy and Community be delegated authority to approve the grant criteria and allocations, in consultation with the Winchester Town Forum (Town Vision) Informal Group;
5. That the allocated grant budget of £40k for small grants / project grants is used flexibly and the split is adjusted to meet the relative demand for these grants, as in previous years, be noted; and

6. That the £10,000 budget saving requested by the Winchester Town Account Informal Accounts Group, achieved by the reduction of the Project Grant budget by £10,000 for 2024/25, be approved.

7. **WINCHESTER CITY STREET MARKET MANAGEMENT CONTRACT AND OPERATING POLICY (CAB3427)**

Ian Tait addressed the Forum on this item. In summary, he made reference to the following points:

- Supporter of the market since it moved from Middle Brook Street to the High Street in 2011.
- Initially there had been concerns raised at the time by residents and a number of businesses about the competition the market would have with the High Street. However, over the years existing local businesses had commented that the market had significantly improved trading conditions since it was relocated.
- Markets make high streets more resilient. Winchester has low retail unit vacancy rates as a result and there were major retail and hospitality businesses who were keen to come to the town centre.
- Advocates the return of the market to the upper section of the High Street, outside The Ivy, as he believed the market worked well in that location.
- He suggested the success of the market was also dependant on other aspects, including the cleanliness of public conveniences, market trader parking.
- The deterioration of the farmers market over recent years shows that to thrive and for their continued success markets need to be treated sensitively.

In response to the matters raised by Mr Tait, the Cabinet Member for Business and Culture confirmed that a report had just been considered at Cabinet seeking improvements to the provision of public conveniences in the town centre and the issues regarding market trader parking and the farmers market would be explored further with officers.

The Cabinet Member for Business and Culture introduced the report which set out the Winchester Street Market Operating Policy that provided a framework for the operation of the city street market in response to the review of the city street market and the need to align its operation with the priorities set out in the council plan. It was noted that the Operating Policy, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, would form part of the specification for the tender process to procure a market operator for an initial term of three years. The forum were asked to comment on the report prior to its consideration by Business and Housing Policy Committee and by Cabinet for approval in October.

Reference was made to the findings and recommendations set out in the independent report carried out by The Retail Group during 2022 which outlined suggested improvements to the market offer, including branding and signage and expansion by incorporating early evening and themed markets.

Members asked a range of comments and questions which were responded to by the relevant Cabinet Members and Service Lead: Economy and Tourism, these included the following matters:

- The difference between the expenditure and income figures in the forecasting budget – it was noted that the market was performing above expectation so the forecast had now been adjusted and would be clarified with the finance team.
- A request that the Equality Impact Assessment be added as a draft to the paper when it is taken to Business and Housing Policy Committee.
- The terms and conditions to be placed in the policy to control the criteria for trading within the size of the pitch space only and the measures taken to enforce this where an infringement takes place.
- Rebranding the quality of the market experience – themes, use of bunting, gazebos, controls over sales, tables and chair's etc
- The need to remember the historic purpose of a market being where people visit to obtain affordable goods and a cheaper offer than they would experience in a retail store, particularly in light of the cost-of-living crisis.
- The location of the market and how it operates and its ability to adapt to other changes in the area with Central Winchester Regeneration, Winchester Movement Strategy etc as the city landscape evolves.
- Principles to manage the layout of the stalls in the High Street, access space and plans to co-ordinate with pavement licences to enable the flow of footfall.
- That the aspirations and feedback of street market users be considered.

At the conclusion of debate, the forum supported the plans for the evolution of the street market, welcomed the opportunity to continue to see the High Street thrive and thanked officers for the progress carried out to date.

RESOLVED:

That the comments raised by the forum, as summarised above, be noted.

8. **UPDATE ON PARKING AGENCY AGREEMENT CHANGES WITH HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (VERBAL UPDATE)**

The Head of Programme: Place provided a verbal update on the agency agreements the council had with Hampshire County Council (HCC) over a number of years, two of which (traffic management and on street parking) would be taken back from all of the district councils in the county by HCC back into their central management. The traffic management agency returned to HCC in April 2023, with the on-street parking management and enforcement agency due to return to HCC on 1 October 2023.

It was noted that over the last year planning had been put in place to restructure teams and work streams as the council would continue to retain its responsibility for off street car parks and their related season tickets. It was reported that HCC would be using a private company (NSL) for all on street parking enforcement to act on their behalf going forward and the on-street waivers and suspensions,

highway parking permits and on street management and administration of the Winchester on street Residents' Parking Scheme would all also transfer back to HCC in October.

It was reported that interim arrangements had been put in place in a number of areas, including all off street parking provisions currently allowed for inner area residents entitled to a permit to park in car parks at weekend would remain in place for at least 12 months and affected residents had been contacted in writing regarding proposed changes.

The Head of Programme: Place stated that HCC would adopt a similar approach to the one taken by the council, with several amendments that HCC would move to an online digital scheme for residents, that no concession would be granted to electric vehicles and that motorcycles would now require a permit. However, all residents would be notified to make the transition a smooth process going forward.

Members asked questions which were responded to by the Head of Programme: Place in relation to the availability of electric vehicle charging points for residents living in the town centre area.

RESOLVED:

That the verbal update be received and noted.

9. **WINCHESTER TOWN ACCOUNT FINANCIAL PLANNING 2023/24 (WTF322)**

The Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency introduced the report in her capacity as Chair of the Town Accounts Informal Group and drew members attention to the projections which indicated that high inflation was placing a significant pressure on the town budget for several years to come. The forum noted that there was limited opportunity to generate additional income and operated under the government capping regime. It was reported that projections had significantly improved over the next few years as a result of reprofiling play area expenditure and work was outstanding to review open spaces and cemeteries in due course. It was recognised that difficult decisions would need to be made going forward to close the remaining budget shortfall.

The Finance Manager (Strategic Finance) provided an update of the current financial position of the Winchester Town Account and financial projections over the medium and long term to support the development of a refreshed financial strategy with final budget recommendations due for consideration by Town Forum in January 2024, prior to final approval by Cabinet and Council. In addition, he stated that feedback from the Winchester Town Forum Accounts Informal Group had been incorporated within this report and that a further report on the budget options would come forward for consideration by the Town Forum at its meeting on 8 November 2023.

RESOLVED:

1. That the financial projections, set out in Appendix 1 of the report be noted and the budget timetable for 2024/25, be agreed.

10. **BUDGET REVIEW: PLAY REFURBISHMENT PROGRAMME - INITIAL DRAFT OPTIONS (WTF323)**

The Service Lead: Community and Wellbeing and the Cabinet Member for Community and Engagement introduced the report which was provided as part of the medium-term financial strategy planning, requested by the forum, to review areas of its expenditure and identify ways that costs could be reduced; this included the play area refurbishment programme. The report set out the initial options and the likely implications of reducing expenditure within this programme which was likely to result in cost reductions and the deferral of costs to a later date, with greater detail on these options due to come forward to the next meeting of the forum in November 2023.

It was noted that four option levels of replacement and repair has been initially considered, as outlined within the report with appendix 2 sets out an example of the budget cost reduction options that could be achieved and that work on this matter would continue to be progressed in ongoing discussion with the Town Forum Parks and Recreation Informal Group.

Members asked a range of comments and questions which were responded to by the Cabinet Member for Community and Engagement and the Service Lead: Community and Wellbeing, these included the following matters:

- Talavera Road (broken equipment) – it was noted that guidelines on timescales for condition works taking place would be provided in the next paper coming forward. By moving to a proposed repair over replace approach, it was anticipated that work on individual playgrounds maybe more reactive when repairs are required.
- Seeking views of members and users on preferred and popular equipment at play areas.
- Creation of a rolling programme to be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure engagement and consultation remains effective and equipment remains safe acceptable for users within a reduced budget.

At the conclusion of debate, the forum thanked officers for the progress carried out to date and welcomed further discussion on this matter at the next meeting.

RESOLVED:

1. That the work undertaken to review the play area refurbishment programme to date, be noted; and
2. That the detailed options paper would be considered at the next meeting of the forum on 8 November 2023.

11. **INFORMAL GROUP - VERBAL UPDATE**

The Forum received individual updates from the Chairpersons of various Town Informal Groups, where updates had not already been provided within the items considered above. Each summarised the work that had been carried out by the respective groups over the previous two-month period.

Councillor Tippett-Cooper – Heritage Group

Progress updates from the group included focus on the following three projects:

- (i) St Maurice's Tower – Works required within the next 1-5 years following inspection by structural engineers – progress will be updated throughout the year
- (ii) The Buttercross – works to the monument required consent by Historic England – following surveys conducted, a plan had been in place, subject to consent, to repair, clean and pigeon proof the monument – with the plan proposals for restoration due to be put forward by the end of 2023
- (iii) Hyde Abbey Gateway – pigeon deterrent installed but not entirely successful – new netting and associated works are due to be installed by contractors at no extra cost. Floodlights are to be installed and repairs to the building and replacements of the decayed bollards, are also due to be taken forward for consent by Historic England in due course.

Councillor Edwards – City Centre Group

Progress updates from the group included:

- (i) Commercial Waste Bins – the group continued to work closely with BID to improve the management of commercial waste in the city centre which had become challenging with the increase in food and beverage premises that generate larger quantities of waste. Bins in the paved area between St George's Street and God Begot House had become an eyesore and the plan was to install a new bin store to lessen the impact and works would be completed by March 2024.

In addition, the bin store in the Cossack Lane car park was due to be extended so fewer commercial bins were left on city streets.

A new approach and partnership was required to change thinking and reduce the volume of waste disposed of in commercial bins going forward.

RESOLVED:

That the updates received from the Town Informal Groups, be noted.

12. **WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24**

RESOLVED:

That, the work programme for 2023/24 be noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and concluded at 8.15 pm

Chairperson

REPORT TITLE: WINCHESTER TOWN ACCOUNT MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL POSITION (DRAFT BUDGET OPTIONS)

8 NOVEMBER 2023

REPORT OF FINANCE MANAGER (STRATEGIC FINANCE)

Contact Officer: Darren Kennedy Tel No: 01962 848464 Email dkennedy@winchester.gov.uk

WARD(S): WINCHESTER TOWN

PURPOSE

To provide an update on the current budget setting options and considerations for the four year medium term period from 2024/25 to 2027/28. This planning will enable the Town Forum to recommend a budget and precept for 2024/25 to Cabinet in January 2024.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Identify any budget issues to consider further in advance of recommending a Town Account Budget to Cabinet in January.
2. Consider any feedback to Cabinet in relation to the wider budget consultation.

IMPLICATIONS:

1 COUNCIL PLAN OUTCOME

- 1.1 This report sets out the current financial position including the latest medium term financial projections. Budget options will be considered in line with the Council Plan.

2 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 Identifying and analysing the financial risks and pressures helps to ensure the effective prioritisation of resources in order to deliver the Council Plan and maintain a balanced budget.

3 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 None identified

4 WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None

5 PROPERTY AND ASSET IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This paper reflects the budgets and funding associated with town assets such as play areas and sports facilities.

6 CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

- 6.1 This report has been discussed with the town account informal group, relevant staff and advisors.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 Environmental considerations will be part of the business case supporting any budget proposals.

8 PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

- 8.1 None

9 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 None

10 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 10.1 The main source of funding for baseline recurring expenditure is the town precept. As a stable source of funding overall financial risk is therefore relatively low but consideration must be taken of the requirement for the town

to keep within government referendum limits (a restriction not currently applicable to parish councils).

- 10.2 In recent years one-off expenditure (capital or revenue) has been funded up-front from the town reserve or external funding. This policy needs review due to the current financial estimates and pressures from both inflation and unavoidable growth.

Risk	Mitigation	Opportunities
<i>Failure to set a balanced budget over the medium term.</i>	<i>Financial projections are shown up until 2027/28 and the scenario planning highlights the potential sensitivities. Planning over a longer period will help to ensure understanding of the scale of the financial challenges and early planning enables enough lead in time for the implementation of the budget options.</i>	<i>Long term strategic planning. Innovative funding streams. Transformational efficiency savings.</i>
<i>Council's service priorities are not reflected in the budget.</i>	<i>The budget planning process, including the process of outcome based budgeting and the informal account group meetings which review the detailed budgets and strategy.</i>	<i>Ensure the prioritisation of resources to best meet the outcomes of the authority.</i>
<i>High levels of contractual inflation and the continuation of current precept referendum limits.</i>	<i>Medium term financial planning and sensitivity analysis highlighting the challenges posed by high inflation.</i>	<i>Transformational efficiency savings.</i>

11 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

Background

- 11.1 WTF322 Winchester Town Account Financial Planning 2024/25 introduced the budget setting process, the key principles, and updated medium term financial projections to 2027/28.
- 11.2 The Winchester Town Forum (Informal Account) Group met in October 2023 in order to establish the key focus of the budget process and any priority resource considerations to bring back to the Town Forum.

Winchester Town Precept

- 11.3 The town precept for 2023/24 was set at £80.93 (per band D property). The decision on the level of council tax for 2024/25 will be taken at Council in February.
- 11.4 The town will need to consider its proposed strategy for the Town Precept but will need to bear in mind that any decisions will be subject to 'referendum limits' and may be impacted by decisions taken on the level of district Council tax.
- 11.5 It is currently anticipated that the overall referendum limit for the Council in 2024/25 will remain at up to 3% (as £5 is now below 3%). The maximum increase for the town or district are interrelated with each other, for example if the district increased by a lower percentage then the town could increase by a higher percentage and still remain within the overall referendum limit.
- 11.6 The potential additional annual income generated by increasing the Town Precept is shown in the table below. The financial projections in Appendix 1 currently assume a 3% increase. Given that CPI inflation (as of September 2023) is running at 6.7% and the majority of the town expenditure is linked to CPI (such as the grounds maintenance contract) any increase below this would be considered a real terms reduction.

Effect of increasing the Town Precept 2024/25*

% MAX District Increase	% TOWN Precept Increase	Additional Income £000	Town Precept
	0%		£80.93
2.99%	2.99%	36	£83.35
2.77%	4.5%	54	£84.57
2.62%	5.5%	66	£85.38
2.11%	9%	108	£88.21

* To note these estimates are prior to finalisation of the council tax base for 2024/25 so are subject to change.

- 11.7 The forecasts are currently calculated using an average increase in properties of 1.2% per annum. The final budget will be updated when the forecast Council Tax Base is approved in December. The effect of increases to the base on income are illustrated below:

	0.2%	0.4%	0.8%	1.2%	1.6%	2.0%
Increase in Properties	30	59	119	178	237	297
Increase in Council Tax (£000)	2	5	10	15	20	25

Budget Review 2024/25

- 11.8 As highlighted in the 2023/24 budget process, the town account is facing significant financial pressures due to high levels of forecast contractual

inflation and additional revenue budget pressures. Detailed consideration of the potential budget options is needed to ensure a balanced budget is able to be set for 2024/25 as well as ensuring an adequate town reserve balance over the medium term.

- 11.9 An update on the four main budget review areas, agreed in the 2023/24 budget process, was provided to the town forum in September (WTF322) refers
- a) Plans are well underway for a new five year **play area refurbishment** programme covering 2024/25 to 2028/29. The proposed increased reactive maintenance and annual life expectancy reports on play equipment, have enabled a proposed programme which maintains high quality play areas whilst also reducing the overall funding requirement to 2028/29. This has therefore had a significant impact on the financial projections in appendix 1 which had previously forecast expenditure of £470k to 2026/27 plus £150k per annum thereafter. The previous assumption was therefore £770k of expenditure to 2028/29 compared to the proposed programme of £470k (plus a slightly increased revenue maintenance budget of just over £5k per annum).
 - b) **Cemeteries** – a review is underway in order to set out options for the future of the cemeteries. Additional time is needed in order to explore the potential options further and therefore this review will be brought to the town forum shortly.
 - c) **Open Spaces and Grounds Maintenance** – given the complexities and sensitivity around this review it has been agreed to defer the review paper until January Town Forum. Any agreed options will be incorporated into the January budget recommendations paper.
 - d) **Grants** – WTF321, considered at September Town Forum, outlined the plan for the initial £10k of savings from 2024/25 and how a further review would take place to determine the stepped savings from 2025/26 and 2026/27.
- 11.10 Another consideration would be to increase the town precept by more than the standard 3% forecast, especially with CPI inflation still running at 6.7% as of September 2023. This would be reliant on the 2024/25 referendum limit details and also the level of district precept planned for 2024/25.
- 11.11 The annual review of fees and charges is currently underway and covers cemeteries and open spaces within the Winchester town account. Cemeteries is specifically covered as one of the main budget review areas.
- 11.12 The following budget growth proposal has been identified during the budget review process:
- a) An increase in the play area reactive maintenance budget of £5,841 per annum from 2024/25.

11.13 Along with the options above it is important not to lose sight of the below priorities, which may have medium and long term financial implications on the town account:

- a) The Vision for Winchester 2030 (update per WTF300) details an ambitious plan to help shape the future of the city over the next ten years. Whilst not all elements of the plan will require a financial contribution, it is clear that resources will be required over the medium term.
- b) The town is committed to the development of high quality sports provision, with two major sports pavilion projects planned/underway at North Walls and KGV. These projects require both capital and ongoing revenue resources. The financial projections will continue to be updated once known and approved.

11.14 **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)** – the Neighbourhood CIL (Town) receivable balance stood at £1.142m as at April 2023. Commitments include £0.295m towards North Walls Pavilion; £0.450m towards KGV Pavilion; £0.050m towards the KGV Park Plan; £0.050m towards Abbots Barton and Hyde Scouts Facility; £0.034m remaining on North Walls Lighting and Fencing; and £0.010m for Milland Road.

- The principles for spending the Winchester Town Forum's share of CIL were approved in November 2016 (see WTF245), in order to provide for the community led improvement of the environment and infrastructure in the Winchester Town.
- Based on historic receipts around £150k to £200k of town CIL is expected per annum. There are risks around relying on this funding as reductions in development in the town area or changes to the CIL scheme could significantly impact on future receipts. As such this future forecast is used for planning purposes but is not to be committed to schemes as certain funding.

11.15 The following central case assumptions have been used in the financial forecast shown in Appendix 1:

	2024/2025 Forecast	2025/2026 Forecast	2026/2027 Forecast	2027/2028 Forecast
Assumptions:				
Contract inflation	6%	4%	2%	2.0%
Percentage increase in tax	3%	3%	3%	3%
Tax Base	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%

11.16 The sensitivity of the above assumptions is as follows:

- a) Contract Inflation is around £6k per 1%. If inflation were 15% for 2024/25 then this would cost an additional £30k per annum.
- b) A 1% precept increase generates additional funding of c£12k per annum.
- c) A 1.2% tax base increase generates additional funding of c£15k per annum. Whilst 1.2% is a reasonable long term forecast increase per annum, there can be significant year-on-year deviations to this average.

Capital Expenditure

11.17 Capital expenditure is either funded directly from the Town Account Earmarked Reserve, external funding such as CIL, or through the General Fund and repaid over the life of the asset (along with interest).

11.18 In January 2017 (WTF250) the Town Forum approved a strategy to fund the long term requirements of the play area refurbishment up until the end of 2024/25, from the Town Account Earmarked Reserve. Play area refurbishments in the town make up the largest proportion of town capital expenditure as shown below.

11.19 There is currently a total budget of £0.714m in the capital programme for play area refurbishments. WTF326, considered elsewhere on this agenda, proposes a revised five year programme of £0.470m to the end of 2028/29 plus the existing £0.274m currently within the budget for 2023/24.

Reserves

11.20 The Winchester Town Account earmarked reserve is available to support planned one-off expenditure over the medium term as well as a contingency balance of 10% of the total annual net expenditure which is set aside to deal with any urgent / unexpected requirements.

11.21 The current forecasts in Appendix 1 shows the reserve decreasing to £45,417 by the end of 2026/27, which is c£80k below the current 10% target forecast.

11.22 The increased risks identified in this report and caused mainly by contractual inflation have led the informal accounts group to consider whether a 10% balance remains sufficient. An increase to 15% would give a greater buffer from any risks and uncertainties but would also further increase the already challenging budget process. One option could be to target an increase to 15% over the medium term in order to give time to put the strategy into action.

11.23 Currently the capital budget forecasts listed above, particularly the significant programme of play area refurbishments are planned to be funded from the Town reserve. It is therefore important that long term planning ensures funding is in place to support these projects.

11.24 It should be noted that the forecast reserve balance shown in Appendix 1 does fluctuate on a year-by-year basis and individual end of year balances are impacted by 'lumpy' one-off expenditure such as the play area refurbishments.

12 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

12.1 None, this paper sets out the current financial position

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:-

Previous Committee Reports:-

Winchester Town Account Financial Planning – WTF322 – September 2023

Town Account Budget for 2023/24 – WTF314 – January 2023

Other Background Documents:-

None

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: Medium Term Financial Projections

WINCHESTER TOWN ACCOUNT - Medium Term Financial Projections

	2022/2023 Outturn	2023/2024 Forecast	2024/2025 Forecast	2025/2026 Forecast	2026/2027 Forecast	2027/28 Forecast
Assumptions:						
Contract inflation		10.0%	6%	4%	2%	2%
Utilities		5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Percentage increase in tax		5.5%	3%	3%	3%	3%
Tax Base		14,666	14,842	15,020	15,200	15,383
Cost of Services						
Recurring Budgets:						
Allotments	(3,879)	(4,000)	(4,000)	(4,000)	(4,000)	(4,000)
Bus Shelter Cleaning / Maintenance / New Provision	6,980	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Cemeteries	89,117	83,028	87,039	91,180	95,455	99,869
Christmas Lights	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
Neighbourhood Service Officers (Contribution)	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000
Footway Lighting	20,889	33,043	33,873	34,745	35,660	36,620
Grants and Vision Delivery	77,310	80,000	70,000	60,000	50,000	50,000
Support Costs for Grant Scheme	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Maintenance Work to Council Owned Bridges	280	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500
Night Bus Contribution	8,480	12,029	12,751	13,261	13,526	13,797
Public Conveniences (Contribution)	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Recreation Grounds & Open Spaces	714,639	758,666	810,766	839,070	857,193	870,634
PROPOSED GROWTH - revenue play area reactive maintenance			5,841	5,841	5,841	5,841
Recreation Grounds & Open Spaces - Tennis Court Improvements			9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000
Recreation Grounds & Open Spaces - Additional Budget	0	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Town Forum Support	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Total Recurring Budgets	1,023,316	1,147,766	1,210,270	1,234,096	1,247,674	1,266,761
One-off Budgets:						
Community Infrastructure	83,000					
Total One-off Budgets	83,000					
Total Cost of Services	1,106,316	1,147,766	1,210,270	1,234,096	1,247,674	1,266,761

	2022/2023 Outturn	2023/2024 Forecast	2024/2025 Forecast	2025/2026 Forecast	2026/2027 Forecast	2027/28 Forecast
<u>Taxation and Non-specific grant income</u>						
Council Tax Income	(1,103,623)	(1,186,879)	(1,237,186)	(1,289,581)	(1,344,272)	(1,401,214)
Interest on Balances	(7,828)	(11,988)	(5,560)	(3,534)	(2,004)	(1,363)
Total Taxation and Non-specific grant income	(1,111,451)	(1,198,867)	(1,242,746)	(1,293,115)	(1,346,276)	(1,402,576)
<u>Transfers to/(from) Earmarked reserves</u>						
(Surplus added to Reserves) / Deficit taken from Reserves	(5,135)	(51,101)	(32,476)	(59,019)	(98,602)	(135,815)
Capital Expenditure funded by Town Reserve	135,614	274,000	100,000	110,000	120,000	50,000
Release from Town Community Infrastructure Levy Reserve	(83,000)					
Opening Reserve Balance (at 1st April)	(455,699)	(408,220)	(185,321)	(117,797)	(66,815)	(45,417)
Closing Reserve Balance (carried forward)	(408,220)	(185,321)	(117,797)	(66,815)	(45,417)	(131,233)
Closing Reserves forecast as % of net expenditure (Target = 10%)	40%	16%	10%	5%	4%	10%

REPORT TITLE: BUDGET REVIEW: PLAY REFURBISHMENT PROGRAMME - FINAL PROPOSALS

8 NOVEMBER 2023

REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER: Cllr Kathleen Becker, Cabinet Member for Community and Engagement

Contact Officer: Steve Lincoln Tel No: 01962 848 110 Email slincoln@winchester.gov.uk

WARD(S): ALL TOWN WARDS

PURPOSE

The council owns and maintains 24 play areas located within the town area, which provide interesting and varied equipment that challenge children to be inventive and encourage imagination. This has been achieved through a planned five-year programme of programme of refurbishments funded from the Town Account.

As part of its medium-term financial strategy planning, the Town Forum has requested reviews of areas of its expenditure to identify ways in which costs could be realigned with available budget. One such area was the play area refurbishment programme and this report sets out the proposed new five-year programme and how the programme of work will be managed to ensure the play areas remain safe, high quality and accessible.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Forum approves:

1. The 5-year refurbishment programme to play areas as detailed in appendix 2.
2. That an increase of £5,841 to the Town Account budget from 2024/25, in respect of increased reactive maintenance and annual life expectancy reports on play equipment as detailed in sections 2.6 and 2.7, be considered as part of the town budget process for 2024/25.

IMPLICATIONS:1 COUNCIL PLAN OUTCOME

- 1.1 Tackling the Climate Emergency and Creating a Greener District
- 1.2 Provision of play areas in residential neighbourhoods supports the ambition of ensuring that everything most residents need is in reach by foot, bike or public transport.
- 1.3 Homes for all
- 1.4 Access to high quality play opportunity helps to achieve the ambition of diverse, healthy and cohesive communities - not just homes.
- 1.5 Living Well
- 1.6 The provision of high-quality play opportunities directly supports a number of Council Plan ambitions:
 - (i) Attractive public spaces where people feel safe and secure.
 - (ii) Well-used and maintained public facilities and green spaces with space to play.
 - (iii) A wide range of physical and cultural activities for all ages and abilities.

2 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 There is a long-term programme of refurbishment and replacement of play equipment, with a 5-year funding requirement included within the council's capital programme. The most recently approved programme included 8 play areas and the total programme value was £830k, but £120k came from the General Fund for the Abbey Gardens play area and the £76k cost of the KGV skate park is outside of the scope for this review, so the cost over five years to the Winchester town reserve was projected to be £634k. The 5-year spend profile agreed in 2020 is shown in the table below, with a more detailed breakdown and delivery in appendix 1
- 2.2 There is reliance on there being enough balance available in the Town Reserve to fund the programme of works alongside other town account priorities, so the programme review aims to reduce the cost of the programme and also defer costs where possible until a later date.

	Approved budget		New costs	
Previous 5-year programme	£40k	2020/21		
	£274k	2021/22		
	£40k	2022/23		
	£80k	2023/24		
	£200k	2024/25	£100k	
£634k		2025/26	£110k	New 5-year programme
		2026/27	£120k	
		2027/28	£50k	
		2028/29	£90k	
			£470k	

Note: Figures exclude skate parks, outdoor gym equipment, MUGAs and trim trails

- 2.3 There has been slippage in delivery of the play area refurbishment programme in recent years due to the COVID pandemic impacted delivery, site-specific issues such as Environment Agency consent for Abbey Gardens and wider site considerations at River Park which have led to delays in those sites being refurbished. Three of the four sites originally planned for completion by the end of 2021/22 have now been completed, with the fourth ready to start on site in the coming months. These delays have had knock-on effects on the plans for 2022/23 and 2023/24. Those sites yet to be refurbished have been incorporated into the new proposed programme for 2024/25 to 2028/29.
- 2.4 Deferral of some play areas has already had a positive effect on the Town Account and demonstrates that an elongated programme approach can be successful without compromising the play quality of the sites. The medium-term financial projects for the Town Account currently include a total of £470k over the next three financial years (to 26/27) but the new programme includes £330k over the same period, reducing the budget pressure on the Town Reserve.
- 2.5 The programme budget estimates had not previously been increased over time to reflect the effects of inflation. This has been a significant factor in recent years, so has now been factored into the proposed programme costs at a rate of 6% in 24/25, 4% in 25/26 and 2% for 26/27 through to 28/29.
- 2.6 A cost of £415 has been incurred this financial year to expand the scope of the annual play area inspections for the sites. The inspections are commissioned from an external provider each year and highlight any issues in need of rectification. With this review in mind, the scope of this year's reports was extended to include an estimation of the life-expectancy of each piece of play equipment. It will be necessary to include this expanded scope in the

future annual inspection which would result in a £500 annual increase to the cost of these inspections.

- 2.7 The suggested approach of extending the life span of some equipment, rather than replacement, will result in an increase in the cost of reactive maintenance as more equipment will need to be repaired. An annual budget of £34,659 currently exists for replacement equipment and general maintenance and it is recommended that a modest additional £5,341 is added to bring the reactive maintenance budget up to £40,000 for 2024/25.
- 2.8 The reduction in overall replacement costs will be slightly offset by the increased maintenance and inspection costs detailed above. The financial implications of the proposed new programme are summarised in the table below.

	Current projections			New programme			Saving
	Refurbish	Maintain & inspect	Total	Refurbish	Maintain & inspect	Total	
2024/25	£200k	£34.7k	£234.7k	£100k	£40.5k	£140.5k	£94.2k
2025/26	£120k	£34.7k	£154.7k	£110k	£40.5k	£150.5k	£4.2k
2026/27	£150k	£34.7k	£184.7k	£120k	£40.5k	£160.5k	£24.2k
2027/28	£150k	£34.7k	£184.7k	£50k	£40.5k	£90.5k	£94.2k
2028/29	£150k	£34.7k	£184.7k	£90k	£40.5k	£130.5k	£54.2k

3 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The council is not under a legal obligation to provide or manage play areas. However, where play areas are provided, there is a statutory and common law duty to keep them in safe and suitable condition.
- 3.2 All works that form part of the current play area refurbishment programme are procured in accordance with the council's Contract Procedure Rules and where applicable The Public Contract Regulations 2015.

4 WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Delivery of the play area refurbishment programme is part of the ongoing work of the Natural Environment and Recreation Team, so there are no additional workforce implications.
- 4.2 Should the approach change to one of increased retention and/or renovation of equipment, some of the schemes would see minimal changes being made to a play site. We do not consult local stakeholders when undertaking repairs or low-level replacement of play items, so there may not always be a need for

public consultation in future, but each site will be assessed on its merits. However, there will still be a need for staff resources to procure and contract manage the repair and renovation works which may be more frequent.

5 PROPERTY AND ASSET

- 5.1 The proposal to retain equipment for longer than was previously the case is likely to result in a minor increase in reactive repairs and maintenance.
- 5.2 New play equipment comes with warranties, but these vary depending on the type of equipment. Future decisions are unlikely to have warranty implications, but we will need to consider this when making decisions on whether to retain equipment for a longer period.

6 CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

- 6.1 Options for reducing the cost of the play area refurbishment programme have been discussed at three meetings of the Forum's Parks and Recreation Informal Group, in July, August and October 2023 and those discussions have helped shape the final proposal.
- 6.2 A report presenting the initial options for, and likely implications of, reducing expenditure on the refurbishment programme was considered by the Town Forum at its meeting on 14 September, which supported the approach being taken.
- 6.3 Consultation has always been undertaken with the local community around the brief for each site, and views are factored into the proposal for the refurbishment before the procurement for work is issued. A need for community consultation would remain, although the format and timing of this may change based on the scale and extent of the scheme.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The delivery of the new programme will support the council's climate emergency declaration by:
 - a) Renovating existing equipment rather than replacement, with positive environmental benefits through avoidance of upstream carbon emissions in the supply chain in new equipment and reduction from waste disposal.
 - b) Including a requirement for bidders to indicate how they intend to minimise environmental impact through their design, including materials sourcing, manufacturing location, packaging, transportation impacts and disposal of existing equipment and materials. This represents a minimum of 10% of the scoring in the assessment process.

- 7.2 The delivery of the new programme will support the council's nature emergency declaration by:
- a) Taking account of any natural water feature that forms part of the wider setting in which our play areas sit.
 - b) Where possible, incorporating natural features that allow children to explore their immediate world through being together and playing together in a naturalised setting; a play landscape where plants and trees provide the background for physical and creative challenges and fun.

8 PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

- 8.1 It is important that the council's play area provision is suitable for all ages and abilities. The specification of all new play equipment is developed with the aim to maximise accessibility and inclusion - in practice this means:
- (i) The use of inclusive and fully accessible equipment as well as consideration of site layout, proximity to toilets and car parking
 - (ii) Inclusion of equipment that encourages children to take risks within a controlled environment.
- 8.2 A recent development has been the installation at Abbey Gardens and River Park of a communication board to assist non-verbal users. This has been very well received and similar boards will be installed in future at the larger, higher footfall sites.
- 8.3 It will be important that any changes do not compromise accessibility and inclusion, so an equalities impact assessment was undertaken and presented with report WTF323 in September 2023. This identified potential impact on users in respect of disability or age, but measures are taken to ensure this does not happen.
- (i) The specification for new play areas includes a requirement for the site to provide some features that are appropriate for all users. This doesn't mean that all new items will be inclusive or accessible, as that would result in reduced play value for more able children, but it means that a balanced overall provision on the site will be a key consideration when planning replacement items in future.
 - (ii) Adults can use the play equipment, but it is not designed or targeted for adult use. This is to ensure that children are provided with healthy and appropriate learning play places.
 - (iii) Most play areas include a mix of equipment to ensure that there is appropriate provision for all ages. In cases where the provision is more targeted towards a specific age of child, there

is always another play area in the near vicinity that meets the needs of other age groups.

- 8.4 An impact assessment is also completed for each play area refurbishment or replacement scheme, based on the detailed proposals for that scheme.

9 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 None.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk	Mitigation	Opportunities
<u>Financial Exposure</u> Cost of refurbishment exceeds approved budget.	Procurement documents set out available budget and seek proposals that can be delivered within budget. Annual inspections of equipment will identify if deterioration is taking place quicker than expected.	The options presented in this paper reduce the cost of the refurbishment programme.
<u>Exposure to challenge</u> Play areas are not inclusive of the needs of all children.	Procurement documents include specific requirement for inclusive equipment.	
<u>Innovation</u> Play areas do not keep pace with industry developments in play provision.	Regular and scheduled replacement of equipment ensures nothing becomes too dated, although this could become more of a problem if equipment is retained for longer in future.	
<u>Reputation</u> Reduced investment in play provision could be criticised.	Regular inspections ensure that equipment is not retained beyond its safe or useful life.	Retention or reuse of equipment is consistent with the council's climate emergency commitments.

<p>Injury to park users and consequent legal action.</p>	<p>Options include increased investment in reactive maintenance to deal with problems as they arise.</p> <p>As above.</p>	
<p><u>Achievement of outcome</u> Cost of refurbishment exceeds approved budget.</p>	<p>Procurement documents set out available budget and seek proposals that can be delivered within budget.</p> <p>Annual inspections of equipment will identify if deterioration is taking place quicker than expected.</p>	<p>The options presented in this paper reduce the cost of the refurbishment programme.</p>
<p><u>Property</u> Equipment becomes dangerous.</p>	<p>Regular inspections ensure that equipment is not retained beyond its safe or useful life.</p>	
<p><u>Community Support</u> Residents oppose reduced investment in their play areas.</p>	<p>Resident engagement would continue on a site-by-site basis and would allow clear communication of the council's approach.</p>	<p>Potential for community support to increase through their opportunity to influence decisions.</p>
<p><u>Timescales</u> Deferred replacement of some equipment may not be possible.</p>	<p>Annual inspections ensure early understanding of likely replacement date for equipment.</p> <p>Flexibility within the programme to delay work on some sites, if other</p>	<p>Inspections may show that replacement can be deferred even longer than initially thought.</p>

	<p>sites become a higher priority.</p> <p>A piece of equipment may need to be removed if it fails before a scheduled refurbishment, leaving a space for a certain period.</p>	
<p><u>Project capacity</u> Insufficient capacity to effectively manage the refurbishment programme.</p>	<p>Dedicated role with responsibility for this work.</p> <p>Programme managed to ensure work is spread evenly across each year.</p>	

11 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

Background

- 11.1 When approving the Winchester Town Account budget for 2023/24 (report WTF314 refers), the Forum identified four key areas for review to both achieve the medium-term financial strategy and deliver on the aims of the Forum. One of the areas for review was the play area refurbishment programme.
- 11.2 Maintenance of good quality play areas is a high priority for the Town Forum, but it was recognised that a review of the current refurbishment programme is required in order to fully understand the options for delivering a good quality programme. The review was to focus on ensuring the right mix of facilities are available and also give a detailed refresh on how this can be delivered.
- 11.3 Play areas are important and provide multi benefits for residents and visitors to Winchester. Each site is bespoke to the area taking account of the wider landscape and setting and encourages links to other places via pedestrian and cycle paths. They provide interesting and varied equipment that challenge children to be inventive and encourage imagination. There is a commitment to provide safe, high quality and accessible play areas which has been achieved through a planned five-year programme of programme of refurbishments funded from the Town Account.

The current situation

- 11.4 The council owns and maintains 24 play areas located within the town area, plus one other that is located elsewhere in the district but will soon be transferred to a parish council. One of these sites (Abbey Gardens) is paid for via the General Fund, in recognition of its strategic function within the city serving residents from a wide catchment and visitors to the city. All other play areas are paid for via the Town Account and form the basis of this review – see appendix 1 for all a list of all play areas.
- 11.5 Excluded from the review are skate parks, outdoor gym equipment, MUGAs and trim trails. These items generally require reactive repair and maintenance rather than wholesale replacement, so are inspected annually by the Play Inspection Company and managed through the Town Account revenue budget rather than capital refurbishment programme.
- 11.6 The refurbishment programme has traditionally seen all play equipment within a site removed and replaced with new after 20 years. At its September meeting (report WTF323) the Forum considered alternative approaches that could enable a reduction in expenditure on the play area refurbishment programme. It concluded that retention and/or renovation of some items rather than replacement of all, combined with the deferral of work to maximise the life of equipment, would provide the best overall outcome.

The proposed new 5-year programme

- 11.7 The proposed approach would see play equipment with life expectancy of more than 10 years retained, and other equipment replaced if near the end of its useful life. We would keep ancillary equipment (benches, bins) where possible and repair/replace wet pour surfacing only as required.
- 11.8 The impact of the proposed changes on specific sites can be summarised as follows:
- a) Talavera Road play area has only been adopted by the council from a developer in recent years, so it did not appear in the previous programme. The equipment has been in situ for a considerable number of years but remained with the developer for a prolonged period due to other complications on the site that delayed transfer. The timber equipment has deteriorated in condition and requires attention in the near future so has been brought up the list to be refurbished in 2024/25. Detailed life expectancy assessments of this equipment have not yet taken place, so it is possible that some equipment could remain, but the proposed budget allows for replacement of all if required.
 - b) The following play areas have been deferred for refurbishment at a later date than in the previous programme, based on recent life expectancy reports that indicate the majority of the equipment is wearing well and is expected to function for at least 10 more years:

- (i) Chaundler Road – deferred from 23/24 to 25/26
- (ii) Imber Road - deferred from 22/23 to 26/27
- (iii) Dean Park – deferred from 24/25 to 28/29

Annual repeats of the life expectancy reports will allow us to monitor the condition of the equipment and ensure that any deterioration is identified and remedial action planned.

- c) Walpole Road play area has been deferred beyond the end of the proposed 5-year programme, reflecting a relatively low usage in addition to the majority of the equipment being expected to function for at least 10 more years. The condition of Walpole Road play area will be monitored each year to ensure that the equipment does not deteriorate significantly.

11.9 It is recognised that the retention of some items of play equipment for an extended period increases the need for low-level repairs and maintenance. This would be minimal in comparison to the cost of full replacement so is cost-effective and the costs have been built into the budget proposal.

11.10 We never prescribe specific items of equipment in our tender documents. Instead, we set out a brief that allows the providers to use their experience and creativity to provide a high-quality design to fit our requirements and available budget. We will continue to use this approach for larger refurbishments to get best value and maximum creativity from our procurement of new play equipment.

11.11 Our greater understanding of the condition of our play equipment has been informed by an enhanced annual inspection report, commissioned to identify the life expectancy of the equipment on those sites. This has allowed us to identify which equipment is likely to last for a significant length of time, so we will trial the annual repeat of these reports, allowing us to test their effectiveness in helping us to plan more efficiently and dynamically to maximise the use of each piece of equipment.

11.12 The proposed approach includes some assumptions around the reliability of the life expectancy reports, market interest in smaller refurbishment projects, ability to partially replace safety surfacing and rates of inflation. Officers will review the 5-year programme each year to identify any unforeseen pressures and will report to the Town Forum should there be any need to revise the programme during its 5-year life. We will also review the impact on individual sites to ensure that the partial refurbishment does not result on the sense of place being lost.

12 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

12.1 Continue with the current approach – this has been rejected as the medium-term financial strategy has identified there is a future budget deficit and a

need to reduce costs. Planning now for a more effective and prudent approach to how the town play areas are maintained will ensure savings are made without compromising quality and safety of provision.

- 12.2 A more drastic approach to replacing only equipment with less than five years of life expectancy was considered as part of report WTF323 in September. This option could make significant budget savings of up to 80% of the programme cost, but the Forum felt that the quality of environment and play value of the sites may suffer too much and the risk of equipment becoming unsafe was too great, so this option was not pursued.
- 12.3 Discontinue the five-year programme of refurbishment and decommission equipment at the end of its useful life. This was rejected as play areas form an important function bringing social, health and educational benefits to residents in the across the town. The play areas need to be safe and accessible so, in order to remain open and in use, they require investment in the equipment and grounds.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:-

Previous Committee Reports:-

WTF323 BUDGET REVIEW: PLAY REFURBISHMENT PROGRAMME – INITIAL DRAFT OPTIONS; 14 SEPTEMBER 2023

WTF314 WINCHESTER TOWN ACCOUNT BUDGET FOR 2023/24; 26 JANUARY 2023

WTF280 PLAY AREA IMPROVEMENT - 5 YEAR PROGRAMME UPDATE; 23 JANUARY 2020.

Other Background Documents:-

None.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 Five-year programme of play area refurbishment 2020- 2025

Appendix 2 New five-year programme of play area refurbishment 2024 - 2029

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Five Year Programme of Play Area Refurbishment 2020 - 2025

No.	Play Area Name	Original Installation Date	Refurbishment Date	Additional work identified	Cost of works	Planned year	Completion
1	Abbey Gardens	1993	2002 (partial)	Complete refurbishment	£120,000 (General Fund)	2020/21	2023/24
2	Thurmond Crescent	2004		Replacement of toddler equipment	£40,000	2020/21	2021/22
				Total	£40,000		
3	KGV	2004		Replace play area and skate park	£124,000	2021/22	2023/24
4	North Walls	1999	2006 (partial)	Complete refurbishment	£150,000	2021/22	2023/24
				Total	£274,000		
5	Imber Road	1998	2005 (partial) 2012 (slide replaced)	Partial refurbishment	£40,000	2022/23	N/A
				Total	£40,000		
6	Chaundler Road	1990/94	2004	Complete refurbishment	£80,000	2023/24	N/A
				Total	£80,000		
7	Walpole Road	2000	2009	Complete refurbishment	£80,000	2024/25	N/A
8	Dean Park	2001	2009 (partial)	Complete refurbishment	£120,000	2024/25	N/A
				Total	£200,000		
				Programme Total	£634,000		

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Five-year programme of play area refurbishment 2024 - 2029

No.	Play area name	Ward	Original installation date	Last refurbishment date	Additional work identified	Cost of works	Year	Deferred by
1	Talavera Road	St Paul	2015	N/A	Complete refurbishment	£100,000	2024/25	N/A
					Total	£100,000		
2	Chaundler Road	St Bartholomew	1990/94	2004	Partial refurbishment	£110,000	2025/26	2 years
					Total	£110,000		
3	Imber Road	St Bartholomew	1998	2005 (partial) 2012 (slide replaced)	Partial refurbishment	£70,000	2026/27	4 years
4	Fairdown Close	St Michael	1999	2004	Partial refurbishment	£50,000	2026/27	N/A
					Total	£120,000		
5	St Martins Close	St Bartholomew	2005	2005	Partial refurbishment	£50,000	2027/28	N/A
					Total	£50,000		
6	Dean Park	St Barnabas	2001	2009 (partial)	Partial refurbishment	£90,000	2028/29	4 years
					Total	£90,000		
					Programme Total	£470,000		

Other play areas

No.	Play area name	Ward	Original installation date	Last refurbishment date	Additional work identified	Cost of works	Indicative date	Deferred by
7	Walpole Road	St Luke	2000	2009	TBC	TBC	2029/30	5 years
8	Stanmore Recreation Ground	St Luke	2004/2011	2011	TBC	TBC	2029/30	-
9	Friary Gardens/Culver Road	St Michael	2000	2007	TBC	TBC	2030/31	-
10	Arlington Place	St Bartholomew	1997	2008	TBC	TBC	2031/32	-
11	Monarch Way	St Paul	2013	N/A	TBC	TBC	2032/33	-
12	Nursery Gardens	St Paul	2013	N/A	TBC	TBC	2033/34	-
13	Somers Close	St Luke	2000	2009	TBC	TBC	2034/35	-
14	Oram's Arbour	St Paul	1993	2013	TBC	TBC	2035/36	-
15	St Matthew Field	St Barnabas	2016	N/A	TBC	TBC	2036/37	-
16	Abbotts Walk/Francis Gardens	St Bartholomew	2017	N/A	TBC	TBC	2037/38	-
17	Winnall Manor Road	St Bartholomew	2018	N/A	TBC	TBC	2038/39	-
18	Teg Down Meads	St Barnabas	2001	2009 (partial)	TBC	TBC	2039/40	-
19	Gordon Avenue	St Michael	2003	2019	TBC	TBC	2040/41	-
20	Taplings Road	St Barnabas	2002	2019	TBC	TBC	2041/42	-
21	Thurmond Crescent	St Luke	1994/2004	2021	TBC	TBC	2042/43	-
22	Abbey Gardens	St Michael	1993	2023	TBC	TBC	2042/43	-
23	River Park	St Bartholomew	1999	2023	TBC	TBC	2042/43	-
24	KGV	St Michael	2004	2023	TBC	TBC	2043/44	-

WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM – SCHEDULED ITEMS OF BUSINESS ETC

8 NOVEMBER 2023					
	BUSINESS	LEAD OFFICER	COMMITTEE DATE		STATUS/COMMENT
	Winchester Town Account Medium Term Financial Position (Draft budget options)	Darren Kennedy	8 November 2023		WTF324
	Budget Review: Play Refurbishment Programme – Final Proposals	Susan Robbins/Steve Lincoln	8 November 2023		WTF326
25 JANUARY 2024					
	BUSINESS	LEAD OFFICER	COMMITTEE DATE		STATUS/COMMENT
	Update from Sarah Davis of BID re: bins/refuse in Winchester City Centre	Simon Hendey	25 January 2024		Verbal Update from Sarah Davis of BID
	Update from Stagecoach	Simon Hendey/Andy Hickman	25 January 2024		Presentation from Operations Manager, Stagecoach Winchester

	Winchester Town Account Budget for 2024/25 (to be recommended to Cabinet)	Darren Kennedy	25 January 2024		
	Budget Review: Open Spaces and Grounds Maintenance –IDV Contract - Proposals	Andy Hickman/Campbell Williams	25 January 2024		WTF325
	Budget Review: Cemeteries – Proposals	Sharon Evans	25 January 2024		WTF327
11 MARCH 2024					
	BUSINESS	LEAD OFFICER	COMMITTEE DATE		STATUS/COMMENT
	Winchester Town Vision – Annual Progress Update	Susan Robbins	11 March 2024		

Items to be allocated for 2023/24 and 2024/25
North Winchester Design Code (to be timetabled by officers when updates are available) – Date tbc
Update from St Giles Hill Resident’s Association regarding preliminary works in the St Giles Hill Park – June 2024 (added at the request of the Chair, Cllr Reach)