

DECISION RECORD ¹

Officer Key Decisions are subject to the Council's Call-In Procedure (Part 4 of the Council's Constitution <https://www.stevenage.gov.uk/documents/council-and-democracy/constitution/part-4e-overview-and-scrutiny-procedure-rules-august-2018.pdf>)

Subject: Town Centre Gardens Play Area Safer Surfacing Replacement <i>(Please use the same title as provided in the Forward Plan)</i>	
Staff Contact: Steve Dupoy	Executive Member: Cllr Joan Lloyd
Tel: 01438 242833	Portfolio: Resources

1. **Decision**
To request for a virement of £110,550 (£100,500 + 10% contingency) from the Deferred Works Reserve (DWR) KR911 to support the delivery of replacement safer surfacing to the Town Centre Gardens play area. The DWR currently has an available budget of £1,059,485.

2. **Reasons for the decision**
The safety surfacing was originally installed in 2010 as part of the wider restoration of the Town Centre Gardens. The surfacing was beginning to show some signs of shrinkage / cracking, however the prolonged hot temperatures throughout the spring and summer of 2022 has exacerbated the situation. As a result, officers had to close the site on safety grounds during the summer months.

Finance have advised that a virement from the Deferred Works Reserve is the most appropriate way to enable the works to be undertaken.

The closure of the site has attracted complaints from local residents.

3. **Alternative options considered and rejected ²**
This is a well-used play area providing a resource for residents living in Bedwell and more especially in the three flat blocks adjacent to the Gardens.

Until works can be undertaken to replace the safer surfacing it is not possible to open the site on safety grounds.

4. **Consultation**
 - (a) Comments of Executive Member ^{3 4}
Cllr Joan Lloyd has been consulted and supports the virement.

 - (b) Comments of other consultees ⁵

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5. **Following consultation with, and the concurrence of the Executive Member, I am proceeding with the proposed decision.**

Signed: ...SIGNATURE REDACTED.....

Title: ...Richard Protheroe, Strategic Director..... Date: ...09/12/22....

6. **PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED/SIGNED FORM TO CONSTITUTIONAL SERVICES FOR PUBLICATION**

¹ for guidance see Borough Solicitor's note "Taking Decisions"

² details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the officer at the time the decision was made

³ record any conflict of interest declared by any Executive Member consulted. If an Executive Member declares a conflict of interest DO NOT PROCEED without seeking advice from the Borough Solicitor

⁴ If the matter has general significance for the Council and/or is, or is likely to be, controversial, then the officer shall consult the appropriate Executive Member before proceeding. In some cases it will be necessary to consult more than one Executive Member, and in some cases the Leader of the Council will need to be consulted

⁵ If the matter has local significance, but no general significance for the Council and no controversial aspects, the officer shall consult or inform the local member in writing (or by e mail) and proceed. It is essential that all officers responsible for delivering services ensure that local members are kept well briefed on issues affecting their areas.